

EXALT CONFERENCE 2021

October 25 -27, 2021 (Online)

**Concurrent Crises and
Sustainable Futures: Global
Extractivisms and Alternatives**

Book of Abstracts



**Global Extractivisms and
Alternatives Initiative**



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

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The Global Extractivisms and Alternatives Initiative

The Global Extractivisms and Alternatives Initiative (EXALT), which launched in January 2020 at the University of Helsinki. EXALT is a multidisciplinary discipline bridging research initiative, which draws together researchers from the social and political sciences, including Global Development Studies, Indigenous Studies, Responsible Organizing, and World Politics. The EXALT Initiative focuses on the political-ecological and political-economic aspects of global extractivisms and the associated socio-environmental crises, including climate change. Through the work of its affiliated researchers, the EXALT Initiative pursues detailed empirical research of ecologically and socio-economically destructive forms of natural resource extraction around the globe, and the transformative alternatives that stand in resistance to these extractivisms. Our focus is on critical social-scientific analyses of natural-resource politics, and we are actively engaged in discussions of extractivism as an organizing concept that extends beyond natural resource extraction. EXALT is the leading research initiative in the field of critical studies of extractivism and natural-resource politics within Finland, with recognized world leading research publications, based on detailed field research conducted across the globe, especially in the global South.

EXALT Conference 2021 - Concurrent Crises and Sustainable Futures: Global Extractivisms and Alternatives

At the EXALT Conference 2021 we seek to draw together diverse critical analyses of the phenomena of global extractivisms and the myriad alternatives being actively pursued in both theory and practice. It is the intention of this conference to contribute to, expand, and deepen the concept of extractivism and the role of alternatives beyond the conventional usage connected to natural resources. We hope to catalyze and facilitate inter- and transdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration.

Organising committee



Özlem Celik is a University Researcher at HELSUS and Development Studies at the University of Helsinki. Özlem's research concerns the political economy of urban development and change, including financialisation of housing, the role of the state in urban development, urban commoning practices and urban social movements. She is also one of the coordinators of Dislocating Urban Studies Initiative and co-founder and coordinator of IIPPE Urban and Regional Political Economy Working Group. Her latest publication is 'Urban Neighbourhood Forums in Ankara as a Commoning Practice' in *Antipode* (2021).



Christopher Chagnon is a Doctoral Candidate in Global Development Studies in the Doctoral Program in Political, Societal, and Regional Changes at the University of Helsinki. His research focuses on big data extractive systems in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as Africa-China engagement. Beyond his studies, he is on the board of the Finnish Society for Development Research, and is co-host of the EXALT Podcast.



Barry Gills is Professor of Global Development Studies at the University of Helsinki, Editor in Chief of the journal *Globalizations* (Routledge), and Editor of the book series *Rethinking Globalizations*. He has written widely on international political economy, globalization, world system theory, South-South relations, the politics of resistance, transformative praxes, and most recently on economics and the climate change emergency. He is a founding member of EXALT, and of the Peoples Sovereignty Network, and a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science.



Sophia Hagolani-Albov is a PhD candidate in the Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Doctoral Programme (DENVI) in affiliation with the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry and Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS) at the University of Helsinki. In addition to her doctoral work Sophia is the project coordinator for the Global Extractivisms and Alternatives Initiative (EXALT) at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Helsinki. Sophia also co-hosts the EXALT Podcast, a monthly conversation with academics, artists, and activists.



Janne J. Salovaara is a Doctoral student of Sustainability Science at the University of Helsinki, Finland. His research tackles the disciplinary development and education and impact of sustainability science. He critically examines the transformation potential, aims and impacts of the global sustainability endeavours.

Organising committee



Markus Kröger is an Associate Professor in Development Studies at the University of Helsinki and an Academy of Finland research fellow. He has written extensively on global natural resource politics, conflicts, and social resistance movements and the economic outcomes, especially in relation to iron ore mining and forestry. He is also an expert in political economy, development, and globalization in Latin America, India, and the Arctic. His most recent books are *Iron Will – Global Extractivism and Mining Resistance in Brazil and India* (2020, Open Access) and *Studying Complex Interactions and Outcomes Through Qualitative Comparative Analysis: A Practical Guide to Comparative Case Studies and Ethnographic Data Analysis* (2021).



Maija Lassila is Phd candidate in the doctoral program of Political, societal and regional change, University of Helsinki. In her dissertation she focuses on alternative knowledge worlds and ontologies beyond extractivism, in relation to early stage mining projects in Finland's Lapland. In addition to Lapland she has conducted field work in French Polynesia and New Caledonia. Her latest work is an article called 'The Arctic mineral resource rush and the ontological struggle for the Viiankiaapa peatland in Sodankyla, Finland' in *Globalizations* (2020).



Paola Minoia is a Senior Lecturer in Global Development Studies at the University of Helsinki, and an Associate Professor in Political and Economic Geography at the University of Turin. Her interests intersect the fields of political ecology, geography and development studies with a focus on territoriality, state- and minoritized groups relations, socio-environmental justice, eco-cultural knowledges, sustainability and decoloniality. She is the Principal Investigator in the project *Ecocultural pluralism in the Ecuadorian Amazonia* (funded by the Academy of Finland 2018-2022) and a WG leader in the EU/COST Network *Decolonising Development: Research, Teaching and Practice* (2020-2024).



Anja Nygren is Professor of Global Development Studies and Director of 'Political, Societal and Regional Change' (PSRC) Doctoral Programme at the University of Helsinki, Finland. She is a Steering Group Member of the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS) and Academic Affiliate of Helsinki Inequality Initiative (INEQ). Her research areas include hydrocarbon extraction, hydropower, green grabbing, resource frontiers, disasters and displacements, and political ecology and environmental justice. She has carried out long-term research on extractivisms, resource politics, environmental conflicts, environmental justice, and transformative movements in both in rural and urban areas in Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Costa Rica.

Organising committee



Franklin Obeng-Odoom is the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science Associate Professor with Global Development Studies at the University of Helsinki in Finland and a Fellow of the Teachers' Academy. Obeng-Odoom's research and teaching interests are centred on the political economy of development, urban and regional economics, natural resources and the environment. He is the Global South Editor of *Housing Studies*, has published six sole-authored books including *Property, Institutions, and Social Stratification in Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2020).



Eija Ranta is a university researcher of Global Development Studies at the University of Helsinki, where she leads an Academy of Finland funded research project *Citizenship Utopias in the Global South* (2019-2023). Her research interests include transformative alternatives to mainstream development, such as *Buen Vivir*, state formation, Indigenous activism, social movements, and civil society in Latin America and Africa. Her latest publication is 'Development: A Multidimensional Concept', in *Research Handbook on Development and Democracy* (2021).



Teivo Teivainen is a Professor of World Politics at the University of Helsinki. His research ranges from global political economy to transnational social movements. Teivainen's areas of expertise include global political economy, human rights, transnational civic movements, global democracy and the contradiction of capitalism. He seeks to make his research available also for audiences beyond strictly academic circles. Teivainen has been active in many professional associations, perhaps most intensely in International Studies Association.



Pirjo Kristiina Virtanen (PhD in Latin American Studies) is Associate Professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of Helsinki. Virtanen is the co-editor of *Indigenous Research Methodologies in Sámi and Global contexts* (Brill, 2021, Open Access) and *Creating Dialogues: Indigenous Perceptions and Changing Forms of Leadership in Amazonia* (Colorado University Press, 2017). Virtanen is also board member of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America. Her publications include numerous articles and edited volumes on Amazonian biocultural landscapes, Indigenous politics and leadership, mobility, and youthhood.

Conference assistants



William LaFleur is a PhD candidate in the Political, Societal, and Regional Change Doctoral Programme, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki. La Fleur is an affiliate of the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS). With a background in Anthropology and Education, his research engages the socio-sensory, phenomenological, and atmospheric contingencies of knowing and the making of resilience in local food ways practices amid global ecological crises and the COVID-19 pandemic.



Saana Hokkanen works as a research assistant at the University of Helsinki, Global Development Studies discipline. Hokkanen is interested in decolonial political ecology, Political Ontology and issues related to post-extractivism and multispecies environmental justice. She has worked at the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS) and the Global Extractivisms and Alternatives Initiative (EXALT) and she has a Master's degree in Social Sciences from the University of Helsinki.



Melisa Yasav works as a technical assistant for the the Global Extractivisms and Alternatives Initiative (EXALT) at the University of Helsinki. Yasav has focused on development studies and is interested in environmental civil society, environmental justice and degrowth theory. She has a Master's degree in Social Sciences from the University of Helsinki.

Conference Program

Monday, October 25, 2021

13:30-14:00 - Opening Words

14:00-15:15 - Plenary Talk: Andréa Zhouri

15:15-15:45 - BREAK

15:45-17:00 - Parallel Session 1

- Track 1: Global Extractivisms. Theme: Intersectional dynamics.
- Track 2: Indigenous Sovereignty, Modernity projects and Alternatives. Theme: Indigenous onto-epistemologies and cosmovisions.
- Track 5: Transitions to Alternatives. Theme: Activism, artistic performances and radical transformations.

17:15-18:30 - Plenary Talk: Robin Broad and John Cavanagh

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

08:45-09:00 - Opening Words

09:00-10:15 - Plenary Talk: Lochner Marais

10:15-10:45 - BREAK

10:45-12:00 - Parallel Session 2

- Track 1: Global Extractivisms. Theme: Energy.
- Track 4: Expanding Extractivisms – Big Data, Financialization, and Intellectual Extractivisms
- Track 5: Transitions to Alternatives. Theme: Extractivisms and their entanglements with alternatives.
- Track 6: Diverse perspectives on extractivisms and alternatives.

12:00-13:00 - BREAK

13:00-14:15 - Parallel Session 3

- Track 1: Global Extractivisms. Theme: Contestations.
- Track 2: Indigenous Sovereignty, Modernity projects and Alternatives. Theme: Indigenous resistance to extractivism.
- Track 5: Transitions to Alternatives. Theme: Transitions to alternatives.
- Track 6: Diverse perspectives on extractivisms and alternatives.

14:15-14:45 - BREAK

14:45-16:00 - Parallel Session 4

- Track 1: Global Extractivisms. Theme: Agrarian & forestry extractivisms.
- Track 6: Diverse perspectives on extractivisms and alternatives.

16:00-16:15 - BREAK

16:15-17:15 - Artistic Intervention: Documentary called 'Arena' with Inge-Merete Hougaard.

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

10:45-11:00 - Opening Words

11:00-12:15 - Parallel Session 5

- Track 1: Global Extractivisms. Theme: Global extractivism.
- Track 3: Urbanity and Extractivisms.
- Track 6: Diverse perspectives on extractivisms and alternatives.

12:15-13:15 - BREAK

13:15-14:30 - Parallel Session 6

- Track 1: Global Extractivisms. Theme: Mining.
- Track 3: Urbanity and Extractivisms
- Track 6: Diverse perspectives on extractivisms and alternatives.

14:30-15:00 - BREAK

15:00-16:15 - Plenary Talk: Deborah McGregor

16:20-17:15 - Artistic Intervention: mirko nikolić's water is (non)life: after empire

17:15-17:45 - Conference Closing

This schedule is subject to change. The online version of the schedule will always have the most up to date information. Please defer to the web schedule if there is any question about what time a particular event is happening or there is a disagreement between the printed and online schedule.

Detailed program

Track 1: Global Extractivisms

This track examines the politics, political economy, political ecology, and world-ecologies of extractivisms, especially in relation to their wider dynamics. In this track we discuss a plethora of different yet interconnected topics. We address issues such as socio-environmental and ecological distribution conflicts, coexistence of cooperation and resistance to mining, as well as the double frontier of mining and neoliberal conservation. We examine the role of extractive governance and challenge the rhetoric and practice of green extractivism and the depoliticization of social and environmental struggle. Papers also include research on the influence of the anti-coal movements on climate change policy, strategies of resistance within transnational fishers movements, and smallholders' climate-related vulnerabilities. We tackle topics such as carbon dioxide removal, value extraction within the gold mining industry, cosmic mining, as well as the impact of extraction as an issue of socionature. In addition, we look at the legacy of historical colonialism in relation to agro-extractivism and we use a political ecology lens to examine land-use change at the Food-Energy-Water nexus.

Track Chairs: Markus Kröger and Anja Nygren

Parallel Session 1 – Monday, October 25, 15:45 pm - 17:00 pm

Theme: Intersectional dynamics

- Atte Penttilä - Land-Use Change at the Food-Energy-Water Nexus: Political Ecology of the Bladen River Watershed, Belize (University of South Florida). Page 21.
- Anna Marjaana Heikkinen - Climate Change, Power and Vulnerabilities in the Peruvian Andes (University of Helsinki). Page 23.
- Marketta Vuola - The Emergence of a 'Double Frontier': Overlaps of Mining and Conservation in Madagascar (University of Helsinki). Page 24.

Discussant: Anja Nygren (University of Helsinki)

Parallel Session 2 – Tuesday, October 26, 10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Theme: Energy

- Naima Kraushaar-Friesen - Examining the hegemony of fossil fuels in the Trudeau government's discourse on the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project. Page 25.
- Bowen Gu - Unburnable coal and climate justice in China (ICTA-UAB, Autonomous University of Barcelona). Page 26.
- Inge-Merete Hougaard - Shaping the underground: Carbon dioxide removal and the reproduction of uneven geographies (Lund University). Page 27.

Discussant: Veli-Pekka Tynkkynen (University of Helsinki)

Parallel Session 3 – Tuesday, October 26, 13:00 pm - 14:15 pm

Theme: Contestations

- Anja Nygren - Sites of sacrifice and stamina: the socionature of oil extraction in Mexico (University of Helsinki). Page 28.
- Ksenija Hanacek - The Arctic commodity extraction frontier and environmental conflict (ICTA-UAB, Autonomous University of Barcelona). Page 29.
- Markus Kröger - Extractivisms, Existences and Extinctions: Monoculture Plantations and Amazon Deforestation (University of Helsinki) 30.

Discussant: Alexander Dunlap (University of Oslo)

Parallel Session 4 – Tuesday, October 26, 14:45 pm - 16:00 pm

Theme: Agrarian & forestry extractivisms

- Sören Köpke - Agro-extractivism and the colonial legacy of the commodity frontier: The case of tea and the British Empire (University of Kassel). Page 32
- Jana Holz & Lilian Pungas - Forest for Sale!? 'Success' of Extractivist Forestry in Estonia and Finland (Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena). Page 33.
- Natacha Bruna - The Rise of Green Extractivism: climate change policies and appropriation of resources (International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) & Observatório do Meio Rural (OMR)). Page 35.

Discussant: Markus Kröger (University of Helsinki)

Parallel Session 5 – Wednesday, October 27, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Theme: Global extractivism

- Rachel Hill - Unearthing the Underground: The Subterranean Heights of Cosmo-Extractivism (University of London). Page 36.
- Joan Martinez-Alier - Circularity, entropy, ecological conflicts and LFFU (Autonomous University of Barcelona). Page 38.
- Julie Ann de los Reyes - Materiality, value extraction and the 'nature' of finance (Kyoto University). Page 39.

Discussant: Barry Gills (University of Helsinki)

Parallel Session 6 – Wednesday, October 27, 13:15 pm - 14:30 pm

Theme: Mining

- Maija Lassila - Creating a replaceable place: Contestation over the 'green' Anglo American Sakatti mine in Arctic Finland (University of Helsinki). Page 40.
- Sara Moritz - Mining in Sweden - Local visions of the extractivist welfare state (Stockholm University). Page 41.
- Beril Ocaklı - Taking the discourse seriously: Rational egoism and resistance to mining in Kyrgyzstan (IRI THESys / Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin). Page 43.

Discussant: Joan Martínez Alier (Autonomous University of Barcelona).

Track 2: Indigenous Sovereignty, Modernity projects and Alternatives

In this thematic track, presentations analyze and examine Indigenous peoples' struggles, resistance and sovereignty, the interplay of coloniality and modernity, indigenous knowledge, intersectionality, and post-extractivist imaginaries. Papers include research on indigenous knowledge of ecology and sustainability, cosmovision and epistemologies in protecting biological and cultural diversity and producing alternatives. We also look at indigenous struggles for land rights and women's movements against extractive industries, as well as the interplay of conservation policies and environmental impact assessment practices with indigenous peoples lives. In addition, we let ourselves imagine possible post-extractivist futures inspired by indigenous knowledges and concepts through a discussion of how mining and other forms of natural resource extraction are part of the complex local visions of sustainability.

Track Chairs: Pirjo Kristiina Virtanen, Eija Ranta, Paola Minoia and Maija Lassila

Parallel Session 1 – Monday, October 25, 15:45 pm - 17:00 pm

Theme: Indigenous onto-epistemologies and cosmovisions

- Flavio Luiz Valente - Culture and Spirituality as Dimensions of Resistance and Construction of the Sovereignty of Peoples / Latin American Experiences (Flavio Luiz Valente). Page 44.
- Eduardo Erazo Acosta - The power of the ancestral philosophy of *Alli kawsay* (Buen Vivir) in the indigenous movements of Colombia - Ecuador vs. the exclusion by the big mining development, contribution to the Rights of Mother Nature from the global south (University Nariño). Page 45.
- Anna Varfolomeeva - Industrializing sacred landscapes: indigenous visions of mining and sustainability in Karelia and Buriatia (University of Helsinki). Page 47.

