iDOC: INTERMEDIA AND DOCUMENTARY
FUTURE ENERGY SYSTEMS THEME 4: PROJECT 3

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BACKGROUND

iDoc will document expectations and projected scenarios held by researchers and research teams. This will open a valuable space for interdisciplinary discussion and critical engagement with multiple publics.

iDoc seeks to address the following questions:

- What assumptions do different stakeholders hold regarding the future?
- How (differently) is the future conceptualized and represented?
- How might these individual visions and technologies integrate or alter current social, cultural, political, and economic systems?
- What are the institutional, bureaucratic, professional, social, and economic constraints that impede or drive scientific study and the development of future energy systems?
- How does climate change and crises inform and influence the work being done by researchers?

PROJECT OVERVIEW

iDOC :INTERMEDIA AND DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

Energy Humanities represents and grapples with the social life of energy, and its social and cultural impacts. Energy Humanities critically addresses the social and cultural impact of energy systems: past, current and a range of future systems-wide models.

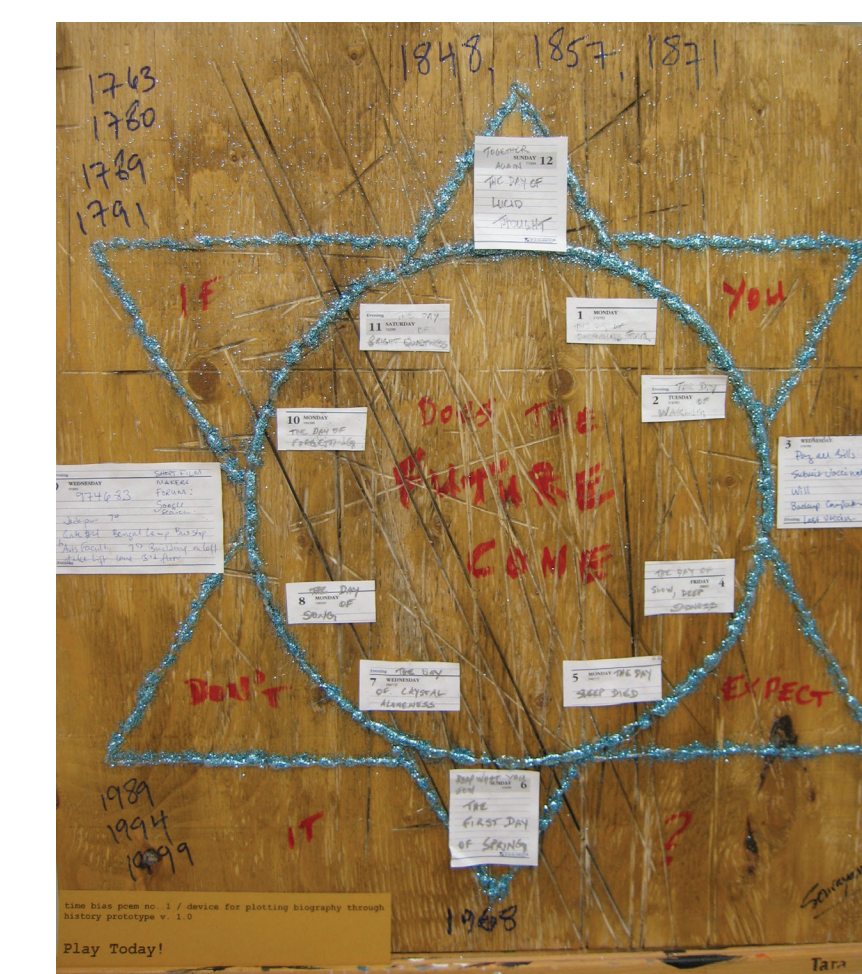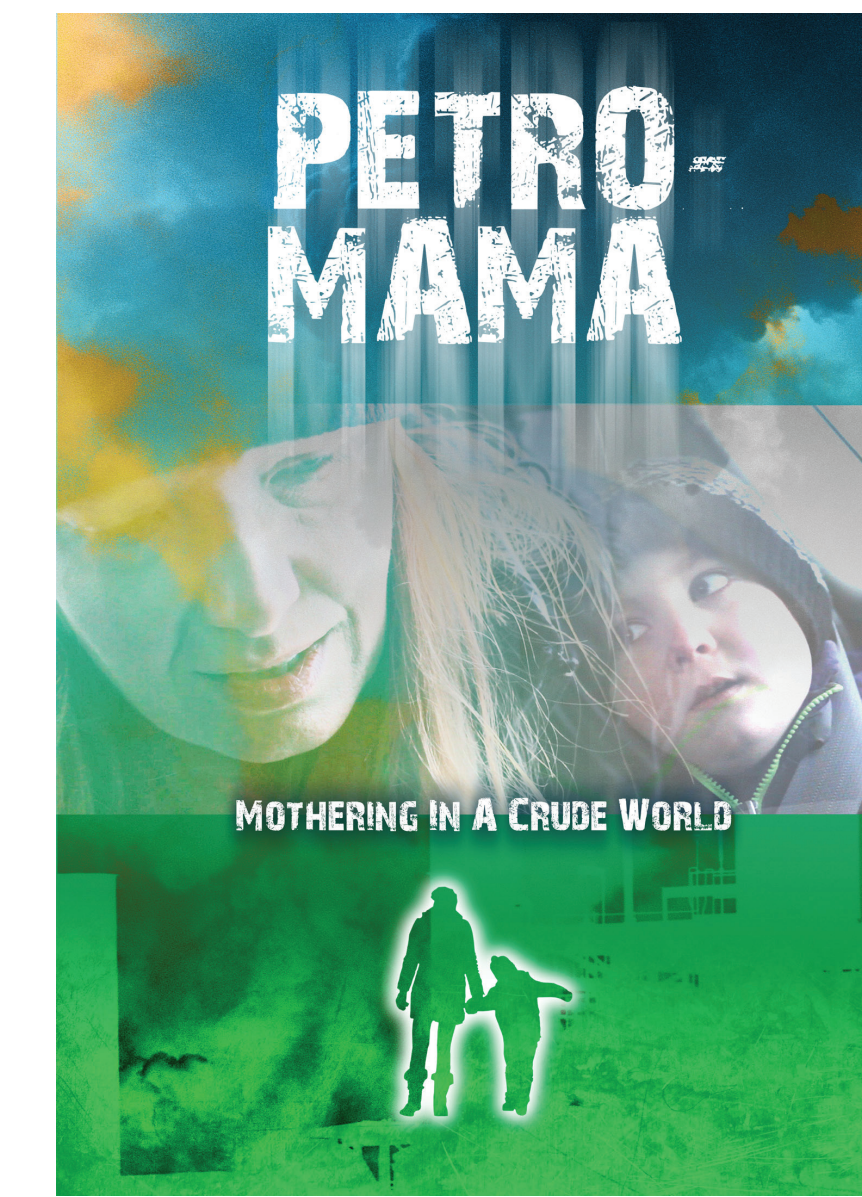The iDoc Project (T04-P03, or iDoc) will:

