

Fall 2022

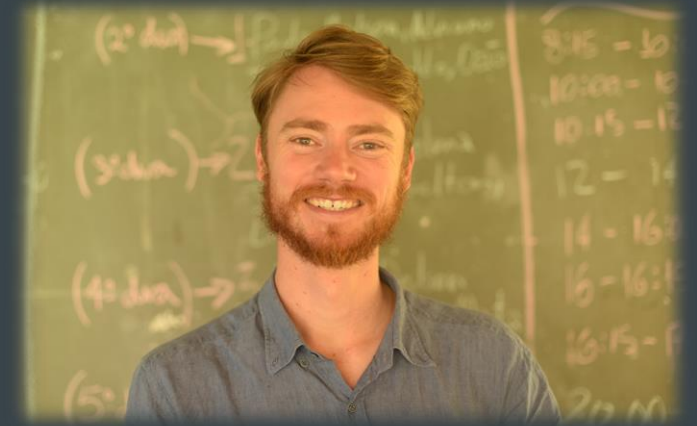
UTK Geography Colloquium Series

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 4:05 PM – 5:20 PM
WALTERS LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING (WLS) ROOM -M 309

After Coal: Appalachia's Economic Transition

Abstract

The coal industry is collapsing in the Appalachian region of the Eastern United States. As this once regionally dominant industry declines, new economies and land uses are emerging. In this talk, I examine the emergence of two new land uses: carbon offsets and outdoor recreation. I find that while landholding corporations are securing new revenue streams from emerging economies, residents in these former mining communities see few employment opportunities or local investments. In fact, new revenue sources for landowners have come, in part, from limiting community access to the forests. Engaging recent scholarly debates on political ecology and political economy, I draw conclusions about the relationships between emerging economies and rural politics in the region.



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