

Untimely Infrastructure



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Professor of English
Oakland University

**WEDNESDAY
NOV 29, 2023 4PM**

**Levis Faculty Center, Room 210
919 W Illinois, Urbana**



Artist: Emmy Lingscheidt

Bloom (Top), linocut relief print, 22 x 42", 2018

Remediator (Bottom), linocut relief print, 22 x 42", 2018

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In 2010, an oil pipeline transporting diluted bitumen from Alberta, Canada ruptured near Marshall, Michigan, spilling over a million gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River. This talk takes the Marshall spill as an occasion to examine some of the paradoxes of our current global energy infrastructure impasse. Thinking across different scales—both the local/ regional and the planetary/deep-historical—“Untimely Infrastructure” attends to the various timeframes that subtend the Marshall spill: the attritional processes of aging and deterioration, the inaction and delay on the part of company personnel, the slow pace of regulatory change, the paradoxically retro/ prospective nature of built infrastructures, the fact that when it comes to public responses to environmental damage times have changed, and, most importantly, the dire need for swift and decisive action to address the problem of climate change, the fact that time is running out for lifeforms on earth.

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Center for Advanced Study
Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures
Department of English
Department of History

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This event is free and open to the public. For more information please consult cas.illinois.edu



This event is part of the new initiative **Climate | Change**, which examines creative interventions in, interpretations of, and solutions to the climate crisis in which all academic work is embedded. It also pushes us to rethink how the “climate” of our institution currently facilitates and limits those interventions and solutions. The initiative envisions new possibilities and fosters new relationships, bringing scholars, researchers, artists, and knowledge-makers together at the Center for Advanced Study for interdisciplinary conversations and actions.

CAS Resident Associates Jamie Jones (English), Robert Morrissey (History), and Roderick Wilson (East Asian Languages & Cultures; History) oversee this initiative which includes an ongoing public events series and a graduate seminar (CAS 587) in Spring 2024 among other activities.

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To request special accommodation, please contact: cas@cas.illinois.edu