

## Interdisciplinary Programmes

Academic year 2018 - 2019

## Global Extraction Networks

### MINT093- Autumn- 6 ECTS

#### Course Description

The unprecedented rate of energy consumption and natural resource extraction invite a discussion on the contested politics of extraction and the ecology of natural wealth in the global economy. This seminar examines the assemblages of actors, institutions and infrastructures relevant to the global production of energy and mining. Drawing from readings in anthropology, political ecology and political geography, the course is focused on the cultural and human significance of resource extraction and energy production alongside the following themes: commoditization of nature, environmental politics and indigenous rights, mining corporations and extractive industries, materiality and energy infrastructures, and the commodity chain of minerals, metals and hydrocarbons.

#### > PROFESSOR

Filipe Calvão  
[filipe.calvao@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:filipe.calvao@graduateinstitute.ch)

[Office hours](#)

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#### > ASSISTANT

Simon Lobach  
[simon.lobach@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:simon.lobach@graduateinstitute.ch)

[Office hours](#)

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## Syllabus

Course readings draw primarily from perspectives in anthropology, political ecology and political geography. While alluding to environmental policy and community-based resource management, the course is mainly focused on the cultural and human significance of resource extraction and energy production alongside the following themes: commoditization of nature, environmental politics and indigenous rights, mining corporations and extractive industries, materiality and infrastructure. Classes will include a mix of mini-lectures, seminar discussions, group presentations, invited guest lectures, and case studies analysis.

The first section of the course (Weeks 1-6) introduces the assemblage of infrastructures, processes and actors enabling the global production of energy and natural resource extraction. The second section (Weeks 7-10) will focus more specifically on metals, and mineral supply chains, with an eye toward new digital technologies for tracking and traceability. The third and final section of the course will examine the global mechanisms, institutional processes and organizations governing the extractive and energy industries. It concludes with a reflection on new, emergent alliances of conservation and activism and the future of nature for humans and non-humans.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Identify the main actors, governance structures, national and international organizations of energy production and natural resource extraction (hydrocarbons and mining).
- Compare local, national, and regional contexts in terms of rentier economies, neo-patrimonialism, dependency and depletion, offshore and onshore extraction, boom and bust cycles, energy security, risk and bio-safety.
- Critically evaluate emerging regulatory and monitoring mechanisms in the global turn toward transparency, accountability, ethical and social responsibility.
- Assess new practices of advocacy and activism, sustainability and environmental justice in mining and energy contexts, and their relevance for the study of ethnicity, indigeneity, or nationalism.
- Gain familiarity with data visualization techniques such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), online and digital tools such as the blockchain technology for tracking mineral supply chains.

## Procedures, Assignments, Evaluation

Completing the assigned readings and critically engaging the texts during class discussions is a prerequisite to successfully attend this seminar. Additional guidelines for completion of these assignments will be provided in class. The Graduate Institute is a bilingual institution. Lectures will be held in English but participation in class can take place in French, and written assignments may be submitted in French.

Depending on course enrolment and student interest, one tutorial session on GIS will be organized.

- a) Participation: 15%
- b) Online Data Practicum: 15%
- c) In-class presentation: 20%
- d) Research paper 50%

### a) Participation.

This seminar is structured around close readings of the texts, and informed contributions to class discussions count toward participation. Presence is mandatory and students should come ready to discuss the texts. Absences should be communicated in advance by email and more than two unexcused absences will lower the grade.

Questions and comments on the readings submitted to Moodle (no later than by midnight on the eve of each session, i.e. Tuesday night) will count toward participation.

### b) Online Data Practicum

In an effort to open class discussions to a wider public, we will be collectively creating an online archive on issues related to global resource extraction. Each student will help collect, organize, and make available online themes and original texts. This exercise will allow students to assess existing online resources (data collection) and explore visual tools for dissemination. Each student should make at least one online contribution.