Parallel Session 3 – Tuesday, October 26, 13:00 pm - 14:15 pm

Theme: Indigenous resistance to extractivism

- Dayabati Roy - Extractivism in Forestry of India Eviction, Inclusion, and Indigenous people in Indian Sundarbans (University of Helsinki). Page 48.
- Abosede Omowumi Babatunde - Niger Delta Women Movement and the Trajectories of the struggles for Environment (University of Ilorin, Nigeria). Page 49.
- Marc Gavalda - Autonomy and territorial ecology in a scenario of Climate Emergency: The Tacana People in the Bolivian Amazon (Autonomous University of Barcelona). Page 51.
- Arnab Roy Chowdhury - Resisting a Gold Rush: 'Mnemonic' Adivasi Struggles against Extractive Capital in Central India (HSE University). Page 52.
- Emilka Skrzypek - Impact assessment practice. Evidencing, articulating, and assessing impacts of proposed extractive projects on indigenous territories (University of St Andrews). Page 54.
- Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares - Supporting Indigenous and Local Knowledge holders on the frontlines of conflict (University of Helsinki). Page 55.

Track 3: Urbanity and Extractivisms

In this thematic track, we examine the tensions and contradictions in urbanism that are central to a post-extractivist agenda. Urban centers have increasingly become nodes for consumption, processing, and extraction. This group provides diverse outlooks on urbanism in the context of extractivism such as an urban ethnographic lifehistorical study of the shadows of success in disaster recovery and systemic the discrimination that recovery policies entail. Papers also include research on petroleum cities that are propped up by specific urban and industrial governance structures, a case study on marginalisation and eviction of an Indigenous community through the interplay of conservation and urbanisation, as well as a study on the weaknesses of Public Private Partnerships in advancing rural development.

Parallel Session 5 - Wednesday, October 27, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Chair: Özlem Çelik

- Laleh Derakhti - Contradictions of Transit - Oriented Development (TOD) in Low-income Neighbourhoods; The case study of Rosengard district in Malmo, Sweden. Page 56.
- Marjaana Jauhola - Challenging Extractivist Disaster Recovery Regimes: Living the Aftermath of the 2001 Kachchh Earthquake Recovery in Gujarat, India (University of Helsinki). Page 57.
- Ng Sourav Singha - Situating "Community" in Conservation: A Case of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary Eviction (Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati). Page 58.

Discussant: Harini Nagendra (Azim Premji University, India)

Parallel Session 6 - Wednesday, October 27, 13:15 am - 14:30 pm

Chair: Franklin Obeng-Odoom

- Alberto Valz Gris - Hinterlands of the Green Transition (Polytechnic University of Turin). Page 59.
- Ali Almoghazy - Oiling the City: how cities function with a volatile market (University of Helsinki). Page 61.
- Edmore Mwandiringana - Rural Development at Crossroads? State and the Peasantry in Zimbabwe (China Agriculture University). Page 62.

Discussant: Cyril Obi (The Social Science Council, USA)

Track 4: Expanding Extractivisms – Big Data, Financialization, and Intellectual Extractivisms

This track examines the expansion of extractivism into the digital world, where our thoughts and actions become the resource in the form of personal data. It explores the extractivist methods of tech firms, the impacts of extractivist modes, and evaluates legislative measures meant to protect people from the intrusions of big tech companies.

Track Chair: Christopher Chagnon

Parallel Session 2 - Tuesday, October 26, 10:45 am - 12:00 pm

- Obaid Amjad - Reassessing the Power of the GDPR in Protecting the Privacy of Online Users (Esade Business School). Page 64.
- Sunniva Sandbukt - Creating Consumer-Cyborgs: digital platforms as infrastructures for extraction (IT-University of Copenhagen). Page 65.

Track 5: Transitions to Alternatives

In this thematic track, we analyze and examine the diverse practices that shape the transformations needed to build alternative futures in a post-extractive world. In our track we challenge ontological assumptions of nature and society by engaging with Latin American discussions of post-extractivism with ideas of just transition and by adopting posthuman theorizing to understand complex connections that 'produce' organizational becoming. We discuss potential ways out of exploitative extractivism by embracing bioremediation and a potential way into a sustainable market economy by organising the economy into a not-for-profit (NFP) market. We describe valuable lessons from a specific case of non-hierarchical organizing and for the "labor as commons" approach, as well as the experiences of forest dialogues between different stakeholders. The topics covered also include a study on strategies enhancing food sovereignty and alternatives futures by family farmers as well as a study that provides tools for critical thinking towards an energy dependable society. We will talk about the full transformative power of feminism to attain global justice, violence against women environmental defenders and how having affective relations with the immediate nature enhances environmental understanding.

Track Chairs: Barry Gills and Maria Ehrnström-Fuentes

Parallel Session 1 – Monday, October 25, 15:45 pm - 17:00 pm

Theme: Activism, artistic performances and radical transformations

- Zdravka Dimitrova - Releasing the full transformative power of feminism (Sofia University). Page 66.
- Caroline Ledant - How communities around the world are organizing themselves to feed their population in time of (covid) crisis: case studies (Schola Campesina APS). Page 68.
- Dalena Tran - Gendered geographies of violence: A multiple case-study analysis of murdered women environmental defenders. Page 69.

Discussant - Maria Ehrnström-Fuentes (Hanken School of Economics)

Parallel Session 2 – Tuesday, October 26, 10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Theme: Extractivisms and their entanglements with alternatives

- Alicia Ng - Two extractivisms, one setting: extractivist entanglements in the bioremediation of contaminated e-waste sites (University of Helsinki). Page 70.
- Sony R K - Fighting Against Industrial Extractivism: Transformed Subjectivity through Affective Relationship and Immaterial Labour Helps in the Protection of Immediate Nature (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE). Page 71.
- Eeva Houtbeckers - Forest dialogues as an alternative to the deadlock between forest extractivism and protection (Aalto University). Page 72.
- Ana Estefania Carballo - Envisioning a just transition: Latin American contributions to imagining a zero-carbon future (University of Melbourne). Page 73.

Discussant - Barry Gills (University of Helsinki)

Parallel Session 3 – Tuesday, October 26, 13:00 pm - 14:15 pm

Theme: Transitions to alternatives

- Karen Verduijn - A posthuman approach to organizational becoming (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam). Page 75.
- Ivana Lukeš Rybanská - The endurance of non-hierarchy. The long story of NESEHNUTÍ from Czechia (University of Economics and Business in Prague). Page 76.
- Inna Sukhenko - Solastalgia in Biocitizenship 's Perspective on Narrating Energy (University of Helsinki). Page 77.

Discussant - Riikka Kaukonen Lindholm (University of Helsinki)

Track 6: Diverse perspectives on extractivisms and alternatives

This track is a wonderful mix of papers that range from theoretical explorations to concrete cases. Many different types of extractivism are addressed by this group including water, mining, energy production, and forestry. In addition, there are proposals for alternatives to extractivism and the role of technological advance in moving beyond our extractivist paradigm. We look at epistemology and ontology and the enmeshments that underpin the extractivist logic. We tackle the role of affect in the Arctic, examine participatory planning in Mexico, and just energy transition in Africa, among many other exciting topics. We also use different forms of art and creativity to look at the world and the questions surround extractivisms and alternatives, including poetry, filmmaking, and performative actions. Join us for this rich and wide-ranging collection of papers.

Track Chairs: Sophia Hagolani-Albov and Janne Salovaara

Parallel Session 2 – Tuesday, October 26, 10:45 am - 12:00 pm

- Jaxon Waterhouse - Ecological Gyre Theory and Deepwater Horizon: critical enmeshments with liquidity, abjection and the petro-Geist. Page 78.
- Ishtiaq Ahmed - Pain and Poetry in the Non-West: Iqbal's Critique of Nationalism (Jawaharlal Nehru University). Page 80.
- Barbara Magalhaes Teixeira - Room to grow and the right to say no: a perspective on development, the environment, and peace from and for the Global South (Lund University). Page 81.
- Outi Hakkarainen - Towards Transformative Change? – Indigenous and Urban Struggles for Land and Territory in Western Mexico. Page 82.

Discussant - Georgia de Leeuw (Lund University).

Parallel Session 3 – Tuesday, October 26, 13:00 pm - 14:15 pm

- Yanina Kowszyk - Conflict management approaches in the mining sector in Latin America (University of Groningen). Page 83.
- Mark Cinkevich - Astravets NPP: Energy overproduction as colonizing strategy (The New Centre for Research and Practice). Page 84.
- Dominika Glogowski - The Mine in Transition? Interaction through the Arts. Page 85.
- Sarah Espinosa - Isn't Exploitation bad enough? On the normative dimension of concepts relating to the use of non-human parties (University of Vienna). Page 86.

Discussant - Marketta Vuola (University of Helsinki)

Parallel Session 4 – Tuesday, October 26, 14:45 pm - 16:00 pm

- May Aye Naw Thiri - Examining the dynamics of Carbon Emissions in Japan from a Climate Justice perspective (ICTA UAB, Autonomous University of Barcelona). Page 87.
- Yorbana Seign-goura - Just Energy Transition in three African Extractive States: Challenges and Recommendations (University of Neuchatel). Page 88.
- Liz Rejane Issberner - The rise of agribusiness to political power: the emergence of environmental neoliberalism in Brazil (Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology (IBICT)). Page 89.
- Naina Nerli - Achieving energy security by renewable sources of energy policy trends in developing sustainable energy in India. Page 90.

Discussant: Christopher Chagnon (University of Helsinki)

Parallel Session 5 – Wednesday, October 27, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

- Katri Vihma - On the possibilities and preconditions for realising dialogues across epistemological and ontological boundaries (University of Helsinki). Page 91.
- Hanna Lempinen - Resource affects in Arctic politics (University of Lapland). Page 92.
- Sudeep Budhaditya Deb - Natural Resources, Participation and Communities: An Hypothesized Framework for a Change Hierarchy. Page 93.
- Jennifer Hinton - Changing the Narrative and Shifting the Institutions: Exploring Concrete Possibilities Beyond Capitalism. Page 95.

Discussant - Teivo Teivainen (University of Helsinki)

Parallel Session 6 – Wednesday, October 27, 13:15 pm - 14:30 pm

- Corinna Casi and Siddharth Jayaprakash - Is 3Dprinting a possible alternative to extractivism? (Casi: University of Helsinki / University of Lapland. Jayaprakash: Aalto University School of Engineering). Page 96.
- Sohvi Kangasluoma - Making of the Arctic dream - The affective dimension of resources in the Arctic strategies (University of Helsinki). Page 97.
- Erwin Alejandro - What is the role of participatory territorial planning for recovering the biocultural heritage practices an environment? Page 98.
- Filipe Calvao - Synthetic nature: Lab-grown gemstones and the future of extraction (Graduate Institute of Geneva (IHEID). Page 99.

Discussant - Antti Tarvainen (University of Helsinki).

Plenary speaker: Andréa Zhouri



Andréa Zhouri is a Professor of Anthropology at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, where she created the Group of Environmental Studies (GESTA) and the undergraduate course in SocioEnvironmental Sciences. Her research interests have been developed under a Political Ecology perspective with themes like Socio-Environmental Conflicts and the effects of Large Projects such as Mining, Hydroelectric Dams as well as Disasters. She has been an active member of several scientific associations, such as the National Association for Research and Postgraduate Studies in Social Sciences (ANPOCS) and the Brazilian Association of Anthropology (ABA), where she also coordinates the Committee

of Traditional Peoples, Environment and Large Projects. She is a CNPq (National Council of Development and Technology) researcher and advisor to the Brazilian Anthropology Association presidency on environmental issues. Zhouri has published articles and books about mining, large dams, environmental conflicts and deregulation in Brazil.

Plenary speakers: Robin Broad and John Cavanagh



Robin Broad is a Professor of International Development at American University's School of International Service and a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow. She heads SIS's International Development Program's unique curricular offerings on rethinking globalization and development and on environment and development with a focus on social, environmental, and economic accountability. She has a wide range of professional experiences – from international economist in the US Treasury Department

and US Congress to work with civil-society organizations in the Philippines and El Salvador.

John Cavanagh was Director of the Institute for Policy Studies from 1999-2021, and is now a Senior Advisor at IPS. He directed IPS' Global Economy Program from 1983-1997. Cavanagh is the co-author of 12 books and numerous articles on a wide range of social and economic issues.

Cavanagh sits on the boards of the Congressional Progressive Caucus Center, the International Forum on Globalization, the New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice, the National Guestworkers Alliance, and is board chair of the Fund for Constitutional Government. He is a senior advisor of the Poor People's Campaign.

Together Broad and Cavanagh have authored their most recent book called *The Water Defenders: How Ordinary People Saved a Country From Corporate Greed* (2021).

Plenary speaker: Lochner Marais



Lochner Marais is a Professor of Development Studies at the Centre for Development Support at the University of the Free State (UFS). He is also an honorary professor at the Sustainable Minerals Institute (University of Queensland, Australia). He serves on the editorial board of Habitat International and is also the Speciality Chief Co-editor for the Cities in the Global South section of the journal, *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities*. Lochner Marais is a Professor of Development Studies at the Centre for Development Support at the University of the Free State (UFS). He is also an honorary professor at the Sustainable Minerals Institute (University of Queensland, Australia). He serves on the editorial

board of Habitat International and is also the Speciality Chief Co-editor for the Cities in the Global South section of the journal, *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities*. His research interests include housing policy, small cities and towns (mining and renewable towns and cities) and public health focusing on children. In addition to concentrating on each of these themes separately, he focuses on integrating them. Marais has authored, co-authored and compiled more than 250 research reports, including 180 refereed articles in peer-reviewed journals or books. These include 127 journal articles and 48 book chapters. He has also co-edited nine books. He has a specific passion for creating and managing interdisciplinary projects and prefers research focusing on real-world problems in housing policy, mine-community relations and mine closure and urban health.

Plenary speaker: Deborah McGregor



As a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice, cross-appointed with Osgoode Hall Law School and the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Professor Deborah McGregor has been at the forefront of Indigenous environmental justice and Indigenous research theory and practice. Over the years, she has achieved international recognition through her creative and innovative approach using digital and social media to reach Indigenous communities and the public. Her work has been shared through the IEJ project website and UKRI International Collaboration on Indigenous research.

Inge-Merete Hougaard - Lund University

Arena Documentary

'Arena' is the story of a small afro-descendant village in south-western Colombia that supplies the local and regional construction markets with manually dug sand from the river. Tucked in between sugarcane plantations, the river constitutes a fundamental pillar in the village; it is from this that they draw meaning and sustain their community life. Fighting for their right to manually extract sand, the villagers have several times sought to formalise their activity, but without success. However, a competing mining claim is threatening their livelihoods and has now been granted a concession title by the national authorities. 'Arena' follows the villagers as they mobilise and appeal to the government institutions, to defend their livelihoods and their fundamental rights to work, territory, cultural integrity and a dignified life.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVOsFwW7n2I&feature=youtu.be>

mirko nikolić - Linköping University

water is (non)life: after empire

water is (non)life: after empire is an ongoing art and research work of social reproduction of water worlds. The performative actions spring from the confluence of Danube and Sava Rivers in the Balkans, and move upstream and downstream, connecting contested sites of extraction, historical commodity frontiers and their contemporary expansions, into a shared history-making. It traces an emergent understanding of extractivism and alternatives in the extra-EU part of South-East Europe, pulling on connections with the North of the continent and other geographies impacted by the same operators and wanted materials. The analysis is situated in the uncertain condition of the 'semi-periphery' (Blagojević Hughson) – regions bound in the catching-up with the 'developed' world - and its specific manifestations in the so-called transition from socialism into predatory and corrupt turbocapitalism.

Additional pressures are created by the climate crisis, which is impacting the region strongly, and the strong push of policy-makers and industry for 'energy transition,' through projects which however fail to show a clear transformation of existing power asymmetries and commitment to repairing and avoiding future environmental as well as social injustices. These contradictions manifest vividly in the liminal spaces of the European Union, as they do in many other places across the world. Across the divisions and differential (de)privileges imposed and perpetuated by the forces of imperialism, right-wing authoritarianism, and extractivism: what are imaginaries of social life in common outside extractive violence perpetuated by the hegemonic interests? how do we commit and enact pluriversal solidarity from the semi-peripheries? The actions sing alongside those who struggle within these vortices of powers that be, with individuals and collectives who nevertheless mend and repair, weave justice, reproduce care and support against and across the coerced geographies of inequality. The audio-visual presentation is based on documentation of the place-based actions, and includes a live performative aspect.

Atte Penttilä - University of South Florida

Land-Use Change at the Food-Energy-Water Nexus: Political Ecology of the Bladen River Watershed, Belize

Global assemblages of food production, water resource use, and energy production referred to as the Food-Energy-Water nexus alter local ecologies, riparian zones and agricultural practices. Research into the FEWs nexus has been diversifying, particularly in the fields of environmental engineering and sustainability sciences. The ethnographic research presented was carried out in the Bladen River watershed in Belize and draws on political ecology and FEWs approaches to reveal the interconnectedness of socioeconomic and ecological relations in land-use practices. The mutually reinforcing spheres and historical and political contexts in relation to specific watersheds are scarcely studied. In southern Belize sociocultural and political realities are shaped by intensifying large-scale foreign export markets such as banana cultivation and shrimp farming. In this paper I consider what drives variation in agricultural practices and associated riverine impacts by different stakeholders in the Bladen watershed. To answer this question I interviewed informants from two Maya villages, the banana industry, two different conservation groups, and local guides. In 2001, Hurricane Iris resulted in devastation of forests in the Maya Mountains of Belize. Disaster brought about changes in the landscape and land-use practices. Once forests were laid bare, the banana export industry, although already present in the country, spread to newly deforested areas, as did American logging companies looking for a profit. Although providing jobs for people and revenue for the nation, the banana industrys actions can be seen as a form of disaster capitalism (Klein 2007) and globalized agroextractivism (or extractivist capitalism) with deleterious effects to the Bladen River watershed. On the other hand, some agroindustries went bankrupt due to the hurricane force winds. For example, once the largest mango farm on earth was left in ruins after Iris. Furthermore, some local indigenous people turned back to farming as an option for income since jobs disappeared with the winds, whereas some could not farm immediately afterwards because of the destruction.