- Engage with, record, contextualize and contribute to select research undertakings across the fourteen themes and 45+ projects within the Future Energy Systems initiative
- Foster valuable synergies across multiple fields and projects
- Document specific research processes and discoveries
- Explore diverse conceptions of energy futures
- Provide a critical systems-wide analysis from a humanities and social sciences perspective

Qualitative research-creation and sociological methods will include interviews, video and audio recordings, focus groups and field observation, among others.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Our team expects to impact the Future Energy Systems initiative, scholarly environmental thought, and public perceptions of climate change and emerging energy technologies.

Within the FES Initiative, our team will:

- Identify hurdles faced by researchers and foster opportunities for interdisciplinary cooperation across fields and projects through the production, broadcast and exchange of media artefacts
- Document crucial findings, discoveries, and technologies developed within the FES initiative which are intended to serve future research and foster public engagement
- Enable FES researchers to share discoveries and visions with their own colleagues and audiences through participation in media productions and the publication of articles

Overall, the project will further critical thought concerning climate change and energy technologies and their impacts within and upon wider social and cultural systems.

SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES

To examine the themes and projects operating within the FES Initiative, iDoc will:

- Clarify the scope of the research to be included in analysis, prioritizing various projects and technologies
- Begin to observe and document selected projects operating across the fourteen FES themes that will foster interdisciplinary discussion and cooperation, including pilot interviews and a focus group, and preliminary coding structures
- Initiate production on media artefacts such as video segments and podcasts and test ways to exchange these among participants, detailing research projects, produced technologies, and researcher perspectives

THEME OVERVIEW

L'Université de l'Alberta reconnait respectueusement qu'elle est située à ᐊᒥᐢᑲᐧᒌᐚᐢᑲᐦᐃᑲᐣ (Amiskwacîwâskahikan) sur les terres du Traité 6, le territoire du Papaschase, et les territoires de la nation Métis. / The University of Alberta respectfully recognizes it is located in ᐊᒥᐢᑲᐧᒌᐚᐢᑲᐦᐃᑲᐣ (Amiskwacîwâskahikan) on Treaty 6 territory of the Papaschase, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

Energy systems shape social life. Transitioning away from a predominantly fossil-fuel global energy system, to new more complex integrated energy systems composed increasingly of renewal forms, demands that we reimagine the social and the shape of our future communities. To overcome practices, processes, guiding attitudes and policies that impede a transition to new energy systems response to local and global demands, we must transform myriad aspects of social and cultural life, and render our institutions and social infrastructures more responsible: things that may seem unrelated to energy. Examples include political systems, built environments, educational programs, business operations, policy positions, gender and race relations, social power dynamics, and artistic and cultural practices that shape all of the above. EH researches the historical and political significance of technologies, their potentials and limitations, including their modes of social implementation and institutionalization. As such, the EH projects in FES will explore how new sources and integrated systems may respond in socially equitable ways. EH helps to articulate ways to implement the technologies and systems required by a future energy system, with communities and colleagues alike. As one of its most significant contributions, EH explores the complex, multi-scalar dimension of energy transition so as to understand more fully how we can design integrated future energy systems, starting now, locally here in Alberta, making Alberta a leader in Canada and a contributor on a global scale.

EXTERNAL PARTNERS

The iDoc Project will operate in partnership with FES Project 1 (Speculative Energy Futures) and FES Project 2 (Transition in Energy, Culture and Society) to realize a host of compelling research expressions concerning the social life of energy. The project will work collaboratively with the University of Alberta Libraries and the Arts Research Center (ARC) to develop the framework for a comprehensive data framework to accommodate the media, interviews and other data collected and produced.

The Energy Humanities theme as a whole will also be supported by and integrated with the SSHRC-funded multidisciplinary Feminist Energy Futures: Power Shift and Environmental Social Justice initiative, to maximize impact and external involvement. These include collaborations with the U of A Intermedia Research Studio (IRS) and the U of A Research Creation and Social Justice Collaboratory (CoLab), the Arts Resource Center (ARC), and University of Alberta Libraries.

**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FUTURE ENERGY SYSTEMS**

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