### c) In-class presentation.

Once throughout the semester, each student will be responsible for a presentation on one text or a theme to be discussed with the instructor. The syllabus provides a list of suggested readings. The presentation should explore thoroughly and critically a specific facet of the problem at hand as well as provide an individual handout (with additional references).

d) Research paper:

This assignment constitutes the main evaluation element and is composed of several elements. By parsing out this assignment throughout the semester, students will have the opportunity to prepare, discuss, collect feedback, and adequately research the paper. You may investigate, for example, an event relevant to the theme of the course (e.g. Ok Tedi Mine accident; Dakota Access Pipeline protests), a comprehensive overview of local, national or regional contexts (e.g. Nigerian delta, mineral extraction in North Kivu, petro-politics of the Gulf of Guinea); an institution (e.g.: national or multinational corporation; international agency; international financial institution); or regulatory initiative (e.g. Kimberley Process, EITI); or an object with a mineral or metal component.

Additional instructions will be provided in class, but prepare to follow the following steps:

i) **Abstract and Research Question (1 page)**. Present the topic or case study you plan to investigate. You are in no way committed to this choice, but the abstract should offer an approximation to your personal and/or academic interests. Make sure to include 4-5 relevant keywords. Key to this exercise is a well-defined research question, narrowed down to a feasible analytical and empirical study. What is the puzzle or problem about the site, theme, actor(s) or institutions you chose to study? Due week 4.

iii) **Research proposal (2 pages)**. Expanding on the research question, what data is necessary to answer your research question (primary evidence, media or archival sources, secondary literature)? How do you plan to collect and analyze it? Make sure to include methodology and provisional bibliography. Due week 9.

iv) **Final paper (15-20 pages, double-spaced, font 12)**. How is your research informed, contribute to, or contradict a broader theoretical and thematic literature (covered in class)? Make sure to substantiate with evidence the theoretical claims of your paper, using terms and concepts with precision and providing adequate contextualization of the actors whose practices or initiatives your paper seeks to understand. Due week 14.

The following edited volumes offer an approximation to a wide variety of topics and regional areas. While selections from these readings will not be included for class discussions, they provide an invaluable instrument and source of information to elaborate your research proposal.

- Appel, Mason and Watts (ed.). 2015. Subterranean Estates. Life Worlds of Oil and Gas.
- Bebbington, Anthony, Bury, Jeffrey (ed.). 2013. Subterranean Struggles: New Dynamics of Mining, Oil, and Gas in Latin America.
- Dolan and D. Rajak (ed). 2016. The Anthropology of Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Humphreys, Sachs, and Stiglitz (ed.) 2007. Escaping the Resource Curse.
- Sawyer, Suzana and Terence Gomez (ed.). 2012. The Politics of Resource Extraction: Indigenous Peoples, Corporations and the State.
- Strauss, Sarah, Stephanie Rupp, and Thomas Love (ed.). 2013. Cultures of energy: power, practices, technologies.

## Provisional Weekly schedule (readings available on Moodle)

### I. GLOBAL EXTRACTION NETWORKS: ACTORS, INSTITUTIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURES

#### **Week 1 – September 19**

#### **POLITICS OF RESOURCE EXTRACTION: NATURE AND CAPITALISM**

##### Readings

- Coronil, F. 2000. "Towards a Critique of Globalcentrism: Speculations on Capitalism's Nature"

## **Week 2 – September 26**

### WHAT IS A RESOURCE? MATERIAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

#### Readings

- Richardson, Tanya, and Gisa Weszkalnys. 2014 Introduction: Resource Materialities. *Anthropological Quarterly* 87(1):5-30.
- Taussig, Michael. 1980. "The Devil in the Mines" in *The Devil and Commodity Fetishism in South America* (pp. 143-154)
- Ozden-Schilling, Canay. 2015. Economy Electric. *Cultural Anthropology*, 30(4), pp. 578-588

Movie (in-class): passages from "The Devil's Miner" (2005)

## **Week 3 – October 3**

### RESOURCE TEMPORALITIES, EXPECTATIONS AND FUTURES

#### Readings

- Ferry, Elizabeth E. and Mandana E Limbert. 2008. *Timely Assets: The Politics of Resources and Their Temporalities*. (Introduction)
- Weszkalnys, Gisa. 2015. Geology, Potentiality, Speculation: On the Indeterminacy of "First Oil." *Cultural Anthropology* 30 (4).
- Walsh, A. 2012. "After the Rush: Living with Uncertainty in a Malagasy Mining Town", *Africa* 82(2), pp. 235-51.