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Today the Bladen river watershed experiences multiple pressures. Increased population due to immigration and in-country migration makes sustainable traditional practices unsustainable by intensifying land-use cycles and turning to chemical fertilizers and pesticides for increased production with depleted soils. The banana industry pumps water for irrigation in higher and higher volumes due to changing weather patterns attributed to climate change. Vast areas of land are now being cleared for coconut plantations, including stripping riparian wildlife corridors that house a variety of wildlife. From the US government communism prevention programs wherein farmland was given to local people to engineered erosion prevention methods and from banana plantations to alternative solutions to plantation agriculture and displacement through agroforestry, the Bladen River watershed offers a landscape in which to apply the Food-Energy-Water nexus through a political ecology lens to investigate extractivism and environmental degradation that slowly reveals its significance in a plethora of consequences in a riverine environment.

Keywords: Food-energy-water nexus, climate change, disaster capitalism, political ecology, banana, Belize

Anna Marjaana Heikkinen - University of Helsinki

Climate Change, Power and Vulnerabilities in the Peruvian Andes

The intensifying impacts of climate change pose a serious global threat, particularly for rural populations whose livelihoods are closely tied to natural resources. Yet there is a lack of critical understanding of how disproportionate power dynamics shape the vulnerabilities of such populations under climate change. This article examines the interrelations between smallholders' climate-related vulnerability experiences and power relations in the various processes of climate adaptation that are taking place across multiple spaces of governance in the Peruvian Andes, a region susceptible to increasing climatic threats. The analysis draws on a case study conducted in the Mantaro River Valley in Central Peru using qualitative methods: open-ended interviews, participant observation, and document analysis. Findings show that in the context of climate change, the production of vulnerabilities has much to do with larger socio-political structures in which protection of the highland smallholders is not prioritized. The impact of the uneven power dynamics in processes of climate adaptation, together with overlapping agricultural and other policies, have deepened vulnerabilities among smallholders and led to multiple conflicts. I argue that to reach a better understanding of the multidimensionality of vulnerabilities, more detailed attention must be paid to place-based climate experiences within context-specific, socio-political processes and to the ways these are shaped by unequal power relations across multiple scales.

Keywords: Vulnerability, Climate change adaptation, Power, Smallholder agriculture, Peru

Marketta Vuola - University of Helsinki

The Emergence of a 'Double Frontier': Overlaps of Mining and Conservation in Madagascar

This study analyses interactions between the commodity frontiers of mining and neoliberal conservation. The two frontiers overlap increasingly around the globe as mining industry expands exploiting new mineral deposits and protected areas are established to reduce global biodiversity loss. This is the case particularly in Madagascar where, during the past two decades, the protected area network has tripled in size, permits are granted more frequently to industrial mining projects, and artisanal and small-scale mining sector has grown at an explosive rate. As a result, considerable overlap between the conservation and mining territorialisations produces conditions that are prone to conflict and highly insecure particularly for local people between the two frontiers. This study examines protected area establishment and the various scales of mining as commodity frontiers, both territorialising rural Malagasy landscapes and reorganising local socio-natures into cheap nature and cheap labour for commodity production. Based on empirical evidence and literature, this article maps the emergence and expansion of the conservation and mining 'double frontier' in Madagascar. The analysis focuses on the overlapping territorialisations of conservation and mining and finds them enabled alternatively by the international actors, national politics, fragmented state structure or local interactions. The results add nuance to the frontier literature by presenting a range of interactions and alliances at the intersections of two frontiers as well as showing how land grabbing at such double frontiers takes place both from above and below.

Keywords: frontier, territorialisation, neoliberal conservation, mining, Madagascar

Naima Kraushaar-Friesen

Examining the hegemony of fossil fuels in the Trudeau government's discourse on the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project

This article uses the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project as a case study to critically examine and showcase one instance of the hegemony of fossil fuels in the era of global heating in the Canadian context. The present Canadian federal government, under the leadership of Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, is seeking to simultaneously position itself as a global climate leader while supporting the exploitation of Canada's extensive bitumen oil reserves. We apply a critical discourse analysis to the current federal government's speeches on the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project in order to interrogate how the government uses discourse to reconcile these two contradicting stances. Our analysis yields three main results: 1) the government naturalizes bitumen as a substance, culturally and politically hindering the capacity for Canada to move beyond it, 2) the extraction of bitumen is portrayed as an imperative, implicating the overall economic and social health of Canada and 3) geographical and temporal scales, as well as certain aspects of carbon accounting, are selectively employed to redirect climate change as being itself an argument for bitumen extraction. Overall, we argue, this discourse depoliticizes the social and environmental struggles surrounding bitumen extraction. It functions to maintain the hegemony of fossil fuels in the era of global heating, while foreclosing on possibilities of leaving the fuels in the ground and reinforcing Canadian bitumen's multi-dimensional carbon lock-in.

Keywords: Trans-Mountain pipeline; Canada; fossil-fuel hegemony; climate change; political ecology; carbon lock-in; Critical Discourse Analysis

Bowen Gu - ICTA-UAB, Autonomous University of Barcelona

Unburnable coal and climate justice in China

Coal is, and will likely remain for the coming decade, the most important source for energy and contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in China. The unequal distribution of the social, environmental and climate change impact of coal (primarily mining, transport and power plant) at local, national and global level has led to climate injustice and increasing ecological distribution conflicts in coal-frontiers both domestically in China and in areas where Chinas investment takes place. In the meantime, companies in the coal value chain have received increasing resistance from divestment movements and institutional investors globally. My research aims to investigate, from the perspective of ecological economics and political ecology, to what extent does anti-coal movements influence climate change policy and thus CO2 emissions in China. The research will be based on a comparative qualitative analysis of up to 30 empirical cases in the EJAtlas (the Global Atlas of Environmental Justice). The EJAtlas has demonstrated numerous coal related conflicts that have led to the suspension of projects and thus left coal unburned. My research is expected to enrich the empirical evidence of coal related ecological distribution conflicts in Chinas specific context and the understanding of why and how such conflicts have taken place, which will provide the foundation for further exploration of whether such activism is connected to international movements in the same direction. It is also expected to contribute to the discussion on the state-civil society-corporate-investor interactions in the emerging resistance to coal.

Keywords: Coal, China, Climate Justice

Inge-Merete Hougaard - Lund University

Shaping the underground: Carbon dioxide removal and the reproduction of uneven geographies

With carbon dioxide removal (CDR) increasingly envisioned as crucial for limiting climate change, geological CO₂ storage has become a central element in climate policy. Envisioned as a way to right earlier wrongs of the fossil industry, CDR has been conceptualised as a form of de-extraction. Based on document analysis, webinar observations and interviews on anticipated CDR projects involving CO₂ storage in Danish territory, this paper explores who this projected de-extraction might benefit. Drawing on literature on political ecology and science and technology studies, I explore what technologies and infrastructures are imagined as needed for operating and monitoring CO₂ storage, and what actors are envisioned to control these. Recognising that the fossil era has benefitted a privileged global minority, and technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCS) have so far mainly been used for enhanced oil recovery, I point to a continuity between corporate actors involved in the fossil industry and actors envisioned to drive CDR. Further, exploring where CCS is intended to be installed and whose CO₂ emissions are envisioned to be captured, I ask to what extent CDR and CO₂ storage reproduce the uneven geographies of fossil extraction and extend them to uneven geologies. I argue that by pumping CO₂ into geological formations, where it over thousands of years will react with minerals and create new geological formations, the idea of the Anthropocene – human as a geological force that can be read in subterranean layers – becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Keywords: carbon dioxide removal; geological CO₂ storage; political ecology; uneven geography

Anja Nygren - University of Helsinki

Sites of sacrifice and stamina: the socionature of oil extraction in Mexico

Extensive hydrocarbon and mineral extraction operations worldwide, and the ambivalent consequences associated with them, have received increased attention in recent years. Drawing on archival research, documentary analysis, and ethnographic fieldwork, this article analyzes the decades' long struggle between small-scale farmer-fishers, the oil industry, and state authorities over the wide-scale salinization and contamination of lands and waters in oil-affected floodlands in Tabasco, Mexico. Analyses of conflicts over oil extraction have centered on smallholders' struggles against land appropriation. However, I argue that smallholders' dispossession through oil extraction usually materializes in the degradation of their living environments rather than appropriation of land. Drawing on recent theorizations on 1) the materiality of oil and access to subsoil resources; 2) the politics of responsibility; and 3) environmental justice, I argue that, to enhance understanding of extractivism, consideration of layered resource spaces and layered forms of authority is needed. Although local residents and the oil industry rarely compete over the same resources, the fluidity of oil and the ambiguousness of regulations complicate the co-existence of smallholders and the oil industry within the same space. By putting environmental-social interactions at the center of analysis, this study examines extraction impacts as issues of socionature, in which the ecological and the political (re)shape each other. The study presents the coastal areas of Tabasco as sites of enormous sacrifice and shame, but also of relentless struggle and stamina, involving diverse tactics by local people to hold the oil industry accountable for harms affected. Governmental authorities and oil-company representatives, in turn, employ multifaceted strategies of pressure and depoliticization to weaken resistance and trade-off local claims for fair compensation. The article contributes to scholarly discussions on access to layered resources, the politics of responsibility, the socionature of extractivism, and social contestations in sacrifice zones. It sheds light on entanglements between the environmental and social in the effects of extraction, including people's differentiated exposure to harms and differentiated opportunities to claim justice.

Keywords: oil extraction, Mexico, harms, violence, responsibility

Ksenija Hanacek - ICTA-UAB

The Arctic commodity extraction frontier and environmental conflicts

This article contributes to the discussion on socio-environmental conflicts and extractive projects in the Arctic region. Fifty socio-environmental conflicts are analysed, using data from the Global Atlas of Environmental Justice (ejatlas.org). As part of the growing social metabolism and the changing climate in the region, accelerated large-scale extractive activities are bringing negative socio-environmental impacts at the expense of Indigenous groups, fishermen, and pastoralists. The main commodities involved are fossil fuels, metals, and infrastructure. The main reported socio-environmental impacts are loss of traditional practices and biodiversity. Based on a mixed method approach of regression and network analysis, the data obtained reveal that socio-environmental conflicts predominantly overlap with Indigenous peoples' territories, from which a transverse opposition takes place, that includes Indigenous, non-Indigenous and international actors alike, who are defending socio-cultural and environmental well-being due to extractive industries.

Keywords: Commodity frontier; Environmental conflict; EJAtlas; Network Analysis

Markus Kröger - University of Helsinki

Extractivisms, Existences and Extinctions: Monoculture Plantations and Amazon Deforestation

This book explores the existential redistributions that extractivist frontiers create, going beyond existing studies by bringing into the English-language discussion much of the wisdom from Latin American rural and forest communities' understandings of extractivist phenomena, and the destruction and changes in lives and lived environments they create.

The book unites the research and literature on world-ecology, political ontology, and agrarian political economy to create a new framework for studying existential political economy. Four key questions are introduced to direct more attention to who and what exists, how, in which time, and through which politics, and how these existences are transformed when deforesting resource frontiers, for example, are advanced. These questions help to direct more attention to the fuller sphere of existences at stake in the expansions of capitalist world-ecologies. The book provides extensive literature reviews and analysis, as well as fresh field research, tying regionally-situated world ecologies in South America and Finland to the unfolding planetary crises. The rapidly expanding extinctions of species and all kinds of existences are related to the current global systemic moment of a period of chaos and rise of barbarisms, as visible in the current political regimes in Brazil and elsewhere.

The book explores the many different types of extractivism, ranging from agro-extractivist monocultures to mineral extraction, and analyzes the differences between them. The existential transformations of Brazil's Amazon and Cerrado regions, previously inhabited by Indigenous people but now being deforested by colonizers who expand soybean plantations, are analyzed in detail. The author also compares extractivisms with the local and broader existential changes through global production networks and their shifts, produced by monoculture plantation-based extractivist operations. Anchored in the author's own ethnographic data and comparison of lessons across multiple extractivist frontiers, the chapters integrate the many accounts of violence, and onto epistemic and moral changes in extractivist enclaves, looking at these with the



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help of political ontology and world- ecology. The book offers details on how to characterize and compare different types and degrees of extractivisms and anti-extractivisms.

This transdisciplinary book provides new organizing concepts and theoretical frameworks for starting to analyze the unfolding natural resource politics of the post-coronavirus era, the advancing climate emergency, and the ever more chaotic multi-polar world. It will be of interest to students and scholars in the fields of world-ecology, international development, global value chains, political economy, Latin American Studies, political ecology, and international trade, as well as anyone engaged with the practical and political issues related to globalization.

Key words: Extractivism, Deforestation, Existences, Amazon.

Sören Köpke - International Agricultural Policy & Env. Governance, Uni Kassel

Agro-extractivism and the colonial legacy of the commodity frontier: The case of tea and the British Empire

Plantation economies as historic mode of production have generated stark social-ecological legacies. The paper traces the way agro-extractivism (Petras and Veltmeyer 2014) is built upon the deep structures of exploitation historical colonialism has left behind in commodity frontiers (Moore 2000). Using the example of tea as a key symbolic commodity in the British Empire, my research asks for continuities and change from historical colonial agriculture to contemporary agro-extractivism. It investigates the historic roots of the features of current extractive agri-food systems, such as economies of scale, low-paid plantation labour, so-called scientific breeding of monoculture commodity crops, export-oriented production based on volatile world market prices, etc. My contribution will attempt to engage with arguments from a historically informed political ecology, combined with world-ecology perspectives. Large-scale, plantation-based tea production was introduced to British India in mid-19th century (Sharma 2006) as a consequence of acts of bio-piracy. In British Ceylon, colonial agricultural production became practically eponymous with its prime commodity, Ceylon tea (Melillo 2015). Here, tea plantations, built on the pillars of bankrupt coffee farming enterprises and relying on indentured labour from Southern India, massively transformed the Ceylonese highlands. In the 20th century, tea production encouraged by British imperial policies spilled over into the East African colonies, where tea plantations were set up in places like Kenya, Uganda, Malawi or Tanzania. Following demand for cheap food (Patel and Moore 2018), tea as a stimulant beverage retained its global importance after the demise of the British Empire. Plantation-based landscapes and institutions continue their existence in post-colonial states long after independence, partly due to uneven terms of trade in the globalized world market. The large-scale transformations associated with colonial plantation economies have, in several places, inscribed a particular mode of agricultural production into physical and human geographies. This entrenchment of plantation production created path dependencies in ecosystems, land tenure, and social relations.

Keywords: Agro-extractivism, tea plantations, cheap food, colonialism, British empire, world-ecology

Jana Holz and Lilian Pungas - Friedrich-Schiller - University Jena

Forest for Sale!? "Success" of Green Extractivism in Estonia and Finland

The land area of Estonia and Finland is mostly covered by forests and thus, they both consider themselves as forest nations: The spiritual, cultural and social meaning of forests for the population seems deeply rooted. The economic dimension is at least as relevant: both nations GDPs depend heavily on forest and related industries. In addition, due to the efficiency gains, diverse investments into high-tech machinery as well as EU regulations favoring wood biomass, the profits and thus also the extractivism itself are increasing. The European Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) offers respective industry branches, lobby organisations and political actors an incentive for increased processing of wood and further investments into megaprojects due to the categorization of wood biomass as renewable and green. Political forest development strategies in which the stated main goal is to guarantee both, the socio-economic wellbeing as well as ecological balance, promise Growth of overall welfare (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland 2019). An ever-increasing volume of wood from the forests shall ensure a sufficient amount of raw material for industry's needs and, in addition, replace various fossil resources with wood biomass while at the same time allowing forests to remain the indispensable carbon sinks (ibid. p.8). Despite the discursive recognition of the multidimensional value of forests, recent years have demonstrated that economic priorities might outweigh after all; manifesting itself also as a fear among the local population that the(ir) forests are being sold off. With Tselluloositehas (EE) and Äänekoski bioproduct mill (FI) being our case studies, we will shed light on these two green extraction megaprojects. (1) the role of path dependencies (e.g. already existing industrial infrastructure in Äänekoski) and (2) the role of path dependencies (e.g. already existing industrial infrastructure in Äänekoski) and (3) possible future consequences (e.g. an ever increasing and intensive forest use for the sake of a post-fossil bioeconomy as promoted by Äänekoski factory).



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With this contribution we aim to question the success with regard to both projects: Which project serves (or should serve) as the role model? What type of precedent cases for future developments are potentially created with the failed Cellulose factory project in Estonia, or the highly-praised and successful bioproduct mill in Äänekoski, Finland? Jana Holz & Lilian Pungas Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany, Junior research group Mentalities in Flux.

