



ENERGY IN THE AMERICAS: CRITICAL REFLECTIONS ON ENERGY AND HISTORY

Edited by Amelia M. Kiddle

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A stylized white map of the Americas is centered on a background of light blue geometric shapes. The map is populated with various energy-related icons: oil derricks, wind turbines, solar panels, a corn cob, a flame, a water drop, and an atomic symbol. The text 'EDITED BY Amelia M. Kiddle' is positioned to the left of the map.

EDITED BY
Amelia M. Kiddle

ENERGY IN THE AMERICAS

Critical Reflections on Energy
and History

ENERGY IN THE AMERICAS

ENERGY HISTORIES, CULTURES, AND POLITICS

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Upon arriving in Treaty 7 territory at the University of Calgary in 2012, and given my own research interests in the Mexican oil expropriation of 1938, I began to conceive of a conference that would bring together energy scholars from the Americas to discuss histories of energy and society in ways that were more reflective than the uncritical boosterism that pervaded the oil industry boom going on here at that time. I received tremendous support and encouragement from the the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, the Office of the Vice President for Research, University of Calgary International, and especially the Latin American Research Centre (LARC) at the University of Calgary, which enabled me to secure a SSHRC Connection Grant for the organization of the conference. LARC program coordinator Monique Greenwood, and several student assistants, provided invaluable logistical support. Colleagues from History, Latin American Studies, Political Science, and Anthropology all stepped up to participate in the three-day event, and I am grateful to Hendrik Kraay, Saulesh Yessenova, Denise Brown, Stephen Randall, Heather Devine, Pablo Policzer, and Sarah Jordaan, as well as Annette Hester, then of the Inter-American Development Bank, for chairing panels and facilitating our discussions. Harrie Vredenburg gave a stimulating keynote, and Peter Fortna, Hereward Longley, and Tara Joly of Willow Springs Strategic Solutions and Bori Arrobo, representing the Fort McKay First Nation, presented the film *Moose Lake: Home and Refuge* and led a discussion of Indigenous perspectives on Alberta oil sands development.

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Because we were fortunate to be so numerous at the conference, the fact that not all of the presenters' works are represented in this volume should definitely not be taken as a reflection of the quality of their contributions to the literature; it is, rather, simply a matter of logistics. Several of the participants joined in a discussion with the students of my undergraduate integrative seminar in Latin American Studies (LAST 401), and I am grateful for the quality of these students' engagement in the conference and their wonderful work on the topic of energy over the course of the semester. Allan Abbasi, Sarah Arnett, Mike Baker, Mayda Borbely, Alem Cherinet, Anita Demeter, Camilo Gil González, Dominik Maslanka, Rayna Oryniak, and Lina Pulido: I'm sure I learned as much from you as I did from the conference itself!

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