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Call for Papers - Special Issue “Extractive Politics, Conflict and Peacebuilding”

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Call for Papers, Special Issue of *The Journal of Social Encounters*:

“Extractive Politics, Conflict and Peacebuilding”

In May of 2021, in his closing remarks for the Global Roundtable for Transforming Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development, UN General Secretary António Guterres called on the attendees to address the endemic human rights violations, poverty, and ecological destruction caused by the global exploitation of a “resource curse”. Guterres railed against the suffering and inequities experienced by vulnerable developing countries at the hands of a lucrative and politically powerful global industry. He then set forth a proposal of mechanisms for redesigning the global industry to be organized more equitably and sustainably.

Indeed, the phenomenon of the “resource curse” has long concerned peace and conflict scholars. The concept underscores a paradoxical relationship between nations’ wealth in the natural resources foundational to the international economy—timber, minerals, precious metals, and agriculture—and the violence that accompanies resource extraction (Calvão, Ankenbrand, Ros-Tonen, & Beevers, 2021; Benner & Soares de Oliveira, 2012; Carbonnier, 2011; Engwicht & Ankenbrand, 2021; Lujala & Rustad, 2012; Maconachie, 2016; Omeje, 2008). The international community has given greater attention to this dynamic in recent years, and new policy approaches have institutionalized an international “procedural turn” with transparency in extraction agreements presented as one main mechanism for good governance (Hauffler, 2010). Still, in-depth case studies have found legal and international institutional initiatives unhelpful to building peace and security on the ground, in part because much also depends on the response of local governing institutions, institutions embedded in complex political economic histories (Torres Wong, 2019). Many of these arrangements have served to legitimize new inequities, displacements, and violence, even when peace agreements are in place (Cohn & Duncanson, 2020; Cusato, 2021; Krause, 2020; Mitchell, 2021; Mosquera-Camacho & Marston, 2021; Paarlberg-Kvam, 2021; Schouten & Miklian, 2020).

Studies explore aspects of the nexus between profits and harm in cases around the world, identifying both latent and manifest conflicts at extractive sites (Gallo-Cruz & Remsberg, 2021; Montevecchio & Powers, 2021) and the special disadvantages caused to war-torn economies, women, indigenous, and minoritized peoples (Acuña, 2014; Aragón & Rud, 2013; Coryat, 2015; Gallo-Cruz & Remsberg, 2021; Kotsadam & Tolonen, 2015). So persistent is this dynamic, its violence and suffering have become an expected outcome in the “extractive age” (Shapiro & McNeish, 2021). Activists and scholars concerned with “environmental justice” have documented the many ways the health and well-being of communities has declined in the face of resource extraction projects that have left them with economic and political instability and exigent health problems (Carrington, Hogg, & McIntosh, 2011; Fowler, 2010; Munro, 2012; White, 2013). Even as movements innovate multi-scalar approaches to distributive, recognition-based, and participatory justice (Urkidi & Walter, 2011) and draw on strategic linkages across transnational networks (Bandy & Smith, 2005), ecological conflicts surrounding extraction, transportation, and waste disposal continue to grow (Martinez-Alier, Temper, Del Bene & Scheidel, 2016). On the

one hand, organizers and communities in crisis have devised creative forms of participatory democracy in community-based land management (Lynch & Talbott, 1995; Ostrom, 1990). They have fought back to secure property rights and protections for access to and the integrity of their local natural ecosystems (Brosius, Tsing, & Zerner, 1998; Li, 1997; Torres-Wong, 2019). On the other hand, the global scale of defeated protections and habitat destruction far outweighs these wins (UNEP, 2022). Market- thinking so dominates the diverse and intersecting fields of human communities and natural environments that the way to "save nature" is also conceptualized through the market (Zerner, 2000). Further, a new era of decarbonization policies will necessitate a rapid expansion of extractive industries. These ventures, too, have been shown to cause more environmental and human problems (Allan et al., 2021; Dunlap, 2017; Kröger, 2020), harking back to now classical critical statements decrying an entrenched colonial "accumulation model" of extractive othering (Mies, 1986) that has suggested the very idea of "sustainable development" in formerly colonized countries improbable (Rist, 1997). As of late, scholars have uncovered preemptive measures to use public relations to cover up human displacements and environmental destruction and, in response, urge the international community to take a stronger stance against extractive industry and invest instead in degrowth strategies to support sustainability and peace (Dunlap, 2021). What knowledge can peace scholars offer to illuminate the way forward?

In this special issue of *The Journal of Social Encounters*, we will bring together scholarship exploring contemporary developments in extractive politics, conflict, and peacebuilding. We welcome papers that address any of the following themes:

- How have the social, political, and cultural geographies of extractive industry, conflict, and peacebuilding changed in the last few decades? How are they changing now? How have peacebuilding strategies developed to address these particular kinds of conflicts? In what ways have peace agreements addressed extractive politics and with what effects? In what ways do peace efforts encompass both human and non-human rights and interests?
- What roles do different kinds of stakeholders and advocates play in extractive politics, conflict and peacebuilding and with what effects, including (but not limited to) local and international governing institutions, industry leaders, social and humanitarian aid workers, movement organizers, the Church and religious authorities, women, indigenous, and minoritized peoples?
- In what ways have social movements been successful in supporting local communities against displacement, exploitation, corruption, and social and ecological harms? What other advocacy mechanisms and forms of organizing have been adopted and with what outcomes? In what ways does the environmental justice movement in the Global Core advocate for or fail to account for the realities of extractive industries in the Global Periphery?
- How have international relationships helped or hindered peacebuilding in areas targeted by extractive industries? What roles do NGOs play in this process? What can countries

economically dependent on extractive industry expect from the international peacebuilding community in the coming decades?

- In what ways has the “procedural turn” in global extractive politics shaped conflict, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding?
- What does the push for the rapid development of “green” technologies mean for the future of extractive politics, conflict, and peacebuilding? How do the exigent changes posed by climate crisis and ecological decline affect the extractive industry, conflict, and peacebuilding arena?

Submission Guidelines and Timeline

Please send an abstract of 300-500 words to sgallo@holycross.edu by April 25, 2022.

In addition to the abstract, please include a title, keywords, institutional affiliation, and email address. First full paper drafts will be due by September 15, 2022.

The issue will be published in March of 2023.

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