Keywords: green extractivism, forest industry, societal nature relations, legitimation strategies

Natacha Bruna - ISS/OMR

The Rise of Green Extractivism: climate change policies and appropriation of resources

Extractivism has been at the centre of historical capital accumulation based on asymmetric and exploitative exchange relations between regions. It constitutes a process through which accumulation is realized based on differentiated ways of appropriating, removing and transferring natural resources using differentiated levels of labor exploitation. With the intensification of the global environmental crisis, the new scramble for Africa has become “greener” than ever. Investments, projects and policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change have become a top priority especially in biodiversity-rich countries such as Mozambique. This opened up possibilities of a new frontier of accumulation where green policies and discourses legitimize appropriation of resources and facilitate capital accumulation with profound implications to rural livelihoods. This paper aims to understand the implications of the green resource rush, regarding global patterns of accumulation and rural livelihoods. The paper puts forward the concept of green extractivism, a new variation of extractivism that is equally based on asymmetric and exploitative exchange relations backed up and legitimized by the ultimate goal of fighting climate change. This variation of extractivism further undermines the country’s development and reproduction, nationally and locally, while accommodating external environmental and accumulation goals.

Keywords: Extractivism, Green Policies, Climate change, Green Extractivism, Labor, Nature

Rachel Hill - University of London

Unearthing the Underground: The Subterranean Heights of Cosmo-Extractivism

Anticipated to hold vast stores of water ice below its surface, the Shackleton crater in the Moon's south pole is a particular site of intensifying national and commercial interest. As a 'crater of eternal darkness,' the Shackleton crater is anticipated to hold vast stores of water ice below its surface. Preserved from the early formation of the Moon, access to such "ore" would provide planetary scientists with material laden with deep time, relics leading to a better understanding of the early solar system and its evolution. NASA, in conjunction with private spaceflight company Blue Origin, are seeking to establish a permanent Lunar station at Shackleton, in order to mine water for ostensibly scientific purposes. Through this marriage of state and commercial actors in the cause for Lunar expansion and extraction, vice-president of the USA Mike Pence has stated that "we carry America's commitment to freedom into this new frontier." The promise of Lunar mining therefore represents a new scale of viable extraction and monetarisation, as underwritten by colonial narratives of taming the "new frontier." The separation of hydrogen from oxygen forms rocket fuel, speculatively making extraterrestrial water ice the new oil, and the Moon a petrol station; a pitstop from which to move into deep space. Consequently, in the longer term Lunar mining would establish the infrastructure for yet greater dimensions for interplanetary industrialisation and cosmic-extraction. As gestured to by Pence's colonial rhetoric, attending cosmic-mining are techno-utopian promises of turning humankind into an interplanetary species, residing in futural post-scarcity societies of cosmic plenitude. Due to the extreme conditions of the space environment, cosmic mining necessitates artificial ecologies comprised of massive technical infrastructures, international jurisprudence, modeling simulations, private investment and astrophysical science. How then do the resource materialities of cosmic-extractivism, with its destabilisation and unearthing of ground, necessitate an elemental rethinking of political economies and ecologies on Earth?



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In response, my paper will evaluate the role that speculative cosmic-extraction plays in what sociologists Sheila Jasanoff and Sang-Hyun Kim have termed 'socio-technical imaginaries,' in outer space contexts. I will interrogate how cosmic-mining braids together state and commercial interests with anticipated utopian outcomes, to situate extractive practices within a trajectory of purported mass societal amelioration.

Keywords: NewSpace Industries, Lunar mining, Imaginaries

Joan Martinez-Alier - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Circularity, entropy, ecological conflicts and LFFU

The economy is not circular, it is increasingly entropic. Energy from the photosynthesis of the distant past, fossil fuels, is burned and dissipated. Even without further economic growth the industrial economy would need new supplies of energy and materials extracted from the “commodity frontiers”, producing also more waste (including excessive amounts of greenhouse gases). Therefore, new ecological distribution conflicts (EDC) arise all the time. Such EDCs are often “valuation contests” displaying incommensurable plural values. Examples from the Atlas of Environmental Justice are given of coal, oil and gas-related conflicts in several countries combining local and global complaints. Claims for climate justice and recognition of an ecological debt have been put forward by environmentalists from the South since 1991, together with a strategy of leaving fossil fuels underground (LFFU) through bottom-up movements. This could make a substantial contribution to the decrease in carbon dioxide emissions.

Keywords: Commodity frontiers; Unburnable fuels; “Blockadia”; Ecological debt; Ecological distribution conflicts; EJAtlas; Iconography

Julie Ann de los Reyes - Kyoto University

Materiality, value extraction and the 'nature' of finance

The adoption of shareholder value maximisation, and with it, shareholder value methodologies by the gold mining industry herald a particular way of producing nature. In this presentation, I examine the implementation of the all-in-sustaining cost (AISC) metric, a new accounting procedure adopted in 2013 to measure firms' ability to deliver maximum value to shareholders. More than just a financial strategy, I argue, the AISC disciplines productive capacity by reframing the parameters of gold extraction, i.e. what defines or constitutes reserves, what cut off grade to adopt, and how much ore is extracted in a manner aligned with return thresholds. I unpack the material requisites of—and material transformation that result from—a favourable AISC through a study of the extractive activities of the largest gold mining firms headquartered in Canada. I conclude with a theoretical discussion on the objective material basis of financialised accumulation and its practical implications for geographies of mineral extraction.

Keywords: financialisation, mineral extraction, gold, shareholder value, finance capital

Maija Lassila - University of Helsinki

Creating a replaceable place: Contestation over the 'green' Anglo American Sakatti mine in Arctic Finland

Finland has become one of the most inviting countries in the world for mining companies, in the context of the overall increase of extraction in Northern Europe. Yet, a wider academic discussion is at the beginning of the political and situated role of mining companies' environmental accountability processes in the early stages of the projects' legitimation. This paper focuses on the underground mining project, 'Sakatti', by the British multinational company Anglo American, in the protected Viiankiaapa mire in Sodankylä municipality, Arctic Finland. Following Finland's current objective for 'green mining', the mining company's plan is to compensate through biodiversity offsetting the environmental harm it causes, and at the same time, minimize impacts. For the company, the project represents a model example of operating in sensitive, biodiverse environments, and of what sustainable and modern mining will be like in the future. The paper is an ethnographic investigation into the contestation and ambivalences surrounding the Sakatti mine's environmental impact assessment. The paper asks, what consequences the company's plans have for the local villagers and reindeer herders, who remain in the shadow of conservation, to whom potentially harmful impacts remain, and who will not benefit from the company's proposition of replacing the local land through offsetting. The paper emphasizes local people's plural ways of being and knowing, which emerge to challenge the hegemonic knowledge of the mining company's environmental impact assessment, and the mine's legitimation as a whole.

Sara Moritz - Stockholm University

Mining in Sweden - Local visions of the extractivist welfare state

This paper maps and analyses narratives and tensions within the Swedish states engagement with mining in peripheral municipalities in the north. The paper aims to explore how the extractivist welfare state is understood and challenged from a local perspective. In Sweden, the northern region's relationship with the central state authorities and the state mining company is complex. Historically, the extraction of natural resources in the northern mountain areas is connected to the establishment of national borders and deeply intertwined with the colonization of Sámi land. In the mining municipalities of Kiruna and Gällivare, the dependence on the state-owned mining company LKAB is substantial and the traditional role of the north as a resource industry region continues. However, during the recent global mining boom, several conflicts concerning planned mines emerged. Previous research on extractive industries in various parts of the world has primarily focused on resource conflicts and particularly highlighted community resistance against mining expansion. Moreover, debates on the resource curse have demonstrated the role of the central state and political elites in pushing for extraction due to the profits it generates. A few studies have addressed the states role, paradoxically describing the state as being both absent and hollowed out yet also present and authoritative. This paper contributes to these debates by exploring local conceptions and expectations about the state and its role in extractive activities. Theoretically, this paper draws on an understanding of the state as non-monolithic and continuously constructed through its interactions with other social forces. Empirically, the study is based on local media material from 2010 to 2020. The paper analyses the contradictory narratives on what the state is and should be that are articulated concerning mining issues from the local perspective. Based on the findings I will theorize the relationship between the states constructed inside (state institutions and its representatives) and outside (civil society and other social forces).



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By providing for novel empirical findings of how strategies and practices of state engagement in extraction is challenged and received locally, the paper contributes to debates on extractive governance. By unpacking the state and its inherent contradictions, the paper advance debates on how to conceptualize the extractivist state and shed light on the multiple and conflicting claims within government institutions and beyond them, and also how the boundaries between the inside and outside of the state are upheld and reinvented.

Keywords: Extractive industries, Extractive governance, Extractivism, States, Welfare state, Mining, Conflicts

Beril Ocaklı - IRI THESys / Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany

Taking the discourse seriously: Rational egoism and resistance to mining in Kyrgyzstan

Faced with mounting resistance against mining, neoliberal governance resorts to polarising strategies that delegitimise the heterogeneous positions people hold regarding mining. In this paper, we contrast and complicate these dichotomies with the realities on the ground in Kyrgyzstan. We focus on the 'Taldy-Bulak Levoberezhny' gold mine near the town of Orlovka that has been lauded by the state and business community as a paragon of company-community 'cooperation'. We question how the gold mine has come to be an exemplary case of cooperation in a conflict-rife sector. We follow and unpack entanglements of valuations, discourses and practices that have repackaged Orlovka from a former Soviet mining town in depression into a putative model of progress. We present a critical interdisciplinary account of cooperation and resistance in neoliberal gold mining based on behavioural experiments, surveys and in-depth inquiry. Beneath the discourses praising Orlovka, we find a community that has never stopped resisting despite consenting to the gold mine. The extractive entanglements we unearth exemplify the diversity of exigencies and aspirations behind resisting, negotiating and/or allowing mining while attesting to the diversified portfolio of neoliberal tactics that silence and delegitimise these life concerns.

Keywords: post/Soviet extractivism; gold mining; justice; resistance; Central Asia

Flavio Luiz Valente - Federal University of Pernambuco (Brazil)

Culture and Spirituality as Dimensions of Resistance and Construction of the Sovereignty of Peoples / Latin American Experiences

In this article we present cases that illustrate the role that the permanence of the diverse worldviews of indigenous and original peoples plays, and has played, in the Global experience of peoples resistance to the onslaughts of diverse forms of invasion and destruction, throughout history but particularly in the context of neoliberal globalization. The cosmovisions of indigenous peoples have remained alive for thousands of years. They demonstrate a great knowledge of nature and the universe and recognize peoples as just one element of them. With multiple cultural manifestations, they build forms of collective life that have transmitted their ancestral knowledge from generation to generation. The cosmovision of the indigenous peoples are framed in forms of holistic life that maintain their own forms of construction of the social fabric and develop economic, cultural, social and political practices in harmony with nature. They maintain a very strong energetic and spiritual charge that gives roots to the cultures. The strongest elements of resistance continue to be: the vindication of cultural identity and the recognition of oneself, the cosmovision and territory as a frame of reference for action, culture as resistance to the neoliberal model, good living in the face of development projects, self-determination of peoples and autonomy as a political framework. These elements display expressions of cultural/ cultural counterhegemony, harmony with nature, local democracy/traditional government, temporality/deceleration. They are the axes of resistance and, operating in reality, interfere with the capitalist/neoliberal milieu. They constitute the basis for strategies, alliances, and in some cases have been transformed into policies that can be incorporated into state matrices (as in the case of Bolivia, Ecuador, Panama/Cuna). We use a dialogical methodology in which individuals from a diversity of native peoples from all over the globe exchange their visions. For this article we work with Brazilian, Cameroon, Guatemalan, Canadian, Kenyan, Panama, Mexican, New Zealand and Ecuadorian people.

Keywords: indigenous people, cultural identity, territory, sovereignty

Eduardo Erazo Acosta - Researcher group "Curriculum and University" University Nariño

The power of the ancestral philosophy of *Alli kawsay* (Buen Vivir) in the indigenous movements of Colombia - Ecuador vs. the exclusion by the big mining development, contribution to the Rights of Mother Nature from the global south.

The purpose of this research is to present the urgency of listening to indigenous epistemologies of *Sumak Kawsay* (in kichwa language: *Buen vivir*-Good Living) and also to accompany the care/defense of the biodiversity-rich indigenous territories of the Andean region. As a research question: How is the anthropocene affecting the indigenous territories and with it the threats of the epistemologies of the *Sumak Kawsay*/*Buen vivir*? This ethnographic research has been carried in the last 7 years, in Republics of Colombia and Ecuador, in Indigenous Regional Council of Cauca CRIC, and The Indigenous Confederation of Ecuador CONAIE. Theoretical references: epistemology of indigenous communities, indigenous intellectuals. The anthropocene affects considerably the species of flora and fauna, the glaciers, water reserves, páramos understood as places where the water is born for the species. With it the territories Pan Amazonas region of native communities are strongly affected in their cosmivision to know. Due to its high impact in high mountain areas, climate change affects the melting of glaciers, strong droughts, seasonal changes for food production, water shortages and with this the displacement of animals and indigenous people and with it affects their traditions and cosmivisions due to geographical relocation and spatial - socio-cultural changes. Ethnographic work is used: interviews, participant observation, and documentary analysis. Key to comment how from the epistemologies, their spirituality's, indigenous cosmivision, the elders (grandparents and grandmothers) announce that if there is no respect for the species on earth comes catastrophe, which from modern science is already evident. Results: This is considered from the Decolonial theory as an alternative to development or alternative development, based on the epistemological basis of the indigenous movement, the basis of current governments/states.

Without a doubt the Sumak Kawsay is difficult to implement or live in praxis in the midst of individualistic societies with accelerated urban growth or in societies structured in fossil fuels, in addition to the radical reactionary anti-movement indigenous right that watches over environmental care. The Sumak Kawsay is part of the alternatives to the development taken care of from the indigenous cosmovision the dimensions: cosmovision, solidary economies, own right, own health, own education as alternatives with strong spiritual base of respect to the mother earth. The Sumak Kawsay as an epistemology of respect for life, is linked to "The Rights of Nature" already included in articles 70 to 74 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador in 2008. In the midst of the great destruction by mining and resource extraction at a global level, indigenous communities are more affected because it is precisely in territories//species where there is mineral wealth that great mining increases, putting at greater risk the animal and plant species that live in indigenous territories, as well as the ancestral knowledge/indigenous worldview is threatened. In this way, when indigenous communities defend Mother Nature (Pachamama) politically, they also take care of the biological chain in terms of wealth and biodiversity or geostrategic areas, life reserves at a global level.

Keywords: ethnicity, urgent call, anthropocene, proper right.

Anna Varfolomeeva - University of Helsinki

Industrializing sacred landscapes: indigenous visions of mining and sustainability in Karelia and Buriatia

Industrial development is often viewed in academic literature as a disruptive force which breaks the relations between humans, animals, and spirits in indigenous households. Within this paradigm, indigenous communities are seen as passive recipients of industrial changes. Can we, however, speak not only about breaking the existing ties, but also about re-shaping them or creating new ones? Is it possible to discuss industrialized sentient landscapes where strong links between humans, animals and spirits are nevertheless maintained? This paper analyzes complex impacts of resource extraction on indigenous communities focusing on the case studies of two small indigenous minorities in Northwestern Russia and Siberia: Veps in Karelia and Soicts in Buriatia. Both regions are rich in rare decorative stones including diabase and quartzite in Karelia and jade in Buriatia. Veps and Soicts have a history of engagement with resource extraction which goes back to 18-19 centuries and continues till the present time. Veps in Karelia experienced a switch from small-scale artisanal mining of rare stones (gabbro-diabase and raspberry quartzite) to extensive industrial development in the Soviet time, and the closure of state enterprises and turn towards private mining since the 1990s. Soicts, on the contrary, witness a rather recent development of gold mining industry which started in the 1990s and still generates complex responses in the community. Starting from early 2000s, a number of local residents have also been involved in illegal jade extraction and trade. By focusing on two models of human landscape relations and industrial development at indigenous territories, the paper discusses the complex perceptions of decorative stones among Veps and Soiot households. It specifically focuses on parallels between mining and other forms of economic activities such as hunting, fishing or tourism development. The paper demonstrates that different forms of resource extractions in Veps and Soiot multispecies households are closely connected, forming a common resourcescape. Both mining and other forms of extracting natural resources contribute to complex local visions of sustainability which unite various forms of engagement with nature.

Keywords: indigeneity, mining, sustainability, stone symbolism, Karelia, Buriatia

Dayabati Roy - University of Helsinki

Extractivism in Forestry of India Eviction, Inclusion, and Indigenous people in Indian Sundarbans

It is now a truism to say that processes of conservation does also contribute to extraction of natural resources if its foundational principles are based on the ideology of neoliberal capitalism. Several scholarly researches (Borras Jr et al. 2018; Borras Jr and Franco 2018; Franco, Borras Jr 2019; Hunsberger, Work and Herre 2018; Work et al. 2018) explicitly reveal that implementations of conservation policies in various developing countries are disrupting the lives of climate change affected people. The question is the way in which the conservation policies in a particular country are framed and evolved to extract the natural resources in the name of conservation. This paper seeks to examine the forest conservation policies in India and thereby elucidating the mode of resource extraction by conservation. Upon drawing an ethnography conducted in Indian Sundarbans during the 2018 and the 2020, it explores how the indigenous people have been evicted as part of implementation of forest conservation policies only to be included partially as part of Joint Forest Management (JFM). This paper tries to understand the way in which the new Forest Rights Act, 2006, has been evicting the indigenous people through conservation, as well as has been shaping the JFM polices and its implementation at the fringes of Indian Sundarbans. How do the indigenous peoples struggles shape the implementation of the Forests Rights Act, anyway? This research tracks the dynamic impacts of the indigenous peoples struggles on the forest conservation policies and examine whether any new kind of social justice based policy is coming to the fore.

