

Conference Website: [FLACSO ECUADOR](#)

**Proposed Title:** "Reimagining Energy Justice from Latin America: Insights from a Network of Solidarity"

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Amidst the ongoing climate crisis, there is an urgent need to transition to renewable energy. However, the development of renewable energy infrastructure can generate social and environmental injustices, particularly in Indigenous territories. This is especially true in Latin America, where historic legacies of colonialism and extractivism are reproduced in the green energy transition. The energy justice (EJ) field, an emerging framework that interrogates the political economy of energy (Jenkins et al., 2016; Tornel, 2023), still lacks regionally specific scholarship (Kelly et al, forthcoming). Hence, through qualitative and legal scholarship in collaboration with communities in Chile, Colombia, and Brazil, we present theoretical insights on the need for a paradigm shift in energy justice methodologies.

Drawing on a solidarity network of research, our community-based approach is rooted in three distinct cases. The first is a 15-year-long transnational conflict centered around a Chilean hydroelectric conflict between the Mapuche-Williche Indigenous community and the Norwegian state-owned Statkraft (Kelly, 2021; Guerra-Schleef, forthcoming). The second is based on Colombia's booming wind energy sector, which is largely based in La Guajira, land of the Wayuu people already scarred from legacies of coal mining (Fajardo Mazorra, 2023). The third

deals with the development of the "Alimergia" concept in southern Brazil, an approach combining energy justice and food sovereignty (Camacho, 2013).

Hence, we argue for a further decolonization of energy justice. The socioeconomic realities across cases makes apparent the need for a more intersectional approach to justice. Structural inequalities must be understood within the context of energy systems and grounded in notions of territorial sovereignty. One of our key theoretical insights suggests that approaches to justice in Latin America must address historical inequities related to dispossession and unequal wealth accumulation. Here, we use the concept of epistemic justice to examine the limitations of liberal legal systems and ultimately highlights an inherent epistemic gap between Indigenous lifeworlds and legal frameworks. Moreover, we aim to further investigate how thinking from the Global South can enrich the framework and research methods of energy justice, and how the specificities of the Latin America region may inform a broader just energy/water/food transition, guided by Indigenous self-determination and land use change.

**Proposed Keywords:** Energy Justice, Indigenous Rights, Latin America, Epistemic Justice, Sovereignty, Extractivism, Political Ecology, Environmental Justice, Liberal Legality.

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