

Douglas Rogers, Yale University

Abstract

This working paper uses data gathered in the course of NCEEER-funded research in the Perm Region of Russia to outline some new ways of thinking about the exchange and circulation of oil. Nearly all existing studies, whether in the author's home discipline of anthropology or in neighboring social sciences, place primary emphasis on the nexus of oil and money.

They consider oil wealth, petrodollars, federal budget allocations, oil and banking, systems of taxation, ways in which money enables abstraction and generalization, money and state forms, and so on. However, the case of Soviet and post-Soviet oil points to the significance of *barter* in the circulation of oil, both in local contexts and on a global

scale.
The
working
paper
points
to
ways
in
which ethnographic
and
historical
consideration
of petrobarter
should
expand
our knowledge
of the
political
economy
of oil,
especially
by drawing
attention
to
ways
in
which
a
variety
of groups, at
a
variety
of scales,
have
used
barter
to
frame
and
pursue
challenges
to
the national
and
international
systems

that
channel
the
flow
of oil
and
associated
political
and economic
power.