Keywords: Indigenous people, Conservation, Neoliberalism, Social Justice, Extraction

Abosede Omowumi Babatunde - University of Ilorin (Nigeria)

Niger Delta Women Movement and the Trajectories of the struggles for Environment

The Nigerias Niger Delta region has transformed to a global centre of violence linked to the adverse impact of environmental despoliation that accompanied oil-related activities of Western oil corporations. The transition of the initial non-violent campaign for environmental and social justice in the Niger Delta to violent action since the early 1990s have led to a cycle of environmental dislocation, and violence in the region. Various actors have been involved in the campaign for social justice including the local women through their social movements. The non-violent struggles for environmental justice in the Niger Delta spearheaded by the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) in the early 1990s brought the plight of the environmentally-ravaged region to global attention. The ineffectual strategies of the Nigerian government to tackle the environmental injustice in the Niger Delta accounted for the transition of the non-violent struggle to violent agitations. Prominent among the actors that played critical roles in MOSOP agitations is the Ogoni women, under the auspice of the Federation of Ogoni women (FOWA). The major roles played by FOWA in the struggles paved way for the proliferations of women-led movement in the campaign for environmental justice in the Niger Delta. The Niger Delta people campaign for environmental justice have been well studied in the literature from the male-centric perspectives, while the gender-centric aspects in which women featured prominently have remained under-researched. Using a post-modern feminist perspective, this paper examines the dynamics of the women movements in the struggles for environment justice in the Niger Delta region. The paper explores the socio-political issues that shaped and impacted on the women movements and the trajectories of their struggles. Drawing on field data derived from selected oil communities, the paper argues that the women played formidable roles not only in championing the plight of the Niger Delta women, but also the male-led struggles for environmental justice.

It demonstrates that the Ogoni women movement is largely instrumental to the gains made by MOSOP in the struggles in the early 1990s. The women movements have continued to play formidable roles that reinforce the male-led movements in the Niger Delta. Since then, diverse socio-political factors have shaped the dynamics of Ogoni women movement struggles for social justice in the Niger Delta region. This raises the question of the changing dynamics and contour of the women-led movement and how it has shaped the fragile peace in the region. It is also important to analyse the profound implications of the social-political factors that shaped women-led movement, for the trajectories of the campaign for social and environmental justice in the oil-rich region.

Keywords: Oil, Socio-political dynamics, Women social movement, Social and Environmental, Justice, Niger Delta, Nigeria

Marc Gavalda - Universitat Autònoma Barcelona

Autonomy and territorial ecology in a scenario of Climate Emergency: The Tacana People in the Bolivian Amazon

In recent years, countries that share the Amazon Basin have activated policies and extractive projects that are accelerating the deforestation of their ecosystems in an irreversible way. Roads, dams, mining, logging and oil concessions are advancing and affect the territories of the villages that have inhabited and conserved the forest cover. The Tacana People in Bolivia is one of them, with a population of 20,000 inhabitants spread in 4 Community Territories of Origin of the Department of La Paz, Beni and Pando. Their economy is based on the use of forest resources (wood, agriculture, hunting and fishing) which allows a way of life that respects and protects the vegetation cover, the water basins and biodiversity. In 2019 fires affected 5 million hectares of the Amazon directly emitting 150,000 tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere. Social organizations denounce the relationship of these fires to modifications of laws that promote deforestation and expansion of the agricultural frontier. In addition, other infrastructure construction projects such as the Norte Amazónico Corridor (Road which is part of the IIRSa-Cosiplan plan that aims to unite La Paz with the department of Pando and Brazil) are identified as vectors that extend the extractive frontier and that will activate deforestation in the Beni and Madre de Dios river basins. Without examining it explicitly, we show that the territorial defense of the Tacana People, as well as the neighbouring Araona, Masetén, Ts'imane and Pacahuara Peoples, among others, is in practice a sort of "Ecology of the poor (Martinez-Alier, 2005) that we will term "Territorial Ecology": Peoples who, in their defense of their territories as habitat and livelihood, put into practice proposals of global environmentalism that benefit the rest of humanity by avoiding the combustion and degradation of Amazonian forests, while slowing down expansion of extractivism in the Amazon. The panel will be supported with shorts clips on the ongoing investigation "Deforestation by Road Axes in the Bolivian Amazon" which is a project of the Department of Economy and Economic History of the Universidad Autònoma de Barcelona in alliance with Universidad Mayor de San Simón (Bolivia). Watch trailer here: <https://vimeo.com/39740980>

Keywords: Indigenous people, Amazonia, Extractivism, Resistance, Territorial Ecologism

Arnab Roy Chowdhury - HSE University, Moscow (Russia)

Resisting a Gold Rush: 'Mnemonic' Adivasi Struggles against Extractive Capital in Central India

Sonakhan (the Valley of Gold) lies in Chhattisgarh, a state in central India, and houses the Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary. The local populace are mostly adivasi and marginal peasants. They practise informal mining of alluvial gold to diversify their livelihood. As sons of the soil, they feel entitled to the sub-soil mineral resources, and the Forest Rights Act, 2006 gives them de facto rights. But their extractive practices are of low intensity, driven as they are by the traditional practices and periodic needs of adivasis at the margins of the agrarian political economy. In 2016, the provincial government then led by the religious ultra-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which marginalises minorities and adivasis gave Vedanta (an extractive conglomerate capitalist group) 608 hectares of forest land to mine in Barnawapara. The state corporate nexus disregarded the Forest Rights Act, due processes, and environmental regulations, and used a unidirectional, command-and-control process to lease this land. If fully operational the mine would have displaced the entire population of all 24 forest villages in Sonakhan, destroyed agricultural fields and pristine forests, and affected the fauna in the Sanctuary. The consent of the affected village communities is a crucial part of the clearance process, but consent was not sought, and prior notice was not given. Astounded by the award of the lease, the villagers, mostly of the Binjhal tribe, united with other tribes and the Dalits under the banner of the Adivasi Dalit Manch (Indigenous People and Dalit Podium) and formed a mnemonic community. The region has a long tradition of resilience and heterodoxy: Binjhal tribal leader Veer Narayan Singh led a sustained rebellion against the British; he was hanged to death in 1857. In the postcolonial period, the tribals launched a movement to liberate bonded labourers. Large landholders, mostly of the Agariya and Kulta castes, have misappropriated their land and exploited their labour over centuries and are now collaborating with the state and corporate houses. Also, there had been sustained campaign to give the landless land rights under Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha (Chhattisgarh Liberation Front) in 1980s.

By mobilising this collective social memory of valour and martyrdom from past struggles the distant (colonial) and the proximate (postcolonial) and wedding it to folk imaginaries, cultural idioms, cosmologies of the landscape, forests, an materiality of minerals and geology, this victimised subaltern subject-hood waged a struggle against the state, capital, and local oppressive caste structures. The movement started raising awareness among the adivasis about their modern legal rights under the Forest Rights Act. The sustained resistance led the government a new one, formed by the Indian National Congress, which had centred its election campaign on the BJPs marginalisation of adivasis to cancel the mining lease in 2019, though it has not passed a written order yet. This moratorium is merely provisional, therefore, and it demonstrates the poignancy, liminality, and irony of adivasi struggles.

Keywords: gold mining, indigenous people, adivasi, India, social memory.

Emilka Skrzypek - University of St Andrews

Impact assessment practice. Evidencing, articulating, and assessing impacts of proposed extractive projects on indigenous territories.

Resource extraction projects have extensive and complex social and environmental impacts. From the very early stages of their life cycle, extractive projects tend to expose their host communities to new types of networks, power structures and political relations; different kinds of social and economic capital; new ways of producing and effecting knowledge; and new opportunities for action. At the same time, they place resource companies in dynamic and entangled social spaces with their own political and knowledge systems that often challenge normative models used by the industry to assess viability and impacts of proposed extractive ventures. It is a common practice in the extractives sector that a company wishing to develop a new resource project is required to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed venture and submit it to the government regulator as part of a new project permitting process. In Papua New Guinea, like in many other countries, the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) documentation is then available for public consultation during which groups and individuals can review the document and submit their comments to the regulator. The Environmental Statement Review is one of the main participatory components of a new mine approval process, and a way for indigenous communities, international observers, and others to feed into the government's decision making regarding new mining developments. This paper uses an example of an EIS review for the planned Frieda River Mine to explore the EIS as a mechanism designed to identify and assess environmental and social impacts of proposed resource extraction projects. Based on interviews with a range of indigenous and non-indigenous actors, this paper considers the different ways in which those impacts are perceived, evidenced and articulated by different interest groups involved, and assemblages and alliances that form around the impact assessment process.

Keywords: Environmental Impact Assessment, mining, knowledge, evidence

Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares - University of Helsinki

Supporting Indigenous and Local Knowledge holders on the frontlines of conflict

The knowledge systems and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities play critical roles in safeguarding our planet's biological and cultural diversity. However, globalization, colonialism, and extractivism threaten the integral relationships between Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their environments, thereby challenging the continuity and resilience of their knowledge systems. Based on my field-based ethnobiological research partnerships with several Indigenous communities in the Global South (e.g., Tsimane' in Bolivia, Maasai and Daasanach in Kenya), I will present several approaches for sustaining Indigenous and Local Knowledge systems for better stewardship of our planet. While Indigenous and Local Knowledge systems are inherently adaptable and dynamic, there is well-established evidence that the foundations of these time-honoured knowledge systems are compromised by land dispossession, state-sanctioned violence, cultural assimilation, and the rapid expansion of commodity and extractive frontiers. Indigenous and Local Knowledge holders are often leaders in struggles to defend traditional territories from resource development and other externally imposed activities. State-funded or state-supported projects often create landscapes of violence in which Indigenous Peoples and local communities are the first casualties and the last line of defence. Supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities in sustaining their homelands and associated knowledge systems is inextricably linked to global efforts to address biodiversity loss and climate change.

Keywords: Biocultural conservation; conservation; ethnobiology; Indigenous Knowledge

Laleh Derakhti

Contradictions of Transit - Oriented Development (TOD) in Low-income Neighbourhoods; The case study of Rosengard district in Malmo, Sweden

This paper aims at identifying the main drivers that led to the progress of major Petroleum cities in the Global North and how to adapt those lessons in the context of the Global South. This should be done through the analysis of key examples of petroleum cities globally, like Houston, USA, and how the key urban and industrial governance structures contributed to the promotion of the city as a major global hub for the petroleum industry, enabling it to attract investments and services and, ultimately, retain population. Then those lessons will be projected on the case of the city of Ras Gharib, Egypt. Ras Gharib is Egypt's primary site for petroleum production, yet it reaps almost none of the benefits of the economic influxes associated with the petroleum industry. The city lacks basic services and is tightly controlled and greatly manipulated by public and private petroleum company's within Egypt's petroleum sector. The city is also harshly affected by the downsides of the petroleum industry like pollution. Persistent oil spills prevent the uses of the city's beach by the residents. Among the peculiarities of Ras Gharib also is the general hierarchy of Egypt's Petroleum industry, which is tightly controlled by the state. Also, urban development is tightly controlled by the state, which makes Ras Gharib at the opposite end of the spectrum from Houston. Another peculiarity is that the local economy in Ras Gharib is mono-sectorial, based solely on petroleum extraction, with little presence of other services and economic activities.

Keywords: Trans-Mountain pipeline; Canada; fossil-fuel hegemony; climate change; political ecology; carbon lock-in; Critical Discourse Analysis

Marjaana Jauhola - University of Helsinki

Challenging Extractivist Disaster Recovery Regimes: Living the Aftermath of the 2001 Kachchh Earthquake Recovery in Gujarat, India

This paper argues that responses to pandemics such as COVID-19, or other disasters, should learn from the decades long grassroots knowledge production on inequalities, and theorising on social, political and economic vulnerabilities and precariousness, and systemic discrimination that recovery policies entail. The paper provides a detailed analysis of the recovery, the aftermath of the 2001 Gujarat earthquake, popularly narrated as "astonishing rise from the rubble", a best practice promoted by the Indian government and international organisations for successful disaster recovery model and disaster recovery architecture for India, South Asian region, and global consumption, the Indian COVID-19 response included. The focus in this paper is on urban ethnographic lifehistorical study of the shadows of this success, located in an urban neighbourhood established in 2001 as one of the temporary shelter locations in West Kutch district in which 60-70 percent of the urban housing was destroyed in the earthquake. In relation to this paper proposal, the author also submits a proposal for a non-stop screening of audiovisual materials related to the wider research project "Scraps of Hope" that focuses on the gendered politics of post-disaster recovery politics in the aftermath of Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in Aceh Indonesia (2004) and the Gujarat earthquake (2001). This screening can be arranged either through a conference site located screens, or researcher organised locked tablet that can be located at the lobby area during the days of the conference. I kindly ask the organisers to indicate if such screening possibility exists, to fix the technical arrangements prior the conference.

Ng Sourav Singha - Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati

Situating “Community” in Conservation: A Case of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary Eviction

Emerging from the criticism towards mainstream conservation's displacement issues were various alternatives, like community-based conservation, which focussed on social justice, economic benefits, inclusion of people, etc. These arguments were underpinned by the importance of forest friendly people and their knowledge, for conservation. Counter arguments contend that such features were of the sparsely populated past. The case of a small village called Kankan Nagar, one of the official “Encroached Areas” of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary, in the city Guwahati of Assam in India depicts the marginalisation of an indigenous community through the interplay of conservation, state apathy and urbanisation. The people faced forced evictions for the ‘protection’ of the wildlife sanctuary from the space where they had settled when it was a Reserved Forest. Their settlement was in search of an alternative livelihood after they were displaced by perennial floods, forced into the cash economy and excluded from an unequal urban space. This case shows marginalisation of a non-forest dwelling community by conservation, who had already been pushed to the lowest strata of the society through various forces of unequal power relations. Moreover, the contention over the idea of nature and land emerges. Land as a commodified resource is extracted by accumulation through its valuation as ‘wilderness’ by state-corporate nexus, and legitimised over the value that the people give, leading to continuous creation of their vulnerability and marginalisation through displacements. The paper raises the need to accommodate such communities in alternative conservation debates, against the conservationists’ conception of ‘mythical’ communities, by thinking beyond the notion of nature friendliness. It situates the forceful evictions of the people to argue the importance of centralising social justice as legitimacy for their inclusion. It also invokes the importance of re-engaging with the idea of land and nature through an understanding of their ideas, assertions and claims.

Keywords: Conservation, Community, Eviction, Land, Social justice

Alberto Valz Gris - Polytechnic University of Turin

Hinterlands of the Green Transition

The Atacama region of South America, currently divided across the national boundaries of Argentina, Chile and Bolivia, has in recent years experienced profound transformations owing to a new natural resource rush. Lithium, abounding in exceptional volume and purity beneath its high-altitude salt pans, is in fact a fundamental battery metal, a crucial ingredient in the fabrication of electric vehicles and energy storage solutions for renewable energy sources and hence a central element across the unrolling 'green transition'. The evolving lithium landscapes, economies and sociomaterial assemblages of the Atacama pose a number of questions with respect to what could be called the mine-city nexus, that is the deep entanglement between the geographies of extraction and those of urbanization. How do existing commonsense sustainability policies adopted in urban agglomerations across the planet determine the unfolding of geographies of extraction across vast 'non-urban' territories? How can the extractive chain linking urban agglomeration and extension be retraced, and hence critically analysed and politically reshaped? These problems become manageable by mobilizing two research genealogies that have so far remained rather distinct, whose intersections are yet to be fully mobilized. On the one hand, 'planetary' approaches to urbanization have shed light upon the geographies of urban extension that exist as moments in the generalized fabric of urbanization (Brenner, 2018; Arboleda, 2020). Along these lines, urban political ecology has once again recognized the analytical power of an urban metabolism 'beyond the city' (Angelo & Wachsmuth, 2015). On the other, a vast and rich research tradition of commodity chain studies has been marginally deployed towards material and multiscalar analyses of urbanization (Werner, 2019). To respond to these questions, I draw upon a mobile ethnographic fieldwork along the lithium roads of the Atacama, developed as an attempt to chart a section of the global commodity chain of this metal and ranging from mine to maritime port. As narrated by a selection of case studies emerging from this fieldwork, the acceleration in lithium-related exploration is primarily driven by a steadily growing demand across global markets, itself driven by the

increasing public and private adoption of e-vehicles and renewable energy systems. The extraction of lithium in the region is built upon wider tropes of sustainable development, encompassing other extractive activities such as the production of solar energy, coming to constitute a regional form of extractive development articulated through an architecture of mines, chemical and power plants, research centers, financial institutions, roads and railways. This regional extractive matrix, paradoxically incorporating the extraction of a ‘sustainable’ metal mostly emerges from existing cultural and material infrastructures of longlasting extractive endeavors— reproducing its toxic patterns—but also determines new forms of exploitation. The observations developed across this fieldwork suggest a range of contributions to the imminent challenges of any post-extractivist agenda. From a methodological standpoint, they shed light upon the practical and conceptual possibilities for unpacking the entanglement of urbanization and extraction by radically exceeding the city lens. Conceptually speaking, they hopefully contribute to enlarging the environmental dimensions of urban research in dialogue with the popular mobilizations across their recent unprecedented expansion. From a political standpoint, they problematize the resource intensiveness of hegemonic visions of urban sustainability from a decentred perspective —that of the mine— rendering the dynamics of resource extraction as fully internal to moments of agglomeration not only from a sociomaterial standpoint but, more importantly, in the form of a political project.