#### Suggested:

- Smith, James. 2011. Tantalus in the Digital Age: Coltan Ore, temporal dispossession, and 'movement' in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, pp. 17-33.

## **Week 4 – October 10**

### ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURES AND POWER NETWORKS

#### Readings:

- Mitchell, Timothy. 2011. *Carbon Democracy: Political Power in the Age of Oil*.
- Barry, Andrew. 2013. *Material Politics: Disputes Along the Pipeline*.

#### Suggested

- Boyer, Dominic. 2014 Energypower: An Introduction. *Anthropological Quarterly* 87(2):309-334.

## **Week 5 – October 17**

### RESOURCE SOVEREIGNTY: COLLISION AND FRICTION

#### Readings

- Kirsch, Stuart. 2014 *Mining Capitalism: The Relationship Between Corporations and their Critics*.
- Tsing, Anna. 2005. *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*. (Introduction)

#### Suggested:

- Ballard, Chris, and Glenn Banks. 2003 Resource Wars: The Anthropology of Mining. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 32:287-313.

## **Week 6 – October 24**

### MANAGING RISK, SCIENCE AND SECURITY: OFFSHORE, DEEPWATER OIL AND FRACKING

#### Readings

- Ferguson, James. 2005. Seeing like an Oil Company: Space, Security and Global Capital in

Neoliberal Africa. *American Anthropologist*, 107(3), pp. 377-382.

- Bond, David. 2013 Governing Disaster: The Political Life of the Environment during the BP Oil Spill. *Cultural Anthropology* 28(4):694-715.
- Szeman, I. 2013. What the frack? Combustible water and other late capitalist novelties. *Radical Philosophy*, 177, 2–7.

Suggested

- Button, Gregory. 2010 Disaster Culture: Knowledge and Uncertainty in the Wake of Human and Environmental Catastrophe (“A Gulf of Uncertainty”)
- Appel, Hannah. 2012. Offshore Work: Oil, Modularity, and the How of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. *American Ethnologist* 39 (4): 692-709.
- Willow, A., & Wylie, S. 2014. Politics, ecology, and the new anthropology of energy: Exploring the emerging frontiers of hydraulic fracking. *Journal of Political Ecology*, 21, 222–236

## PART II – COMMODITY CHAINS: METALS, MINERALS, AND HYDROCARBONS

### **Week 7 – October 31**

RARE METALS: LITHIUM VALUE CHAIN

Guest lecture: Prof. Marc Hufty (TBC)

### **Week 8 – November 7**

PRECIOUS MINERALS: FROM CONFLICT TO CLEAN DIAMONDS?

Guest lecture: Prof. Lindsay Bell (TBC)

Readings

- Bell, Lindsay. 2018. Soft Skills, Hard Rocks: Making Diamonds Ethical in Canada’s Northwest Territories.
- Van Bockstael, S. 2018. The emergence of conflict-free, ethical, and Fair Trade mineral supply chain certification systems: A brief introduction, *Extractive Industries and Society*, 5(1)

Suggested readings

- Carrier, James G. 2010. “Protecting the Environment the Natural Way: Ethical Consumption and Commodity Fetishism.” *Antipode*, 42: 672–689
- Mutersbaugh, T., & Lyon, S. 2010. “Transparency and democracy in certified ethical commodity networks.” *Geoforum*, 41(1), 27-32.

### **Week 9 – November 14**

NEW EXTRACTIVE FRONTIERS: BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

Readings

- Calvão, F. 2019. “Crypto-Miners: Digital Labor and the Power of Blockchain Technology”, *Economic Anthropology* 6(1).
- Maurer, Bill. “Blockchains are a Diamond’s Best Friend. Zelizer for the Bitcoin moment, in Bandelj, Nina, Frederick F. Wherry, Viviana A. Zelizer (ed.), *Money Talks: Explaining How Money Really Works*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2017.

## PART III – EXTRACTION AND GOVERNANCE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### **Week 10 – November 21**

RETHINKING THE RESOURCE CURSE

### Readings

- Gilberthorpe, Emma and Dinah Rajak. 2017. The Anthropology of Extraction: Critical Perspectives on the Resource Curse. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 53(2), pp. 186-204.
- Watts, Michael. 2004 Resource Curse? Governmentality, Oil, and Power in the Niger Delta, Nigeria. *Geopolitics* 9(1):50-80.
- Gilles Carbonnier et al. 2011. Global and Local Policy Responses to the Resource Trap. *Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations*: April-June 2011, Vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 247-264.

