

Stefansson Memory Lecture 2008
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Title: Drill Baby, Drill: from Energy to Human Security in the Circumpolar North

Abstract

This presentation will examine the tensions and complementarities between the need for energy security and environmental and human security. Can we move from a narrow energy/resource grab mentality that hoards energy resources for the few who have access to it? Or can we look at our energy problems through a different light, whereby a focus on alternative energy sources reduces the exploitation of non-renewable resources? The securitizing of issues, like security, is highly dependent upon the values that we hold; those values determine what it is we wish to secure. Is it possible to reform some of our values (meaning amongst the dominant energy resource users) such that security depends less upon a resource grab and more so upon a sustainable relationship with resources? Can we move from a relationship of human exploitation of the environment to one of human protection of valuable resources, to the benefit of human existence and security? An examination of ecofeminist and indigenous feminist thinking provides insights into existing alternative value sets about human relationships to the earth and its resources, and thus raises the question about the abilities of such existing, but non-dominant, viewpoints to influence our global attitudes towards energy and the environment.