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Ali Almoghazy - University of Helsinki

Oiling the City: how cities function with a volatile market

Petroleum cities exist in different parts of the world. In the Global North, Petroleum cities have been associated with progress and economic development, where the discovery of Petroleum and the ensuing industrial complexes helped transform idyllic or slow-paced local economies into fast-paced globally oriented ones. However, extreme fluctuations in global petroleum prices may render investment in the infrastructure of those cities a risky business, especially in the Global South, which make those cities to stunted growth.

Edmore Mwandiringana - China Agriculture University

Rural Development at Crossroads? State and the Peasantry in Zimbabwe

This study argues that the Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) concept created an avenue for Capital to insidiously enter and control developing countries politics and economy, disenfranchising the peasantry. Using the case of Zimbabwe's Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA), this study explores how PPPs impact on rural development. The study seeks to highlight the weaknesses of PPPs in advancing rural development, calling upon the State to build strong institutions which can effectively contribute towards improving rural infrastructure, peasant agricultural production, employment and food security. ARDA is a State owned enterprise created under the ARDA Act [Chapter 18:01] to spearhead the advancement of agricultural production and rural development. The Authority is mandated to train peasants in productive farming methods as well as to provide tillage and other services to enhance peasant productivity. The State owned entity engaged in a joint venture with Credcorp subsidiary, Trek Petroleum in 2015. Key informant interviews with ARDA management were conducted to collect data on ARDAs activities in the host district of Matobo in Matabeleland South. Traditional leaders and ordinary peasants were also interviewed to gather data on the impacts of ARDAs operations on the host community and how ARDA has contributed to their agricultural praxis and livelihoods. Empirical evidence shows tendencies of accumulation by dispossession and disregard for peasant concerns and inputs in the operations of the entity. ARDA Antelope forcibly fenced off land that was being used by the community for grazing purposes during the dry season. Community members have therefore been in conflict with ARDA, cutting the fence to allow their cattle into the fenced off land in protest. The community had been accessing this land for grazing and tillage since 1947 before the PPP arrangement but is now being restricted from access.

TRACK 3

The fencing of the commons directly affects the peasantry whose livestock quality is affected due to dwindling grazing, forcing them to sell cheap than before. Also, the maize, wheat, soya bean and other crops grown on the ARDA estate do not benefit the surrounding community but are delivered to Bulawayo and Harare where they are sold to millers for ARDAs profit an indication of extractivism. As such, ARDA does not therefore contribute, at least directly, to the food security of the Matobo peasantry despite using Matobo land resources. Furthermore, the entity does not offer employment opportunities and training of local peasants. ARDAs human resources, particularly those in managerial positions, are drawn from other provinces, leaving out the qualified young people from Matabeleland South Province. Community members view such practices as marginalisation by the enterprise. While the State emphasized the need for companies operating in the country to contribute to the development of their host communities, ARDA has not been involved in any infrastructure development in the District. Although ARDAs mandate includes assisting the peasantry improve their yields, ARDA has not been involved in the construction or rehabilitation of irrigation and agriculture infrastructure in the District. Such projects would go a long way in improving land utilization and agricultural output in the drought prone district. While ARDA records high yields, surrounding communities suffer the effects of prolonged dry spells and lack of agricultural inputs.

Keywords: Rural development, extractivism, accumulation, global capital, peasants

Obaid Amjad

Reassessing the Power of the GDPR in Protecting the Privacy of Online Users (Esade Business School)

Abstract: The growing value of data for social, commercial and political purposes has ushered in an era of intense digitalization, datafication and its extraction by commercial actors, whose operations are driven more by profit maximization and less by social values. Resultantly, privacy violations of online users in the digital sphere are becoming increasingly salient and concerning. In a bid to protect its citizens, the European Union has implemented what has been called a ground-breaking public data protection measure – the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We aim to analyze the GDPR to analyze its potential and limitations in protecting online users from four of the main privacy controversies – namely ubiquitous data collection, misuses of data, as well as the lack of transparency and accountability of data collecting and processing entities. Our analysis reveals that the GDPR enables greater involvement of digital citizens in managing their information and encourages a dynamic understanding of privacy. However, the legislation is also rooted in neoliberal understandings of individualism, data subjects' self-efficacy and nurturing economic activity. Consequently, GDPR faces limitations in its ability to curb unethical practices as data subjects are nudged towards unbeneficial extractions of their data. We discuss that acknowledging the neoliberal tendencies promoted in the GDPR can allow policymakers and scholars to better designed privacy protection measures, that do not run the risk of legitimizing extractivism practices.

Sunniva Sandbukt

Creating Consumer-Cyborgs: digital platforms as infrastructures for extraction (IT-University of Copenhagen)

In 2019, the founder of the Indonesian platform company 'Gojek' described how their app creates a 'cyborg in our consumers': using the digital infrastructure to summon goods and services, book on-demand drivers, and make digital payments using the integrated payment system. Implicitly, the app, phone, and driver tasked with doing things on your behalf all become part of your extended cyborg self. In this paper, I examine how platform companies such as Gojek implement digital infrastructures atop existing informal transactional practices rendering them visible for extraction for the consumer-cyborg, but also how this cyborg itself becomes a site of value extraction for the company. Firstly, I argue that the app overlays an existing social infrastructure, namely the loosely organised network of motorcycle taxis called ojek. Inserting itself as an interpretive interface, the company introduces stabilising parameters of exchange between drivers and their customers. Thus, they also position themselves as the access point to their consumer-cyborgs, a critical resource for drivers whose labour they now control and thus extract value from. Secondly, I argue that the privatised money tokens used within these digital ecosystems materialise the financial transactions themselves in the form of data traces. Replacing the transient exchange of cash between driver and customer, the consumer-cyborg also becomes a way for the platform companies to extract value from these temporary transactional constellations. This paper draws on ethnographic data collection through 6 months of fieldwork in Yogyakarta, Indonesia between 2018 and 2019. This fieldwork encompasses extensive interviews with both customers and service providers using Indonesian platform apps, as well as representatives from the companies themselves. Drawing on scholarship on social infrastructure and economic anthropology, this paper uses the concept of the 'consumer-cyborg' to draw attention to the extractive intersections of digital payments and the on-demand labour of the platform economy.

Zdravka Dimitrova - Sofia University

Releasing the full transformative power of feminism [Note: submitted both for oral and artistic presentation]

The current political situation is characterized by a crisis of democracy and a surge of right-wing, repressive political powers. This alarming tendency has profound impacts on how movements can respond to challenges they face today. Multiple feminist movements are responding by searching alternative ways and narratives to break away from the patriarchal, feudal, capitalist civilization. The current article aims to add up to the existing literature on the powerful roles feminisms play in social movements, to analyze through the stories from concrete grass-root feminist movements around the world the strategy of bringing changes and alternatives in the current narratives by applying the intersectional vision of feminisms and linking it with other social movements and struggles and to show the full transformative power of feminism for the attainment of global justice. The paper looks at the aspect of power, domination and authority, neoliberal forces and systems of oppression and proposes a successful models based on concrete experiences from the ground of anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist and anti-patriarchy actions. This article is drawn on three different experiences coming from diverse cultural, political and social context. They are interconnected in their attempt to show how the transformative power of feminism needs to be incorporated in all political approaches at local, national, regional and global level. The first experience, the case of Rojava, Syria, exemplifies a paradigmatic shift realized by women based on the perspective of solidarity, shared commons and applying the convergence of diversity. The democratic confederalism of Rojava emerged in full crisis as a powerful alternative to the current democratic institutions. The second experience presents the alternative to the repressive colonial and patriarchal models that the World March of Women has led by building a progressive feminist movement. The example of Kenya highlights the crucial function of organized feminist movements and the tools and actions they adopt to transform the oppressive status quo through community education, self-determination and helping women to understand their role as subjects of rights and the need to raise their voices.

The third local experience showcases the struggle of a feminist community in the Basque country, Spain to achieve recognition of women peasants status. Although the content of the regulation as finally adopted is subject to criticism, the battle of peasant women for their self-determination and recognition gave visibility to their demands. By documenting stories from Rojava, Kenya, and Basque country, by interviews and literature review, it is shown how womens work towards the balance of power and inclusion in decision-making is shifting the models of leadership, force law changes and puts women at the center of the social movements by advocating for a change in social relations. While global capital is working to get alter the nation state as the model of political governance, feminist movements are highlighting new alternatives based on local democratic experiences. All those interconnections propose a process of democratization as a tool for radical social change by delivering decision-making back to women and people.

Keywords: Intersectional Feminisms, democratic confederalism, jineology, activism, progressive theatre, feminist art, recognition of women peasant status, equality for peasant women, womens role in productive and reproductive life,

Caroline Ledant - Schola Campesina APS

People-led digital tools for local development and agroecology

Digitalization is a tool that can support different objectives. It is too often supporting the development of the food system that it is derived from and designed for. Bottom-up digitalization therefore exists as an alternate way forward for the tool of digitalization in contrast to the corporate model. As part of a bottom-up digitalization, food producers must have control of data collection and analysis to ensure that digitalization acts as a positive force in the food system, working for producers and civil society. Many examples show that people-led digitalization can support alliances between different knowledge bases in the food system, strengthening connections between producers and communities to enhance a food system centered on the right to food.

Dalena Tran

Gendered geographies of violence: A multiple case-study analysis of murdered women environmental defenders

This study illustrates how, despite the diversity of women environmental defenders and their movements around the world, there are near-universal patterns of violence threatening their survival. Violence against women environmental defenders, often perpetrated by government-backed corporations, remains overlooked. Research on this issue importantly contributes to discussions about environmental justice because women defenders make up a large proportion of those at the frontlines of ecological distribution conflicts. Through comparative political ecology, this research analyzes cases from the Environmental Justice Atlas, an online open-access inventory of environmental distribution conflicts, in which one or more women were assassinated while fighting a diverse array of extractive and polluting projects. Although the stories showcase a breadth of places, conflicts, social-class backgrounds, and other circumstances between women defenders, most cases featured multinational large-scale extractive companies supported by governments violently targeting women defenders with impunity.

Keywords: Violence, murder, women environmental defenders, EJAtlas, comparative political

Alicia Ng - University of Helsinki

Two extractivisms, one setting: extractivist entanglements in the bioremediation of contaminated e-waste sites

In this presentation I will cover two different extractivist paradigms that are present in the same setting – electronic waste pollution and bioremediation – as a way to explore material, natural, and human exploitative extractivisms on the one hand, and to bring up a model of non-exploitative extractivism, on the other. The presentation will first cover electronic waste, or e-waste, which is part of a long chain of extractivisms tied to destruction, violence, and pollution in the global South within the technology and electronics industry. This includes resource mining for production and manufacture, cheap human labor at nearly all points of the life cycle of an electronic, and post-use extraction (i.e. taking apart the electronic for its scrap material) which has polluted soil, air, and water in affected communities. Bioremediation is the second extractivism, and is a remediative pollution method that employs the use of plants and soil microbes to clean up areas contaminated by heavy metals and toxic organic compounds found in man-made polluted sites, such as from e-waste. Much of bioremediation's effectiveness is via mutualistic-symbiotic interactions, using diverse, resilient plant and microbe multispecies. In contrast to e-waste, bioremediation is an illustration of non-exploitative extractivism, a process of extraction of toxic chemicals in the natural world that exists alongside exploitative forms of extractivism. By comparing these two modes, both extractivist paradigms will be shown to be spatially and materially interweaved in eco-social processes. This showcases the complexity of extractivisms, as well as points to the potential ways out of exploitative extractivisms and towards more sustainable futures. Furthermore, this presentation adds e-waste to the long list of exploitative extractivisms, while advancing bioremediation as a potential means out of exploitative entanglement.

Keywords: Electronic waste, bioremediation, soil pollution, eco-social entanglement, China

**Sony R K - Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment
(ATREE)**

Fighting Against Industrial Extractivism: Transformed Subjectivity through Affective Relationship and Immaterial Labour Helps in the Protection of Immediate Nature

Environmental discourses and governance play an important role in the participation and growth of an environmental movement. However, understanding of environmental crisis may not always come to people through environmental discourse and governance techniques but is also perceived and lived in affective relations. Eloor and Kathikudam in the south Indian state of Kerala are infamous for the extractive industries and associated pollution. Both in Eloor and Kathikudam environmental protest movement began to save the rivers from the pollution discharges by various chemical industries along the banks of the rivers. For activists involved in Kathikudam and Eloor movement, their interactions with River- an immediate nature in both the cases- and the memories associated with it help in the process of becoming of people who care for the environment. The people in Kathikudam and Eloor joined in the protest after experiencing the changes in the river and the landscape due to the pollution by industries on the banks. In this paper, I argue, their understanding of environmental issues like pollution is not only through the larger environmental discourses or environmental governance techniques but also perceived and lived in affective relations with their immediate nature. It is also a response to the loss of their naturescape. While showing the transformation of subjectivity through affection relationship with immediate nature and immaterial labour in the protest movement, I highlight the role of nature in developing strong ideological stand to fight against the extractive industries and the environmental harm caused by those industries.

Keywords: subjectivity, pollution, industries, extractivism, environmental movement, affect, immediate nature

Eeva Houtbeckers - Aalto University

Forest dialogues as an alternative to the deadlock between forest extractivism and protection

Finnish forest management has been in a deadlock for decades. Logging is a major Finnish source of wealth for companies and private forest owners including citizens, the state, municipalities and parishes. Therefore, it is not surprising that the dominant Finnish forest management prioritises economic gains over environmental protection. According to critics, this hinders actions needed for ensuring biodiversity and slowing down climate change, let alone ensuring the integrity of more-than-human nature. The debate between forest industry and environmental organisation representatives is heated and it mirrors forest struggles elsewhere. As an activist-ethnographer, I have been involved with Our Forest grassroots citizen movement since 2017. The movement consists of volunteers who feel that the contemporary forest management cannot be solved from the trenches described above. The movement hosts a variety of activities from a one-off campaign in 2018, maintaining email lists and social media accounts to lobbying forest authorities. A central focus of the work is on forest dialogues, in which 10-15 participants meet to discuss a chosen forest-related topic in a facilitated and confidential dialogue. The participants represent forest industry, environmental organisations, forest research, forest activism, forest owners, forest professionals, and others who work with forest-related issues. By summer 2021, the working group has organised ten dialogues and one open (public) dialogue as well as it supported one local dialogue organising. The strength of the dialogues lie in the mix of participants: these people would not normally spend half a day together and discuss forest management. The dialogues have been praised by the participants and they receive attention from others. While the method is fresh, it is not free of challenges. This paper presents my observations from forest dialogues as a member of the working group that plans the dialogues, a participant in four dialogues, and a facilitator of one dialogue.

Keywords: forest, citizen movement, dialogue, forest literacy

Ana Estefania Carballo - University of Melbourne

Envisioning a just transition: Latin American contributions to imagining a zero-carbon future

The quest for a zero-carbon future connects us all, across the world and to those who will inherit our world in a distant and uncertain future. It requires of us to envision new, bold futures marked by a transition to new and sustainable forms of energy. And it requires of us to imagine and to enact change at a global scale along this path. But the urgency that irrevocable trends of climate change place upon us, makes this a most daunting exercise. What constitutes a just transition to a sustainable future? How do we construct the imaginaries that will guide this transition and what voices do they privilege? How do we enact them and what do they mean for the different communities that are involved? A plethora of contemporary and interdisciplinary literatures emerging from the fields of climate, energy and environmental justice, among others, invite us to envision and reflect on different scenarios of the transition to this zero-carbon future and the moral tensions that emerge from its diverse iterations. Recent discussions of the longstanding notion of 'Just transitions' (Healy and Barry 2017; McCauley and Heffron 2018; McCauley et al. 2019; Bennett et al. 2019; Heffron and McCauley 2018) have attempted to integrate this diverse scholarship. From its origin in the trade union movement in the US, the notion of 'Just Transition' is expanding to become an analytical tool to reflect on the intersections of issues of climate, society, energy and environment at a global level. In Latin America, parallel conversations are framed in recent debates connected to the demise of the extractivist matrix of development that has marked the region for the past five centuries. Debates on and experiences of the limits of extractivist policies in the region have become a fertile ground to question and re-imagine models of development, giving space to indigenous and alternative visions of a post-extractive future (See among others Acosta 2012; Acosta 2014; Gudynas 2011a; Gudynas 2018; Gudynas and Acosta 2011; Gudynas 2011b; Svampa 2015; Svampa 2019; Svampa 2012; Escobar 2011; Escobar 2015; Escobar 2018).

This paper seeks to initiate an engagement of these Latin American discussions of post-extractivism with ideas of just transition, beginning an important conversation between these two ways of framing environmental futures. It argues that the incorporation of this Latin American literature brings into these discussions an impetus to re-frame and question ontologically our embedded understanding of the social and natural worlds. It allows us to reflect on what ways ideas of transition encompass or challenge ontological assumptions of nature and society? Engaging this Latin American literature will highlight the importance of thinking relationally on the possible iterations of this transition to a zero-carbon world and enable a new set of questions that connect us with the rationale and impetus behind extractivism and energy production, adding further analytical depth to the notion of just transition.

