Energy is no doubt at the heart of (geo)political affairs in today’s globalizing world. From Iran and Iraq to Xinjiang and North Korea, from EU-Russian to Chinese-African relations and the global climate and nuclear proliferation debates, international politics can hardly be grasped at all anymore without a well-developed understanding of energy issues and their political dynamics. Everybody seems to agree that energy is central to the future of world politics and economics. Our knowledge is surprisingly weak, however, when it comes to grasping how it has been possible for energy to become so central in international relations, and in particular, why so many governments during the past few decades have accepted such an enormously increased dependence on imported fuels and energy technologies. I propose to discuss these issues from an historically informed perspective in which the concepts of risk, vulnerability and scarcity are at the centre. Four types of energy risks are discerned: supply risk, economic risk, environmental risk and technological risk. A particular point of emphasis are the ways in which the management of these risks tend to give rise to new risks.

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→ Thursday 30 July 2009
→ N72 Room -1.18
→ Nathan campus
→ 12.30 -1.50pm

To RSVP, please contact Natasha Vary on (07) 3735 5322 or n.vary@griffith.edu.au no later than 5.00pm Tuesday 28 July 2009.