

## Global Studies Research Seminar 2023

# GLOBAL PROTEST: FRONTIERS OF CAPITAL - EXTRACTIVISM, COMMODIFICATION AND RESISTANCE

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16 February & 29 March – Ghent  
20 & 21 April – Amsterdam

A specialist course of the Doctoral Schools of Arts,  
Humanities & Law, and of Social and Behavioural Sciences  
of Ghent University

Co-organised by  
Ghent Centre for Global Studies,  
Transnational Institute,  
International Institute of Social History



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register by sending CV via email  
 [gcs@ugent.be](mailto:gcs@ugent.be)

Participants shall cover their own travel and accommodation expenses

## Global Studies Research Seminar 2023

Over the last two decades, we have witnessed mounting mobilisations worldwide, a global outrage that is only compounded by the devastating and unequal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic – from the Arab Uprisings to the Milk Tea Alliance and pro-democracy occupy movement, from Black Lives Matter and Iranian ‘Women, life, liberty’ to the Global Women’s Strike, from the Youth for Climate movement to the Gilet Jaunes, from massive Indian farmer’s protests to urban movements for the right to housing, from the Imider (Morocco) to the Xolobeni (South-Africa) protests against mining projects and extractivist development, as well as different Alt-right movements and anti-vax or anti-covid-containment mobilisations. In this seminar, we aim to examine different (local or regional) protest movements and their global connections in the light of key global studies themes, including capitalist production and social reproduction, post-development and post-extractivism, democracy and citizenship. We explore the divergences and convergences among these various mobilisations, as well as actual or potential solidarities, including urban-rural alliances and connections across intersections of class, gender and race. Moving from an analysis of resistance to the question of reconstruction, the seminar will also reflect on the transformative counter-power of these different protests and the place of (academic) research in global social change, including ethical challenges and co-creative or action-oriented methodologies.

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**Objectives** - throughout the seminar, PhD students and other participants will:

- 1) gain a critical understanding of different social movements and (interconnected) mobilisations on the local-global scale in relation to key Global Studies themes such as capitalist production and social reproduction, post-development and post-extractivism, democracy and citizenship
- 2) acquire a critical lens to analyse the divergences and convergences among these different forms of resistance, within the framework of local-global processes of marginalization, precarisation, dispossession and exclusion, as well as their transformative potential for reconstruction and system change
- 3) be able to critically reflect on the place of academic knowledge production in global social change, and explore participatory and action-oriented methodologies for conducting Global Studies research in view of social impact, including the ethical challenges involved.

# Global Studies Research Seminar 2023

## Programme

Thursday, 16 February (10:00- 12:00) and Wednesday, 30 March (13:00-16:00) – preparatory sessions at Ghent University

Thursday, 20 April –

Venue: Transnational Institute, De Wittenstraat 25, 1052 AK Amsterdam

Morning session (9:45 to 12:00) panel debate

9:45-10:00 – welcome & introduction by Fiona Dove (TNI)

10:00-11:15 – panel debate

11:15-11:30 – coffee break

11:30-12:00 – Q&A

Key questions for the panel debate:

- What are the drivers of the new waves of extractivism and commodification today?
- How do the new waves of commodification fit into the renewable energy economy? How does it differ from fossil-fuel extractivism?
- How is this commodification enforced and upheld? What is the role of the state?
- How are alternatives proposed, built, and enacted within resistance and protest movements?

Lunch break (12:00-13:30)

Afternoon session (13:30-17:00) – 3 parallel workshops, organised by the participants/students, facilitated by TNI and UGent scholars

13:30-15:00 – workshops part 1

15:00-15:30 – coffee break

15:30-17:00 – workshops part 2

Workshop themes:

- Transition minerals and the new geographies of extraction and production - TNI facilitators: Sol Trumbo Vila and Luciana Ghiotto
- Militarism and extractivism - TNI facilitators: Josephine Valeske & Nick Buxton
- Social reproduction, feminist economies - TNI facilitators: Katie Sandwell and Lavinia Steinfort

# Global Studies Research Seminar 2023

Friday, 21 April –

Venue: International Institute of Social History, Cruquiusweg 31, 1019 AT Amsterdam

Morning session – (9:30-12:00) 4 parallel workshops – part 3

Guided tour to the IISH archives – (9:30-12:00) 4 sessions of a group visit  
12:00-13:30 – lunch break

Afternoon session (13:30-16:00) closing plenary

13:30-14:30 – presentation of the workshop outcomes by the participants

14:30-14:45 – coffee break

14:45-16:00 – closing panel debate – seminar conclusions and ways forward

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## Readings and resources

- Bayat A (2013) *Life as Politics: How Ordinary People Change the Middle East*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Burawoy M. (2015) Facing an unequal world. *Current Sociology*, 63(1):5-34.
- Cai, Y. (2021). Social Movements in Hong Kong. *Issues & Studies*, 57(03).  
<https://doi.org/10.1142/s1013251121500090>
- Temper L., del Bene D. and Martinez-Alier, J. (2015) Mapping the frontiers and front lines of global environmental justice: the EJAtlas. *Journal of Political Ecology* 22: 255-278. See also an online resource: The Global Atlas of Environmental Justice: [www.ejatlus.org](http://www.ejatlus.org).
- Aouragh, M. and Hamouchene H. eds. (2021) *The Arab Uprisings. A decade on*. Transnational Institute Report (Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung):  
<https://longreads.tni.org/arab-uprisings>
- Ortiz I., Burke S., Berrada M., Cortés H. (2022) *World Protests. A Study of Key Protest Issues in the 21st Century*. Palgrave MacMillan, IDP Columbia University, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. See also an online resource:  
<https://worldprotests.org/>.

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## Registration

PhD students who wish to participate in this Global Studies Research Seminar are requested to register by sending their CVs to [gcs@ugent.be](mailto:gcs@ugent.be). The deadline for registration is 30 March. Participation in the seminar is free of charge for Ghent University staff / PhD students. Please note that we do not cover travel or accommodation costs for the trip to Amsterdam.