### **Week 11 – November 28**

#### INDIGENEITY AND ETHNICITY

Guest lecture: Seign-goura Yorbana (TBC)

### Readings

- Muehlmann, Shaylih. 2013. Where the River Ends: Contested Indigeneity in the Mexican Colorado Delta. (Chapter 2)
- Comaroff, John L., and Jean Comaroff. 2009. *Ethnicity, Inc.*
- Sawyer, Suzana. 2004. Crude Chronicles. Indigenous Politics, Multinational Oil, and Neoliberalism in Ecuador (selections).

### **Week 12 – December 5**

#### CORPORATE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### Readings

- Rajak, Dinah. 2011. In Good Company: an Anatomy of Corporate Social Responsibility (selections).
- Golub, Alex. 2014 Leviathans at the Gold Mine: Creating Indigenous and Corporate Actors in Papua New Guinea (selections).
- Welker, Marina. 2014. Enacting the Corporation. An American Mining Firm in Post-Authoritarian Indonesia (chapter 1)

### **Week 13 – December 12**

#### NEW ALLIANCES: CONSERVATION, ACTIVISM, DEVELOPMENT

### Readings

- Cepek, M. 2018. Life in Oil. Cofán Survival in the Petroleum Fields of Amazonia.
- Coumans, Catherine. 2011 Occupying Spaces Created by Conflict: Anthropologists, Development NGOs, Responsible Investment, and Mining. *Current Anthropology* 52(S3):S29-S43.
- Li, Fabiana. 2015. Unearthing Conflict. Corporate Mining, Activism, and Expertise in Peru.

### **Week 14 – December 19**

Overview of course topics and discussion of final papers

### **ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED READINGS:**

#### Week 1

- Williams, Raymond. Keywords. A Vocabulary of Culture and Society. ["Ecology", "Nature"].
- Raffles, Hugh. 1999. "Local Theory: Nature and the Making of an Amazonian Place", *Cultural Anthropology*, 14(3) pp. 323-360

#### Week 2

- Ingold, Tim. 2012 Toward an Ecology of Materials. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 41(427-442).

- Rolston, Jessica Smith. 2013 The Politics of Pits and the Materiality of Mine Labor: Making Natural Resources in the American West. *American Anthropologist* 115(4).
- Mintz, S. 1985. *Sweetness and Power. The Place of Sugar in Modern History.*

#### Week 3

- Ferguson, James. 1999. Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life on the Zambia Copperbelt.
- Breglia, Lisa. 2013 Living with Oil: Promises, Peaks, and Declines on Mexico's Gulf Coast.
- Frynas, J. G. et al. 2017. "The Resource Curse without Natural Resources: Expectations of Resource Booms and their impact." *African Affairs*, 116(463), pp. 233-260
- Appel, H. C. 2012. Walls and white elephants: Oil extraction, responsibility, and infrastructural violence in Equatorial Guinea. *Ethnography*, 13, 439–465.
- Mains, Daniel. 2012. Blackouts and Progress: Privatization, Infrastructure, and a Developmentalist State in Jimma, Ethiopia. *Cultural Anthropology* 27 (1): 3-27
- Larkin, Brian. 2013 The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 42:327-343.

#### Week 4

- Bridge, Gavin, 2013. Resource Geographies II: The Resource-State Nexus. *Progress in Human Geography* 38 (1): 118-130.
- Emel, Huber and Makene. 2011. Extracting Sovereignty: Capital, Territory, and Gold Mining in Tanzania. *Political Geography* 30 (2): 70-77.
- Apter, Andrew. 2005. *The Pan-African Nation: Oil and the Spectacle of Culture in Nigeria.*

#### Week 5

- Apter, Andrew. 2005. *The Pan-African Nation: Oil and the Spectacle of Culture in Nigeria.*
- Coronil, Fernando. 1997. *The Magical State: Nature, Money, and Modernity in Venezuela.* (pp. 4-12; 55-66; 111-116; 388-394)

