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**BERN**

Wirtschafts- und  
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Departement Sozialwissenschaften  
**Institut für Politikwissenschaft**

## **Lunch talk: „Everyday ethics of the Anthropocene: What can ethnography of sea ice data tell us?“**

You are kindly invited to a lunch talk by Mark Vardy, sociologist and postdoctoral researcher at Princeton University.

Thursday 23 November 2017, 12:00 – 13:00, room A143, Von Roll, Fabrikstr. 8.

**Abstract:** In this talk, I connect my ethnography of the visualization and analyses of near-real-time sea ice data with conversations about the Anthropocene. First, I argue that understanding three different ways that Arctic sea ice decline becomes real for people – as a signifier of the immediacy of climate change, as a threat to the ontological security of homeland, and as a physical medium of human geophysical force – provides an empirically grounded and deflationary method for engaging with the Anthropocene. Second, I argue that paying attention to the infrastructures and the relationships of care through which the US National Snow and Ice Data Center mediate data about Arctic sea ice provides a way to think about an everyday ethics of the Anthropocene.

**Bio:** Mark Vardy is an interpretive sociologist and a postdoctoral research associate at the Climate Futures Initiative, Princeton University. His PhD in sociology (Queen’s University, Canada) focused on how circumpolar actors – including scientists, policymakers and Indigenous groups – are reorganizing knowledge of the Arctic against a horizon of projected epochal change. His most recent research uses ethnographic methods to study how near-real-time visualizations and analyses of Arctic sea ice data are constructed as collective social-technical accomplishments by the National Snow and Ice Data Centre. He is also involved in an additional research project that was recently approved to begin, which is a long-term ethnography of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.