

Mini Track Proposal
Complex Systems Track
Markets and Regulation

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Reliance on market mechanisms and decentralized decisions as alternatives to central planning and government regulation of energy and other critical infrastructure enterprises has gained momentum worldwide over the last decade. This trend has been seen as the sale of government owned and operated monopolies in energy (electricity, gas and oil), in water and in public transportation. In nations such as the United States where independent ownership was frequently the case, increased dependence on market mechanism is replacing governmental price regulation in these same industries. Whether under the title of privatization, deregulation or restructuring, the movement has been toward allowing competitive market forces to set prices for essential commodities that in the past were actively controlled through direct government ownership or regulation. Within the US there is increased pressure for reregulation of the commodities and for regulation of the derivative markets that have been established to hedge commodity price volatility.

The theme of the Markets and Regulation Mini Track is to solicit analytical papers that focus on the experience in multiple national settings of restructuring of, primarily, the energy sectors. Specific attention will be given to the interactions between the commercial market, financial instruments in that market and the complexities of the physical delivery systems that produce and deliver the energy. Topics of specific interest include but are not limited to:

- Market response to new (and changing) market operating rules.
- Design and/or redesign of markets, exchanges, and auction formats based on current operating experience.
- The reemergence of regulation as a major influence in energy markets.
- Privatization of governmental energy suppliers.
- The physical and economic integration of distributed generation and load response technologies into the electric power system.
- Property rights, congestion management and hedging in transmission systems
- Provision of reliability through markets
- Experimental analysis of both producer and consumer behavior in response to volatile or variable commodity prices.