

SPECULATING WITH LITHIUM

Round table discussion

Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 16.15 - 17.45 University of Bern, Mittelstrasse 43, Room 224

Anastasia Kubrak

Designer and researcher, Basel Academy of Arts and Design

Javiera Barandiarán

Social and environmental scientist, University of California

Marc Brändle

Battery raw materials trader and sourcing, Leclanché SA

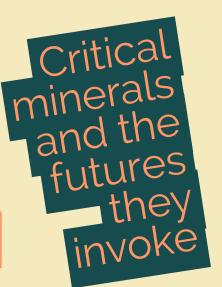
Martina Gamba

Battery and material scientist, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology





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Given its historical trajectory, it is hard to imagine industrial society without fossil fuels. Yet amid unfolding ecological disaster, we are asked to do precisely that. The energy transition promises a livable future, but depends on large quantities of 'critical minerals' like lithium, reproducing old dependencies and contradictions. While its extraction puts local communities and ecosystems at risk, lithium becomes a site of speculation: about which risks matter and to whom; about past harms and future benefits; about what counts as justice at a global scale. Join four experts who will draw on their experiences across histories, laboratories, mining sites, and trading rooms to explore these contested visions. What futures does lithium evoke, where, and for whom?