



Figure 14. Spatial and temporal changes in mercury.

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COVER

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Photography has changed the public's perception of various social and political issues since the medium's conception. By exploring a topical subject, the photographer makes the issue accessible on a personal level and promotes awareness of said topic. Photography is significant in this sense as it fosters an understanding accessible by all viewers. By creating work centered on energy production and consumption, viewers have the opportunity to connect with our current state of energy in order to create a higher level of cognizance of this complex subject. Most consumers are disconnected with the environmental, political, and social issues that our source of livelihood creates, and spending time with the various layers of energy production will educate the community about these realities.

After touring the Westar Energy Center in Lawrence, KS, I was inspired to create images that reflected the complex process of coal energy production. This image was created using strictly documentary photography as well as excerpts from research conducted in the 1970's about the various emissions released with coal fired energy production. Juxtaposing these various mediums of research from the past and present gives viewers a new perspective and an outlet to pursue their own curiosities.

Contents

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Evaluating body dissatisfaction as a moderator between physical self-concept and physical activity	1
Stephanie Chen	
Breaking ground in Canaan: African-American community in Lawrence, 1870–1920	9
Paul E. Fowler III	
Quantifying CO₂ removal by living walls: a case study of the Center for Design Research	20
Eric Rivera	
An analysis of electromyography as an input method for resilient and affordable systems: human-computer interfacing using the body’s electrical activity	30
Seth Polsley	
<i>Man of Tomorrow: a film on Jacque Fresco</i>	38
Nathanael Dinwiddie	
Performance study of supertree methods	41
Patrick Niehaus	
Community health club and its application for health promotion and community building in Matazano, Guatemala	46
Karen S. Lewis	
Isolation and crystallization of PvdJp2, a non-ribosomal peptide synthetase domain in <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	58
Betsy Ramirez	
The potential of milkweed floss as a natural fiber in the textile industry	64
Julia Nehring	
Optimum protein-excipient interactions using molecular docking simulations	69
Haider Sulaiman Tarar	