#### Week 6

- Doevenspeck, Martin. 2007 Lake Kivu's Methane Gas: Natural Risk, or Source of Energy and Political Security. *Africa Spectrum* 42(1):95-110.
- Fortun, Kim. 2001. Advocacy After Bhopal: Environmentalism, Disaster, New Global Orders.
- Gusterson, Hugh. 1998. Nuclear Rites. A Weapons Laboratory at the End of the Cold War.
- Allison, Anne. Precarious Japan. ("Pain of Life"; "In the Mud")
- Petryna, Adriana. Life Exposed. Biological Citizens after Chernobyl.
- Masco, Joseph. 2004. "Mutant Ecologies: Radioactive Life in Post-Cold War New Mexico" *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 19 (4), pp. 517-550.
- Berit Kristoffersen, Stephen Young. 2010. Geographies of security and statehood in Norway's 'Battle of the North. *Geoforum* 41, pp. 577–584
- Grove, Kevin. 2012. Preempting the Next Disaster: Catastrophe Insurance and the Financialization of Disaster Management. *Security Dialogue* 43 (2): 139-155.
- Rogers, Douglas. 2015. Oil and Anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology.*
- Reed, Kristin. 2009. Crude Existence: Environment and the Politics of Oil in Northern Angola.
- Behrends, Adrea, Stephen Reyna, and Gunther Schlee (ed). 2011. *Crude Domination: An Anthropology of Oil.*
- Campos-Serrano, Alicia. 2013 Extraction Offshore, Politics Inshore, and the Role of the State in Equatorial Guinea. *Africa* 83(2):314-339.
- Chalfin, Brenda. 2015 Governing Offshore Oil: Mapping Maritime Political Space in Ghana and the Western Gulf of Guinea. *South Atlantic Quarterly* 114(1):101-118.

#### Week 8

- Boeck, Filip de. 1998. "Domesticating Diamonds and Dollars: Identity, Expenditure and Sharing in Southwestern Zaire (1984-1997)", *Development and Change*, Vol. 29, pp. 777-810
- Smillie, Ian. 2005. "Criminality and the Global Diamond Trade: A Methodological Case Study", in Schendel, Willem, and Itty Abraham, *Illicit Flows and Criminal Things*, pp. 177-200.
- Babidge, Sally. 2015. "The problem with 'transparency': Moral contests and ethical possibilities in mining impact reporting." *Focaal*: 73, pp. 70-83.
- Hilson, Gavin. 2014. 'Constructing' Ethical Mineral Supply Chains in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Case of Malawian Fair Trade Rubies. *Development and Change* 45(1): 53–78.

#### Week 10

- Billon, Philippe. 2001. The Political Ecology of War: natural resources and armed conflicts. *Political Geography* 20, pp. 561-584.
- Ross, M. 1999. The political economy of the resource curse. *World Politics*, 51, 297–322.
- Rosser, A., 2006. The political economy of the resource curse: A literature survey.
- Hoffman, Danny. 2011 Violence, Just in Time: Work and War in Contemporary West Africa. *Cultural Anthropology* 26(1):34-57.
- Auty, R. 1993. Sustaining development in mineral economies: The resource curse thesis.

#### Week 11

- Donham, Donald. Violence in a Time of Liberation.
- Turner, Terence. 1995. "An indigenous peoples struggle for socially equitable and ecologically sustainable production: the kayapo revolt against extractivism", *Journal of Latin America Anthropology*, Vol. 1 (1), pp. 98-121
- Cepek, Michael. 2012 The Loss of Oil: Constituting Disaster in Amazonian Ecuador. *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 17(3):393-412.
- Watts, M. 2001. Petro-Violence: Community, Extraction, and Political Ecology of a Mythic Commodity.

#### Week 12

- Frynas, J. G. 2010. "Corporate Social Responsibility and Societal Governance: Lessons from Transparency in the Oil and Gas Sector." *Journal of Business Ethics*, 93 (2), pp. 163–179.

#### Week 13

- Cepek, Michael. 2012. "Strange Powers. Conservation, Science and Transparency in an Indigenous Political Project", *Anthropology Today* 28(4), pp. 14-17.