

## National Europe Centre Public Lecture Series

# AFRICA: EUROPE'S ENERGY *EL DORADO*

WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2009, 12.30 – 2.00PM

National Europe Centre, 1 Liversidge Street, Building 67C, ANU  
RSVP by Friday 24 April 2009 12.00pm - E: [europe@anu.edu.au](mailto:europe@anu.edu.au)

**SPEAKER: DR KARIS MÜLLER – ASSOCIATE, NATIONAL EUROPE CENTRE**

*Abstract:* Since the early twentieth century Europeanists have regarded secure access to Africa's energy reserves as the basis of a mutually beneficial relationship. Today, as the EU tackles environmental problems and faces increasing energy competition, it continues to favour Africa as a reliable source of electricity and fuel. Africa's role as energy provider is now explicitly placed within the general context of a privileged partnership, though the novelty of this is more apparent than real. Given the continuities from colonial times, the EU's 'third Industrial Revolution' is therefore evolutionary rather than revolutionary. Yet the ongoing EU-Africa energy partnership risks being an ideological and rhetorical device that is losing credibility as Africa turns to other energy 'partners.'

*Biography:* Dr Müller studied her PhD in London, with a thesis on French History of Ideas. She taught European studies and French Language and Politics at the ANU until 2008. Her latest publications (for example 2008 *The Euro in Africa*, vol. 1/1 of *Humanitas Journal of European Studies*) deal with the EU energy and aid policies in relation to Africa and about 'The Myth of Eurafrika' (about which she is writing a book).



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