

Global Studies Research Seminar 2023 – Frontiers of capital - Extractivism, Commodification and Resistance.

20 and 21 April 2023

UGent Centre for Global Studies – TNI – IISH

Overarching questions of the seminar:

- What are the drivers of the new waves of extractivism and commodification today? Where is it happening? Who are the key actors? Who is on the frontline? What are the underlying structures of capital and power that drive the process?
- 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? Of the military, paramilitaries, police? Are these just national structures of coercion or do they have transnational dimensions?
- What tactics, methodologies, ways of organising are being practiced in terms of resistance to commodification? How is the state responding?
- How can we compare different mobilisations – geographically (within one and the same theme) and thematically (across the different thematic mobilisations)?
- What are the local-global dimensions of these mobilisations? Explore transnational connections.
- What are the intersectional dimensions of these mobilisations? Explore actual and potential solidarities and alliances.
- How are alternatives being proposed, built, enacted within resistance and protest movements? What kind of social change is created by and within these mobilisations?
- How can social scientific research contribute to (global) social change in a way that does not reproduce the (global) power hierarchies that are contested in these protests?

3 working groups/ parallel workshop themes:

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

1. Preparatory sessions Ghent University

- 16 February (10:00 – 12:00) with TNI

- Introduction by Eric Vanhaute and Christopher Parker. Introduction to Global Studies research seminar course (10 minutes)
- TNI presentation (online) on the work of the institution and how it works. Elaborate the research process; how is knowledge being produced? Provide a research example to explain how academic research is compared to TNI research. What are some of the challenges? How to work with academics and activists? etc. (20 - 30 minutes)
- Q&A (10 minutes)
- A pitch by the working group leads on their particular subject (3 - 5 minutes each)

----- Break----- (10 minutes)

- Creation of 3 working groups on the 3 topics of the workshops
- What does a good research proposal look like
- Preliminary exploration of key questions per theme (in group)
 - ❖ What are the drivers, actors, processes and dynamics that need to be looked at?
 - ❖ What are the key questions, concepts and debates in academic literature and among social movements?
 - ❖ Identify case studies / angles / focal points
 - ❖ Explore global-local and intersectional dimensions
 - ❖ Divide the work within the group (readings, case studies etc.)

- 29 March (13:00 to 16:00)

Location: Leslokaal 2.24, Blandijn, Campus Boekentoren

- Working session in the 3 working groups preparing for the workshop (facilitated by Eric Vanhaute and Christopher Parker)
- Students develop approaches to writing/communicating the results of research in ways that are relevant and responsive to the practical needs and concerns of people and movements without compromising academic quality

- **Submit a piece of report/ development of a research proposal to TNI facilitators**

2. Seminar Amsterdam TNI & IISH

3 parallel workshops on 3 themes listed above: each workshop consists of 2 parts (Thursday afternoon and Friday morning) – participants choose and prepare for 1 workshop (and do not switch between themes)

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

Panel members:

(tbc)

Thea Riafrancos

Rachel Moussié

Alexander Dunlap

Lunch break (12:00-13:30)

Afternoon session (13:30-17:00) – 4 parallel workshops, organized 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

Role of the TNI workshop facilitators on 20 April

- Review the work of the students from the preparatory sessions

- Bring in specific expertise from TNI as an advocacy network bridging academia and social movements (scholars/activists)
- Suggest critical questions that allow to connect theory to practice/academia to activism and vice-versa – invite reflections on the social impact of academic research and the relevance of perspectives from the ground for academic knowledge and practices
- Making sure the workshop participants stay on point (cf. overarching questions)

Deliverable: A social movement research proposal pitch to TNI

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

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 / students (group work)

A social movement research proposal pitch to TNI

14:30-14:45 – coffee break

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

Panel members:

- Prof. dr. Eric Vanhaute (Ghent University)
- Prof. dr. Christopher Parker (Ghent University)
- Prof. dr. Ulbe Bosma (ISSH)
- Fiona Dove (TNI)

General Readings and resources

- Maeckelbergh M.E. (2011) Doing is believing: Prefiguration as strategic practice in the alterglobalization movement. *Social Movement Studies*, 10 (1): 1-20.
- Burawoy M. (2015) Facing an unequal world. *Current Sociology*, 63(1):5-34.
- Della Porta, D. and Diani, M. (2020). *Social movements: an introduction*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- 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 online resource: The Global Atlas of Environmental Justice: 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>
- Lopez, A. (2021), Neo-extractivism and state violence: Defending the defenders in Latin America <https://longreads.tni.org/stateofpower/neoextractivism-and-state-violence-defending-the-defenders-in-latin-america%E2%80%A8>
- 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 online resource: <https://worldprotests.org/>
- Nick Buxton (2021) ‘10. How is the military and conflict tied up with the oil and extractive economy?’ in *Primer on climate security: The dangers of militarising the climate crisis*, <https://www.tni.org/en/publication/primer-on-climate-security>
- Nnimmo Bassey (2015) ‘We thought it was oil, but it was blood - Resistance to the military-corporate wedlock in Nigeria and beyond’ in *The Secure and the Dispossessed*, https://www.tni.org/files/publication-downloads/018138b_tni_nigeria-resistance.pdf
- Aldo Orellana López (2021) ‘Neoeextractivism and state violence: Defending the defenders in Latin America’, <https://longreads.tni.org/stateofpower/neoeextractivism-and-state-violence-defending-the-defenders-in-latin-america%E2%80%A8>
- Judith Shapiro, John-Andrew McNeish (2021) ‘Our Extractive Age’, <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/oa-edit/10.4324/9781003127611/extractive-age-john-andrew-mcneish-judith-shapiro>
- Alexander Dunlap, Andrea Brock (2022) ‘Enforcing Ecocide’, <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-99646-8>; free introduction: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/361695378_Enforcing_Ecocide_Power_Policing_Planetary_Militarization_Introduction
- Transnational Institute and Statewatch (2022) ‘At what cost? Funding the EU’s security, defence, and border policies, 2021–2027’, <https://eubudgets.tni.org/>
- The Global Extractivisms and Alternatives Initiative (EXALT) (2023) ‘Green extractivism and violent conflict’, <https://blogs.helsinki.fi/exaltconference2021/green-extractivism-violent-conflict/>
- Laboratorio de Paz (2015) ‘The relation between militarisation and extractive industries: antimilitarism and the right to peace from a Latin American standpoint’, <https://wri-irg.org/en/story/2015/relation-between-militarisation-and-extractive-industries-antimilitarism-and-right-peace>