Karen Verduijn - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

A posthuman approach to organizational becoming

The manuscript contributes to a scholarship that reframes organizational becoming theorizing from humanist/individualist conceptions. The manuscript adopts posthuman theorizing (Braidotti, 2006, 2013, 2019), and develops an experimental illustration of what posthuman theorizing can bring to understanding organizational becoming. Adopting a posthuman stance turns the attention to the entangled ‘happenings’ within and through which organizational becoming is (or is not) achieved, and to how it is a transformational assemblage, invoking an awareness of not only how matter is part and parcel of this, but also of how this matters, i.e. has consequences. As such, it may serve to help understand, in new ways, the complex manifold of connections (both human and nonhuman) that ‘produce’ organizational becoming. ‘Posthuman’ theorising is particularly relevant in “the crucial recognition that nonhumans play an important role in ... practices” (Barad, 2007, p. 32). Posthuman theorising breaks with the tradition of mainly basing explanations on the (assumed) supremacy of the human, and paves the way for including ‘all that lives’ in the understanding of key developments such as global warming, the ‘plastic soup’, economic crises, and even important new technologies (e.g., care-taking robots). Braidotti (2019) calls this ‘the posthuman condition’, specified as the alternation of euphoria (e.g., innovation, new technologies) and despair (e.g., concerns regarding “a fast decaying environment” (p. 19), and not only in an ecological sense). The endeavour is grounded in empirical research – an autoethnographic analysis of the materializing of ‘Regional’, a collective of local food artisans in a Western, urbanized environment. Taking inspiration from such contributions as Andersen (2017) and Allen (2019), a rather ‘specific’ kind of autoethnographic approach is adopted, one that entails “to become lost in a soup of unknowing and unintentionality” (Allen, 2019, p. 67).

Keywords: organizational becoming, the posthuman, Braidotti, autoethnography

Ivana Lukeš Rybanská - University of Economics and Business in Prague

The endurance of non-hierarchy. The long story of NESEHNUTÍ from Czechia

Organizations in the post-extractivist world need to differ from ‚private governments‘ as described by Elizabeth Anderson. The story of non-governmental organization NESEHNUTÍ from Czechia offers lessons about how can a non-hierarchical organization endure and not follow the assumed ‚life-cycle‘ in which the non-hierarchical attempts need to give way to the standardized hierarchical organization of work. This case study aims to describe how NESEHNUTÍ overcame the usual pitfalls and weaknesses of non-hierarchical organizing. Its operation and processes, which developed during the 21 years of existence, provide rich empirical material for the labor as commons approach. The knowledge-intensive nature of work accomplished by the members is accompanied by the constant search for financial resources and can serve as inspiration for the world in transition. The anti-communist discourse in the Czech Republic in the 1990s developed negative associations with a collective organization of work such as cooperatives, and even searching for new forms of organizing was labeled as odd or backward thinking. While some activists chose to transform their work and develop into professionalized non-governmental organizations, some chose another path. This case study tells one of these stories. The main actor is NESEHNUTÍ (abbreviation of Independent Social-Ecological Movement in the Czech language), the non-hierarchical organization operating from Brno, active in the Caucasus region and covering many issues - gender sensitivity in education, development of activist networks, animal rights, and many others.

Keywords: non-hierarchy, NGO, commons, labour as commons

Inna Sukhenko - University of Helsinki/University of Jyväskylä

Solastalgia in Biocitizenship 's Perspective on Narrating Energy

Energy humanities as an 'in-the-making' multidisciplinary research area brings together the various aspects of highlighting the critical role of energy in 'determining the shape, form, and character of our daily existence' (After Oil, 2016). This area debates the current dependence of the contemporary society on energy and energy sources by distinguishes its material orientations and shaping its values, beliefs and priorities within realizing new energy cultures (Szeman, 2019). Such approach methodologically rethink the energetic history of humanity and defines how energy and energy-related issues are considered, estimated, accepted and represented in the contemporary energy-dependable society. Solastalgia as 'the lived experience of distressing, negative environmental change' (Albrecht, 2019) in energy storytelling are regarded in the amalgamated perspectives – "slow violence" (Nixon, 2014) and 'slow hope' (Mauch, 2018) – which cover the discussions of energy policies, energy transitions and sustainability. Such perspectives contributes into shaping 'a biocitizen' - 'not as citizens with rights and duties bound to nation states, but as biological consumers' (Petryna, 2004) , where 'the human body as a fragmented, biotechnologically exploitable consumer object (Rosa, Novas, 2005) - and providing narratives and storytelling on 'way out' alternatives in reconsidering the energy related issues. The literary configurations of solastalgia in the context of biocitizen's perspective on reconsidering the energy past and shaping the future energy scenarios are studies in nuclear fictional writings such as Hesse's Phoenix Raising (1994), Mason's An Atomic Romance (2005), White's Radiant Girl (2008), and Reich's Bombshell (2013) , which allows distinguishing the narrative tools of implications of energy futures in the contemporary U.S. nuclear fiction. Such multisided debates on various aspects of 'literary energy narratives' (Goodbody, 2018) against sustainable development and global environmental change agenda contribute to developing critical thinking skills in the context in reconsidering the values of the energy dependable society.

Jaxon Waterhouse

Ecological Gyre Theory and Deepwater Horizon: critical enmeshments with liquidity, abjection and the petro-Geist

To dwell within the Anthropocene is to understand human activity as intervention into the geological record; itself a solid and material temporality, a narrative of the Earth's existence, a geostory. We position the process of oil extraction as operating within a similar manner; the vertical interruption of humanity into the subterranean. Unlike the geological strata that comprise the Earth, however, the oil that exists beneath is a fluid, primordial presence; an artifact. One which operates as a hypertext, as opposed to the fixity of the geological record. To plumb the depths for oil is to free it from its bounds, unleashed upon the world with ecological, social, economic and political consequences; an agential liquidity. In mobilising the flows, floods and blooms of oil we utilize Deepwater Horizon disaster to present a volumetric and New Materialist interrogation of oil as agential matter, as read through our ongoing research project Ecological Gyre Theory. EGT presents a means through which we can explore volumetrics and acceleration as part of a broader ecological turn. Within this frame we position the Deepwater Horizon disaster acts as a criticality incident -- a rupture spilling 210,000,000 gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, making visible that which is obscured or embellished by capitalist processes, or embedded in plastics. This ecological catastrophe, broadcast in real time, resulted in a proliferation of images -- an oil bloom spreads across screens and oceans; temporally fractured, it repeats itself endlessly, proliferating through torrents for a blockbuster film. In apprehending this event and its circulation, we are bombarded with images of smoke and spill, as a black slick coats the sands and wells up and onto wildlife. Here, oil becomes the Kristevan abject, a horrific blurring of boundaries which reveals the true nature of oil and the catastrophic consequences of the extraction process. Looking to refigure an Anthropocentric relationship with oil, we seek to explicate our apprehension of its liquidity with an application of EGT.



TRACK 6

In doing so, we turn to Hegel, and position the agential oil as petro-Geist: a reanimation of the past (as fossil fuel), a haunting of the contemporary (via embeddedness and necessity) and an unruly disruptor, complicating our relationships to nature and production. The fluidity of this petro-Geist makes it impossible to grasp, catch and contain, once loose - but visible in spills and flows. Our petro-Geist is the spirit haunting the geological record - read through Latour as geostory, one which profoundly shifts our human-nature relationship through the agency of the earth as actant.

Keywords: petrocultures; Deepwater Horizon; ecology; Julia Kristeva; New Materialism

Ishtiaq Ahmed - Jawaharlal Nehru University

Pain and Poetry in the Non-West: Iqbal's Critique of Nationalism

The current shape of the world is marked on the template of the Westphalian order and imperial geographies. Moreover, the project of modernity is deeply imbricated with coloniality. Consequently, we observe a constant protest and anxiety against the overarching reach and ferocity of the colonial matrix of power. The current order of the world which is deeply Eurocentric and reeks of many colonial legacies has silenced voices from the margins and rendered many alternative imaginations of the world invisible. This paper argues that the violent hierarchy between the West and non-West is the source of this ballooning anxiety against the powerful assertion of Eurocentrism. It takes recourse to Iqbal's poetry and philosophy to discuss in detail the responses to modernity and nationalism and evaluates how they are cocooned in Eurocentrism. It has been argued that Iqbal's corpus maps a way out of the hierarchical construction of an essential cum universal West as against a residual non-West. It observes that the contingent development of the West has been presented to the world as a universal code to be religiously followed, failing which, the non-West must suffer the wrath of the First World in the form of civilising missions, spread of democracy and so on. The constructed universality of the West is presented in the garb of democracy, secularisation, the inevitability of a world order based on the primacy of nation-state and nationalism etc, to the non-West. The obsession of the colonial matrix of power to dictate the world to follow its own particular paths presented as universals of marching towards the future, forms the core of Eurocentrism. This universality is sacralised by the deification of democracy, nationalism, secularism etc. The paper argues that Iqbal's poetry is reflective of a Muslim response to the spectre of nationalism and liberal democracy. It is thus a project of imagining future, by dredging up the poetry of Shayar-e-Mashriq, to move beyond the confines of imperial geographies and the limits of Eurocentric universals.

Keywords: Modernity, Coloniality, Nationalism, Islam, Iqbal, Poetry

Barbara Magalhaes Teixeira - Lund University

Room to grow and the right to say no: a perspective on development, the environment, and peace from and for the Global South

What is the relationship between development, the environment and peace? Since its inception, the pursuit of development has been equated with achieving peace. Developed nations were sold as the ideals to be followed when it came to achieving high levels of development and maintaining peaceful societies. However, this comes with costs to the environment. While developed nations in the North were exporting the environmental harms from their development to the countries in the South, these countries bore also the costs of underdevelopment and violent instability. This article critically analyses the relationship between the pursuit of development in the North – based on economic growth and resource extraction – to the detriment of the development of the Global South, relating it to issues of environmental harms and instability and violence. In light of climate change and environmental challenges, I propose ways to balance the pursuit of development with the maintenance of peace through systemic alternatives from and for the global South, building from the fields of critical development, feminist peace, and degrowth. Countries and communities of the Global South need to deal not only with the effects of underdevelopment and colonialism, but they also suffer disproportionately from climate and environmental impacts. This article explores systemic alternatives to building peace and stability in the Global South that works in connection with these groups' right to grow and develop, while maintaining their balance with nature and the environment. More than that, it examines the right of countries and communities to say no to subscribing to universal ideas of development and growth, as well as to listen to and learn from different knowledges and understandings of what a good life looks like from communities in the South.

Keywords: Global South, peace, environment, extractivism, development

Outi Hakkarainen

Towards Transformative Change? – Indigenous and Urban Struggles for Land and Territory in Western Mexico

Have Indigenous and urban struggles for land and territory since 1990's in Western Mexico promoted change which could be identified as transformative in their communities and in the surrounding society? Which elements enhance or prevent these struggles to achieve transformative change? Do the actors of these struggles themselves articulate their objectives as transformative? Preliminary answers for these questions will be presented in this presentation. The analytical framework is built on academic and praxis-based discourses on transformative or systemic change towards a more just future in social, ecological and economic terms in the context of critical approaches such as post-development, degrowth, post-extractivism and Buen Vivir, but also in the context of sustainable development discourse led by the UN. As a starting point it is understood that core elements of transformative change are related to decision-making structures and practices; social, ecological, and economic sustainability of decisions and actions; and representation and identity development of different social groups in the society. The study is based on an extensive data which has been amassed in different contexts since 1995, in a research project with two almost a-year-long fieldwork periods in Mexico, in three international civil society events held in the research area and several development cooperation projects carried out by a Mexican organisation and three Finnish civil society organisations during two decades. The Indigenous struggle for land and territory is the one of Wixárika (Huichol) communities in the Western Sierra Madre Mountains and the urban one is about a Mexican organisation of the urban social movement (movimiento urbano popular) which has defended residents' rights for legal documents (escrituras) on their land property in the "colonias populares" at the outskirts of the metropolitan area of Guadalajara.

Keywords: Transformative, struggle, land, territory, Mexico

Yanina Kowszyk - University of Groningen

Conflict management approaches in the mining sector in Latin America

While the global demand for minerals is growing, the number of social and environmental conflict in the mining sector is rising. In order to understand why managers are failing addressing conflicts, this research aims to study the conflict approaches they are adopting. The results are based on interviews to managers and secondary data of conflicts in mega-extractive mining companies in Peru, Brazil, Mexico and Chile. Results show that the current conflict approach adopted by companies is not considering available evidence gathered by political ecology, as a field of research that could improve the decision-making process to diminish the cost of conflicts no just for the companies but also for the communities. We describe the new variables that conflict management approaches should include to better address these conflicts in Latin America. These findings have theoretical implications for the conflict management field of study and practical implications for extractive managers.

Keywords: Conflict management, mining sector, Latin America, political ecology

Mark Cinkevich - The New Centre for Research and Practice

Astravets NPP: Energy overproduction as colonizing strategy

In my paper, I investigate the Astravets Nuclear Power Plant case in Belarus. I do so through the lens of nuclear colonialism. The work draws on research in the field of imperial infrastructure analysis. The Astravets NPP is to become the biggest energy-producing enterprise in Belarus. It is positioned by the Belarusian government as a progressive zero-emission project that will diversify energy sources and decrease dependency from Russian gas. However, Russia is involved in the project on many levels. Russian state company ROSATOM partakes in the construction as a general contractor. Russia also provides significant financial loans, reactor vessels, and uranium to the NPP project. However, the crux of the Astravets NPP resides in the fact that nuclear plant commissioning in 2020 will result in massive energy overproduction. The initial calculations that were laid down in 2008 did not materialize, and the energy consumption rate in Belarus did not increase in the last 12 years. Therefore, massive energy overproduction caused by the Astravets NPP will result in the destruction of existing infrastructure and conservation of the biggest natural peat-fired thermal power stations and TPS to ensure the successful functioning of the NPP. Conservation alone is not enough, so Belarus would have to sell the overproduced energy to Russia as the only available direction. Selling overproduced energy to Russia becomes a prerequisite for the functioning of Belarusian energy infrastructure. The Astravets NPP comes to represent a unique situation where alienation of state from its infrastructure and the establishment of Russian imperial control over Belarusian territory is enabled by the condition of resources overproduction rather than extraction. The case is also demonstrative of the fact that progressive zero-emission clean energy is not immune to being a colonizing tool.

Keywords: Nuclear colonialism, imperial infrastructures, toxic waste, overproduction

Dominika Glogowski

The Mine in Transition? Interaction through the Arts

The mine acts like an organism in the landscape. Embedded into (g)local realities, those socio-natural sites shape environmental and socio-economic fabrics. Notions of culture, nature, economy, prosperity, but also toxicity, maintenance, legacy and questions of power are intertwined on a sensitive scale that has to be negotiated. How can we mitigate those wicked complexities within the net of human and nonhuman stakeholders? How can we stimulate a shift in values like the transition to regional development with decision accountability between multiple stakeholders? How can we introduce responsible action, empowerment and sustainable foresight as an intrinsic motivation for change? In my talk, I argue that for this to happen, spaces of dialogue, interaction and participation are needed. I further argue that the arts can provide those rooms for play and enhanced embodied experiences, which reveal our interconnected dependencies with the earth. We mostly think of the arts in the context of mining, either as a source to raise awareness for social and environmental injustice, or as an act of revitalization, once the mine is doomed for closure. Yet conflict researchers reveal how dance and body movement contribute to processing of violence-inflicted trauma. Whereas fear and mistrust weaken the social fabric, dance strengthens the collective and fosters resilience. Drawing on examples from Brazil, I will demonstrate how the arts stimulate community engagement and psychological healing after tragedies like the tailing dam rupture of Córrego do Feijão in 2019. Opposed to closed-off business as usual models, I will thus argue for a reconceptualization of the mine as an integrative body of the landscape. I will open the discussion on a possible transformation in the mining sector by introducing the arts hub Deep Earth Synergies in Cornwall that seeks alliances throughout sectors and society to foster multidimensional approaches and interaction through the arts.

Keywords: arts, transformation, mining, interaction, synergies

Sarah Espinosa - University of Vienna

Isn't Exploitation bad enough? On the normative dimension of concepts relating to the use of non-human parties

Exploiting someone seems to be unarguably wrong, but can you say the same about exploiting something e.g oil or a forest? Especially within Economics, exploitation refers to the use or extraction of some resource or material in order to profit from it; nothing wrong or problematic about this. However, it is beginning to take on a more and more "negative tint" when viewed in a context of environmental degradation, land grabbing, nature depletion and pressure due to overpopulation. Is this negative tint justified, or is it the case that there are simply two ways of understanding exploitation: One inherently wrong, and one that it is not. In this paper I shall examine cases of exploitation that may be problematic and therefore interesting in a normative sense, however, not necessarily involving at least two human parties, but rather a human and non-human one. In this regard, I will try to challenge an understanding of the exploitation of non-human objects, more specifically natural resources, that is neutral both in its use and in its implications. By doing so, I shall try to break down the arguments for understanding the exploitation of some natural resources as inherently wrong as well.

Keywords: Exploitation, Intrinsic Values, Natural Resources, Environmental Ethics

May Aye Naw Thiri - ICTA UAB

Examining carbon emissions gaps in Japan using club convergence

This paper investigates the evolution of carbon emissions by types of fossil fuels in Japan for 47 administrative divisions throughout 1990-2016. Historically, Japan has had “trade-off” policies where some regions were forced to produce energy to promote economic growth, creating waste disposal, emissions, and socio-economic inequalities between regions. These disparities might have been exacerbated following the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster whereby many sectors turned back to coal power to replace nuclear energy. Since prefectures have different financial, economic, political power and level of autonomy over-controlling emissions, it is vital to examine the outcomes of environmental policies at the prefectural level. This study aims to understand the political ecology of climate change mitigation on CO₂ emissions by examining the dynamics of carbon emissions across Japanese prefectures from a club convergence perspective. This approach allows to model a wide range of transition dynamics for each prefecture along the path to overall convergence, subgroup (i.e., club) convergence, or divergence in CO₂ emissions in Japan. Additionally, analyses are also conducted for different fossil fuels consumption for multi-sectors. The results strongly support the existence of multiple convergence clubs. The regional patterns presented here provide new evidence on the carbon emissions gaps between Japanese prefectures, which in turn, helps reveal within-prefecture heterogeneity and yields significant insights on the achievement of policies realized over several decades. Finally, it identifies the characteristics of the prefectures that are reaching their emission targets and those that are falling behind. The results of this study will be used for further studying environmental conflicts and climate justice movements at the local level.

