

The Informalization of Global Gold Production – Comparative Insights

Workshop at IOB (Antwerp), 6-7 December 2018



IOB
Institute of Development Policy
University of Antwerp

The research project

The research project

- 3-year research project funded by Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)
- Promotor: Sara Geenen
- Post-doc: Boris Verbrugge
- PhD-students: Maria Eugenia Robles Mengoa, Simon Marijsse

Dualist views of the gold mining economy

	Artisanal and small-scale gold mining	Corporate gold mining
<i>Main actors</i>	Poor communities	Large mining companies
<i>Driving force</i>	Subsistence	Profit
<i>Type of operations</i>	Rudimentary gold panning and digging	Large open-pit and underground mining activities
<i>Technology use</i>	Minimal	Extensive use of modern technology
<i>Factor intensity</i>	Labour-intensive	Capital-intensive
<i>Regulatory situation</i>	Informal – criminalized by the state	Formal – protected by the state





Diversity...





How large-scale mining can engage with artisanal and small-scale miners

...and connectivity



Aim = understand diversity and connectivity

- Expansion corporate gold mining as well as ASGM as products of trends in global gold mining economy
 - ‘Macro-level’ analysis of trends in **global gold production network**
- Global gold production network ‘touches down’ in particular places
 - ‘Micro-level’ case studies of **gold mining constellations** in DRC, Colombia, Philippines
 - = Dynamic sets of linkages between different modes of gold production and associated systems of labour organization in particular places, which blur the divide between formal and informal, and between small-scale and large-scale.*



THE BOOK

The informalization of global gold production? Understanding informal gold mining in an era of global capitalism.

The book

- Palgrave: proposal for edited volume accepted
- Deadline: December 2019 (final manuscript)
- **Contents:**
 - Introduction
 - Part 1 – Mapping the global gold production network
 - Global production networks, the extractive industries, and informality
 - The globalization of gold mining
 - Whither the expansion of ASGM?
 - The informalization of gold production
 - Part 2 – 8-12 cases (5000-7000 words each):
 - Bring together the wealth of existing empirical evidence at national/regional level
 - Colombia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, DRC, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Guinée, Philippines, Indonesia, *Peru*, *Madagascar*
- **Contributions by June 2019?**

The case studies

- (1) **ASGM-expansion** in relation to broader processes of transformation (in mining sector / society)
 - (2) **Socio-technical transformations in ASGM:** interplay between technological innovation and systems of revenue-sharing and labor organization, -recruitment, and -control
 - (3) Interaction between different modes of gold production in **gold mining constellations**
- Should the empirical focus of the case studies be on ASGM-expansion per se, or on gold mining constellations?

Organization of the workshop

Thursday, December 6

Friday, December 7

9:30	Introduction <i>Boris Verbrugge, Sara Geenen</i>
10:00	GOLD MATTERS: Exploring transformations to sustainability in ASGM <i>Eleanor Fisher, Sabine Luning, Robert Pijpers</i>
10:45	Break
11:00	Diversity and connectivity in the global gold mining economy <i>Boris Verbrugge</i>
12:00	Lunch
13:00	Brazil <i>Marjo de Thelje</i>
13:30	Colombia <i>Alexandra Úran, Maria Eugenia Robles</i>
14:15	In-depth Geopolitics in Ghana <i>Robert Pijpers</i>
14:45	In-depth Geopolitics in Burkina Faso <i>Sabine Luning</i>
15:15	Break
15:30	Burkina Faso/Guinée <i>Cristiano Lanzano</i>
16:00	DRC <i>Sara Geenen, Simon Marijsse</i>
16:30	Zimbabwe <i>Grasian Mkodzongi</i>
Evening	Dinner

9:00	Indonesia <i>Matthew Libassi</i>
9:30	The informalization of gold mining in the Philippines <i>Boris Verbrugge</i>
10:00	Informalization processes in LSM <i>Sara Geenen</i>
10:30	Break
10:45	Synthesis – looking forward (to the book)
12:30	Lunch
Afternoon	Visit to Tony Goetz gold refinery