

WORKSHOP: AN OBSERVATORY TO STUDY THE DYNAMICS OF CHANGE IN GLOBAL ENERGY SYSTEMS

Saturday, 12 April 10:30am-Noon

UNM SUB Room: Acoma

Rajan Gupta (Los Alamos National Laboratories)

The world's energy infrastructure stands on the brink of a major revolution. Much of the large power generation infrastructure in the industrialized world will need replacement over the next two to three decades while in the developing world, including China and India, it will be installed for the first time. Concurrently, the risks of climate change and unprecedented high prices for oil and natural gas are transforming the economic and ethical incentives for alternative energy sources leading to growth of nuclear and renewables, including solar, wind, biofuels and geothermal technologies. The transition from today's energy systems, based on fossil fuels, to a future decarbonized or carbon-neutral infrastructure is a socio-technical problem of global dimensions, but one for which there is no accepted solution, either at the international, national, or regional levels.