Keywords: Carbon emissions; Club convergence; Climate change policies; Dynamic factor mode

Yorbana Seign-goura - University of Neuchatel

Just Energy Transition in three African Extractive States: Challenges and Recommendations

This research project addresses the questions how African extractive states are tackling challenges of energy transition to low carbon economies and how they should strive for a just energy transition, given the context of climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. The investigation focuses on three countries in sub-Saharan Africa: Chad, Senegal and Tanzania. The question is to what kind of energy transition – to a “just energy transition” that is both economically and ethically reasonable? Drawing on transition studies, it scrutinizes its economic and social policies and practices and articulates its implied ethical assumptions. This multidisciplinary approach will provide insights on energy transition from an African perspective and can show how the global issue of energy transitions is dealt with in the specific context of sub-Saharan Africa.

Keywords: Just energy transition, sub-Saharan Africa, African extractive states, challenge

Liz Rejane Issberner - Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology (IBICT)

The rise of agribusiness to political power: the emergence of environmental neoliberalism in Brazil

Extractivism, capitalism and colonialism are the three keys explaining the "civilizational processes" in Brazil. Globalized food chains try to find supplies at minimal cost, thus encouraging extractivism in the Global South. The consequence is a conflict of resistance with indigenous peoples and traditional communities, who lose their lands to agribusiness, mining, etc. Extractivism is only sustained when inserted into the colonizing model that depends on the power of the local elite to dominate the territories and exploit their occupants, in a process of systematic destruction of the non-capitalist structures. The aim of this article is to critically examine the modus operandi of agribusiness, the largest political force in Brazil. The agribusiness congressional bloc had 43.3% of total parliamentary members in the Brazilian Congress in 2019. The peak of the extractivist political dominance is in the Bolsonaro government, winner of the presidential elections in 2019, thanks to the support of this political group. As a result, the tradeoff between agribusiness expansion and environmental preservation has become increasingly favorable to agribusiness. This article combines theoretical perspectives on extractivism to relate both environmental destruction and violence (physical and epistemic) against local peoples as an inescapable phenomenon of global capitalist domination project. After establishing the social and historical context of the rise of agribusiness in Brazil, a literature review on extractivism will be presented, based on studies by Latin American authors (Acosta, Aráoz, Escobar, Gudynas, Mignolo) provide the analytical framework for discussions of this process in Brazil. The analysis points to a well-orchestrated strategy of environmental neoliberalism, which involves attacking existing environmental protection policies and tolerating crimes against the environment and indigenous peoples. All this is in line with the global logic of capital accumulation, where Brazil and other former colonies remained as extractive powers, supplying the Global North with primary products.

Keywords: extractivism; capitalism; Brazil; social-environmental conflicts

Naina Nerli

Achieving energy security by renewable sources of energy policy trends in developing sustainable energy in India

The earth, the air, the land and the water are not an inheritance from our fore fathers but on a loan from our children. So we have to handover to them at least as it been handed over to us. -Mahatma Gandhi This saying of Mahatma Gandhi way back, almost seven decades ago is becoming all the more relevant with each passing day. In a race to achieve progress and be developed, we have ignored the impact of industrialization and environmental degradation. It is the responsibility of each and every individual towards our planet, irrespective of where we live. We all belong to the earth first, and not that the earth belongs to us. Since ages India has believed in this and has always been committed to participate in support of efforts to save the environment on a global scale. Recently India has been on the forefront to ratify the Paris agreement on climate change with the United Nations. India is going through a conflicting time. It has to meet the growing energy demands by millions of people for basic needs on one hand and on the other hand needs to avoid harm to the vulnerable ecosystem. The need of the hour is to put economic development on a climate- friendly path that meets the demands of the present without imperilling the needs of the future. The Government of India from time to time is taking steps to combat environment and economics so as to mutually reinforce each other. Government has taken various initiatives for energy conservation, increasing energy efficiency and development of renewable sources of energy to reduce the wide gap between Indias energy production and energy consumption. This paper will highlight Indias efforts to ensure energy self sufficiency so as to have energy access to all by 2022, the policy initiatives which needs to be taken , importance of peoples awareness and participation to overcome energy crisis and help achieve sustainable development.

Keywords: Importance of people's awareness and participation, Energy crisis, Sustainable development

Katri Vihma - University of Helsinki

On the possibilities and preconditions for realising dialogues across epistemological and ontological boundaries

The decolonial theory, which criticises the colonial power relations embedded in modernity (Mignolo 2000), famously strives for a pluriverse, 'a world where many worlds fit' (Escobar 2015). This idea has a clear ontological dimension as it demands equal respect for not only diverse knowledges, but also for the existing worlds they articulate (ibid.; Conway and Singh 2011). Encounters between worlds are, however, far from unproblematic: besides ontological plurality's potential to spark dialogues across differences (Da Costa Marques 2014), these encounters can also threaten particular cosmovisions' right to exist (Escobar 2015). My paper focuses on these encounters by examining both the possibilities and preconditions for carrying out dialogues across epistemological and ontological boundaries. I aim to do this by communicating with an antiextractivist form of governance, the International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature. My particular focus is on its regional European Tribunal "In Defense of Aquatic Ecosystems" whose hearings were held online during the spring of 2021. These hearings provide a platform for people with various knowledges and worldviews to engage in conversation. Rather than objectifying the Tribunal and extracting unilaterally information (Santos 2018) from it, I aspire to conduct my research as reciprocally and reflexively as possible, with an aim to 'know with' (ibid.) and hopefully also co-construct knowledge with it. In practice, this means not following any fixed theoretical blueprints but instead relating (Blaser 2010) to the Tribunal and exploring how my research could potentially contribute to its struggle for environmental and restorative justice. To summarise, this work in progress aims to increase understanding on the possibilities and preconditions for realising dialogues across epistemological and ontological boundaries at two, intertwined levels: at the level of theory (by exploring a nonextractivist methodology) and at the level of practice (by learning from and hopefully also with a decolonial, antiextractivist alternative).

Keywords: cognitive justice; nonextractivist research; ontological justice; pluriversality

Hanna Lempinen - University of Lapland

Resource affects in Arctic politics

Natural resources are predominantly discussed through the vocabularies of science, technology, economy and high politics, the emphasis being on their calculable value. These techno-scientific rationalities forcibly sideline affective elements that are intimately present in all resource-related societal debates. This much less recognized affective side sets into motion political and social processes that go far beyond the material resources themselves and their envisioned profits. In this presentation, we explicitly focus on these often ignored entwinements between affects and resource-based developments through bringing together two distinct but at the same time resonant case studies from the Euro-Arctic region. In both of these cases, natural resources either already are or are expected to become the cornerstone of formal economies. The first case focuses on the energy resources of the Barents region; the second explores Greenland's pursuit of economic and political self-sufficiency through its (potentially) vast mineral resources. While these cases differ in terms of their geographical scope, timeline and the resources in question, they share striking similarities in the ways affective elements constitute an integral part of societal debates revolving around planned, desired and contested resource-developments. Through a loose comparison of the resource-related debates unfolding in Greenland and in the Barents region, we align with scholarship that has recognised the importance that affects have in relation to resources and to the societies that use and produce them. We aim to diversify the meaning of affects in resource-related scholarly debates and open up a discussion on their political value.

Keywords: resources, affects, Barents region, Greenland

Sudeep Budhaditya Deb

Natural Resources, Participation and Communities: An Hypothesized Framework for a Change Hierarchy

Participatory Forest (or broadly, natural resource) management is a stakeholder-oriented participatory approach against some accruable benefits. A study of some select participatory natural resource management regimes indicate that motivational drivers necessary to sustain stakeholder interest in such, changes with time following a sequential hierarchy of hardship avoidance, tangible benefits, empowerment, intangibles and pure volition. This hierarchic progression however is in no way unidirectional, but can be both progressive and retrogressive simultaneously depending upon the impacts from varied external stimuli. The proposed hierarchy evolves each time through these impact stabilizations and in the process becomes adept to wider range of socio-cultural, etc. parameters. Based upon these observations a hypothesized framework is being posited to understand this change dynamics better. In the long run, propositions made herein are posited to have wider significances that may even be applicable in the peoples participatory dimensions in spontaneous social activism, social movements or social uprisings in the arena of conservation and restoration of natural resources. To understand the behavioural intentions for a participant to be conducive for the development of motivation towards participating constructively in a NRMR, the aspect of extrinsic and intrinsic motivational factors leading to such were studied. The insight gained therefrom leads to an understanding of a structural transitory hierarchic model of needs and its subsequent satisfaction. Alongside these cognitive dimensions, a study of the modernisation and transition theories provided an insight into the social process of stage by stage change in the societal wants and attributes as a society or a community transits through the prescribed stages. Both the cognitive criterion and the social development transitionary stages together appear to be impacting the motivating drivers responsible for the fruitful participation in the management and conservation of natural resources and its successful regeneration, with peoples involvement.

To test this concept further, a comparative analysis of cases from across the world were examined. The analysis yielded examples of change in motivational factors to sustain participants interests in a NRMR, as the same aged or evolved with time. Hence the need arose to develop a frame-work to better understand this dynamic process. Using a methodology of comparative case studies, focussed upon the afore-mentioned theoretical presumptions, a hierarchic model of progressive transition of community motivators was derived. Thereafter through the theoretical application of the concept of dissipative structures, a hierarchical panarchic framework was arrived at, finally culminating in the derivation of a proposed infinite loop. This hypothetical framework, so proposed, attempts to understand the dynamics of the progressive and retrogressive forces acting upon the motivational cognate in the participatory component in a Natural Resource Management Regime (NRMR).

Keywords: Participatory Forest Management, participation, motivational drivers, hierarchic progression, Transition Theories.

Jennifer Hinton

Changing the Narrative and Shifting the Institutions: Exploring Concrete Possibilities Beyond Capitalism

The Great Financial Crisis of 2007, the worsening ecological crises, and the current pandemic have exposed systemic dysfunctions of the capitalist economy. As a result, there is increasing support for the idea that the economy should serve people and planet, not the other way around. Yet, it remains unclear what kinds of formal institutions might offer the basis for a truly sustainable economy. In this paper, I explore the idea that not-for-profit (NFP) types of business provide the building blocks for a sustainable market economy beyond capitalism. Not-for-profit businesses sell goods and services in the market, but differ from their for-profit counterparts in important ways. A market economy composed of not-for-profit businesses – a not-for-profit market economy - would have very different dynamics than for-profit economies. First, there are no private financial rights in not-for-profit businesses, so none of the profit can be distributed to private owners. On the larger scale, this means that no one would accumulate wealth through business ownership in an NFP economy. The social benefit purpose of NFP business means that all of the surplus in such an economy would be used for social and ecological needs. Furthermore, it would better align with policies aimed at protecting people and ecosystems. At the very least, there would not be a built-in incentive to exploit people and the planet for private financial gain, as there is in the for-profit economy. As for-profit business is a defining feature of capitalism, the not-for-profit market offers a concrete way of organizing the economy beyond the traditional spectrum of capitalism and the state-planned economy. It is not a panacea, but it can offer a realistic way out of the path dependencies and unsustainable system dynamics of the extractive for-profit economy.

Keywords: Sustainable economy, Post-growth economy, Relationship-to-profit, Not-for-profit

Corinna Casi & Siddharth Jayaprakash - Casi: University of Helsinki / University of Lapland. Jayaprakash: Aalto University School of Engineering.

Is 3Dprinting a possible alternative to extractivism?

Well aware that it is not possible to change the world overnight, this paper aims to criticize extractivism not only as a form of resource extraction of a high magnitude but mainly as a mindset, as a way of thinking, as a domination over nature and other human beings as Anna Willow claims. I propose to bring examples from Additive Manufacturing (AM), commonly known as 3D printing, in order not to contribute to extractivism and mainly to avoid the unnecessary use of resources, for instance avoid massive resource extractions. Upgrading of products is also one of the cases I bring to the forum as a method which does not use new resources, which need to be extracted, but rather improve products already existing in the market. I do not want to propose a new economic system, but rather to offer alternatives which are feasible already in this current system which use less resources. My contribution with this paper is to show that alternatives to massive extraction of resources are possible as well as another relationship with nature and with other citizens of the world. I refer to a relationship of more respect toward nature where we extract only if and when we need. When do we really need to exact and how much we need to extract? These are the difficult questions to reply and the quantities concerning the amount to extract is not easy to define but we think that already posing those questions in this state of affairs - a world of "extractive imperialism" for some (Veltmeyer and Petras 2005) - is a step forward and an attempt not to increase extractivism but rather to resist it.

Keywords: extractivism, 3D printing, relation with nature, alternative solutions

Sohvi Kangasluoma - University of Helsinki

Making of the Arctic dream - The affective dimension of resources in the Arctic strategies

The (assumed) energy resources in the north are playing a significant role in the Arctic policies and strategies, laying the ground for their economic, societal and environmental ambitions. In an era defined by the global climate crisis, the Arctic policies become increasingly important, yet the identities built on the extraction of natural resources are harder to maintain. This article focuses on the Arctic strategies of the five Arctic coastal countries. We are curious what kind of ideas of the northern resources are the strategies built on, and related to that, how do the strategies discuss their energy potential? We approach the strategies by looking at the affective level of these documents - aiming to shift the focus of rationally and economically calculative and strategic resource utilization discussion to their affective, emotional dimensions. Instead of focusing on “objective” techno-scientific emphasis we examine how affects are utilized in the establishment and promotion of Arctic policy goals laid out in the strategies. This paper argues that the elusive yet alluring idea of the endless natural resources in the Arctic is shaped by encouraging certain affective states. We are curious how will the states construct their identity in a situation where those affective commitments and aspirations will remain unfulfilled, yet continue to live in their hopes and dreams.

Keywords: Arctic, affect, natural resources, strategies

Erwin Alejandro

What is the role of participatory territorial planning for recovering the biocultural heritage practices an environment?

Spatial planning of rural areas in Mexico is often conducted by environmental agencies from the Mexican government, technicians, or environmental sciences experts. The examined areas are classified based on the quality of environment or the economical value of natural resources. However, such studies often lack inhabitant's participation, cultural values, and relationships with nature. Instead, they are influenced by geopolitical agenda and focused on the development and transformation of areas for extractivism, urbanization, expansion of industrial areas, and energy generation. The indigenous and rural communities in Mexico inhabit four-fifths of the total forest. Therefore, it is crucial to change the paradigm of the old practices for spatial planning to construct a novel framework in collaboration with the local communities. Participatory territorial planning has been an alternative tool utilized for different communities that actively defend their territories against extractivism. The novel practice involves active participation of all community members based on their genuine relationship with nature, worldviews, and culture. Different methodologies and workshops are developed based on the community wants and needs. The ancestral remembrance is transmitted to younger generations. Recovering from the biocultural heritage, ancient forms of growing food, empowering gender equity and disaster risk reduction, are some achievements of applying participatory territorial planning. The success became possible because act as means of direct participation in horizontal decision-making, based on their internal regulations and agreements, assemblies, indigenous self-government, and autonomous direct participation system. Therefore, participatory territorial planning addresses socio-ecological and climate change issues, and it is beneficial for communities to exchange experiences and practices aimed at mitigating their negative consequences.

Keywords: Biocultural heritage, indigenous, extractivism, alternative.

Filipe Calvao - Graduate Institute of Geneva (IHEID)

Synthetic nature: Lab-grown gemstones and the future of extraction

Natural gemstones are now being mass-produced in laboratories. The technology for making synthetic minerals has been available since the 19th century, but it was not until the 1990s that Chemical-Vapor Deposition (CVD) and High-Pressure, High-Temperature (HPHT) techniques made serious inroads on an industrial scale. Partially enabled by energy improvements, technological advancements, and lowering prices in HPHT and CVD techniques, start-up companies dedicated to manufacturing synthetic diamonds and other gemstones have sprouted over the last decade across Europe, Asia and North America, posing a significant commercial and existential risk to the global extractive industry. In March 2015, the worlds largest diamonds producers met at Rio Tintos headquarters in London to discuss the fake gems issue, or the increasing threat posed by laboratory-grown diamonds. Four years later, soon after entering the lab-grown fashion jewelry market, the diamond corporate group De Beers announced a 40% drop in sales of natural diamonds, and other mining producers reported declining commodity prices. Lab-grown diamonds are on target to outpace the mined industry in the near future, and a plethora of other minerals and metals are being produced for jewelry and industrial purposes through multiple techniques, including flame fusion, flux and hydrothermal growth. Drawing from research in laboratories producing man-made gemstones as well as other certification and grading laboratories, this paper takes stock of these transformations to interrogate the material boundaries between natural and synthetic minerals and to assess the future of the extractive industry. How are these synthetic gemstones distinct from natural ones with identical physical properties? What specific attributes (material, ethical, or human) make legible these man-made or lab-grown minerals? More broadly, how do these transformations and the possibility of producing nature in laboratories challenge extractive logics and a century premised on the artificial scarcity of natural products?

Keywords: lab-grown; synthetic; gemstones; diamonds; mining futures

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