

## Invitation to DK Guest Lecture

# Skin and Fuel: Two Episodes in the History of Fossilised Whiteness

**Andreas Malm**

Lund University, Department of Human Geography

**Thursday, 27 February 2020 | 13:30 to 15:00**  
**SR 56.11 (Brandhofgasse 5/ 1<sup>st</sup> floor)**

### Abstract

From Sweden to Spain, Poland to the US, Germany to Brazil, recent years have witnessed a surging far right at just the moment of intensifying climate breakdown. This far right tends to deny the existence of any climate crisis and insist on maximum production and consumption of fossil fuels and other climate-destroying resources. At the same time, it positions itself as the defender of a racially defined nation – to all intents and purposes, the white nation. What are the historical sources of this configuration? Based on the book *White Skin, Black Fuel: On the Danger of Fossil Fascism*, written by the Zetkin Collective and forthcoming from Verso in 2020, this lecture will hone in on two episodes in the history of fossilised whiteness: first, the imperial use of steam-power and its place in nineteenth-century racism; second, the articulation of race in the automobile in twentieth-century US and early twenty-first century Europe. The history of the links between whiteness and fossil fuels remains to be explored in depth. But scratching the surface of these two episodes suggests that the ongoing surge of an anti-climate, pro-fossil-fuel far right is bringing deep historical forces to the fore. The talk will also speculate on various possible scenarios of far-right politics in a rapidly warming world.