

Erika Faigen

The Global Battery Race

Geopolitics, Industry & Sustainability



When? Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 16:15 – 17:45

Where? Lecture Hall 9 (HS 9) – Lecture Hall Building (HG)

The demand for battery storage grows—driven by electric vehicles and stationary energy solutions. Traditional supply chain models, however, fall short in capturing the complex interconnections between raw material extraction, battery production, and power in the energy and automotive sectors. In her talk, Erika Faigen will uncover the geopolitical, economic, and industrial dynamics of the global battery production network. She will highlight corporate strategies and the role of state policies while addressing the urgent challenges of environmental limits and responsible resource extraction and consumption.



Erika Faigen is an economic geographer concerned with the role of R&D and innovation in sustainable mineral-based material uses in energy technologies. She is currently a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the University of Vienna. Erika earned her PhD in Geography at the University of Copenhagen, in collaboration with the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS). Her PhD research centered on a global value chain analysis of rare earth elements (REE).