

Contents

Preface	7
Introduction: The geothermal (in)visibility of the Chilean Andes	11
Following the geothermal evidence	14
Geothermal Explorations	19
Geothermal Futures	26
Geothermal (in)visibility in five chapters	28
1 Rocks	31
1.1 Rocks, textures, and heat trajectories on a geological fault	34
1.2 The problem of scales in Geology	39
1.3 Heat Trajectories	44
1.4 Fieldnotes	50
2 Vapor	57
2.1 Well stories: Drilling and measuring the El Tatio vapor	58
2.2 (In)visible bodies and vapor	65
2.3 Collapsing well	71
3 Underground water	77
3.1 Geothermal traces and water trajectories	80
3.2 (In)visible wells: Underground water policies	85
3.3 The Inauguration of Cerro Pabellon	92
3.4 Water trajectories and the abandonment of electric power in El Tatio	95

4 Forest 105

4.1 Inaugurating a direct use pilot 107

4.2 Seeking for a guide's orientation 114

4.3 Lost behind a closed mountain 117

4.4 Local guides, the pillan, and Mapuche undergrounds..... 121

5 Thermal Springs..... 131

5.1 "The Real Thermalism" 132

5.2 Thermal Spring (Dis)appearance 139

5.3 The silence of the Springs 146

6 Conclusion..... 151

6.1 The imaginaries of electricity 152

6.2 Imagining other futures 156

6.3 The description problem 157

Acknowledgements 161

Abbreviations 167

References 169