ENERGY “TRANSITION” AND RAW MATERIAL EXTRACTION: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AND GEOLOGISTS

WORKSHOP

Organisation
Quentin Deforge, Université libre de Bruxelles (REPI, SONYA, iiTSE)
Hamed Pourkhorsandi, Université libre de Bruxelles (G-Time) & Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (GET)
09:00-09:15 Welcome remarks
- Hamed Pourkhorsandi (G-Time, ULB; GET, IRD)
- Quentin Deforge (REPI, SONYA, ULB)
- Tom Bauler (iiTSE, ULB)

09:15-10:00 Introduction: Interdisciplinarity between geosciences and social sciences. The Community of Knowledges on "mineral resources and sustainability" experience
- Laurence Maurice (Professor of Geosciences, GET, IRD)

10:00-11:30 Panel 1 - Environmental challenges: sustainability, “green” mining and the ecological impacts of mining
- Anouk Borst (Professor of Geosciences, KU Leuven)
- Liliana Lizarazo-Rodriguez (Professor at the Brussels School of Governance (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
- Nadine Mattielli (Professor of Geosciences, ULB)
- Jöel Baraka Akilimali (Post-doc in Political science, UCLouvain)

11:30-12:00 Coffee and Sandwiches

12:00-01:30 Panel 2 - Economic, political and social challenges: power, employment, and inequalities in mining activities
- Benjamin Rubbers (Professor of Anthropology, Université de Liège)
- Johan Yans (Professor of Geosciences, Université de Namur, ULB)
- Sara Dezalay (Professor of International law and Political sociology, Université catholique de Lille)
In Europe today, the energy transition occurs mainly through developing so-called "green" industries: electric vehicles, wind turbines, and photovoltaic panels. However, these new industries require large quantities of raw materials, such as cobalt, lithium, and rare earths.

While these extractive activities are nothing new for geology researchers or students, they raise new questions: what impact does extraction have on nearby populations? To what extent do these populations benefit from the long-term spin-offs of mining activities, for example, employment? Do these activities give rise, as companies and governments often promise, to local development? These questions have also attracted growing interest in social science departments. More and more researchers and doctoral students are seeking to understand the power relationships between mining companies and local populations or how a European policy for a "mining revival" is shaping up. However, these researchers often need more geological knowledge: how can we understand the differences between different extraction techniques? How are mining investments designed and prepared? What technical options can limit the pollution from a mining site?

The idea behind this workshop is the need for interdisciplinary dialogue between geology and social science researchers. Consequently, it will seek to initiate such a dialogue within the Université libre de Bruxelles and with guests from other Belgian and French universities. The aim will be to approach mining issues from a cross-disciplinary perspective, enabling dialogue to identify points of common interest with a view to future activities.
Practical information

LOCATION
REPI - Université libre de Bruxelles
Institut d'études européennes, Geremek room
39 avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 1050 Bruxelles

ROOM
Geremek

CONTACT
Quentin Deforge, Université libre de Bruxelles (quentin.deforge@ulb.be)
+33(0)7 68 18 29 62

Hamed Pourkhorsandi, Université libre de Bruxelles (hamed.pourkhorsandi@ulb.be)
+32 485 03 95 54

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DIRECTIONS

From Brussels airport to South Station (Bruxelles Midi)
The airport station is located in the basement on level -1. A train leaves every 12 minutes for Brussels South station.

From South station (Bruxelles Midi) to ULB
Take the underground line 6 (towards Elisabeth). Get off at Louise. Then take tram 8 (towards Roodebeek). Get off at Solbosch. Google maps

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+32 (0)2 349 49 49