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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)



REPI
RECHERCHE ET ÉTUDES EN
POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE



iITSE



Université libre de Bruxelles, REPI | IEE 39 avenue Franklin Roosevelt (Geremek room), 1050 Bruxelles

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PROGRAMME

Friday, March 22nd, 2024

- 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)

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PRESENTATION

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
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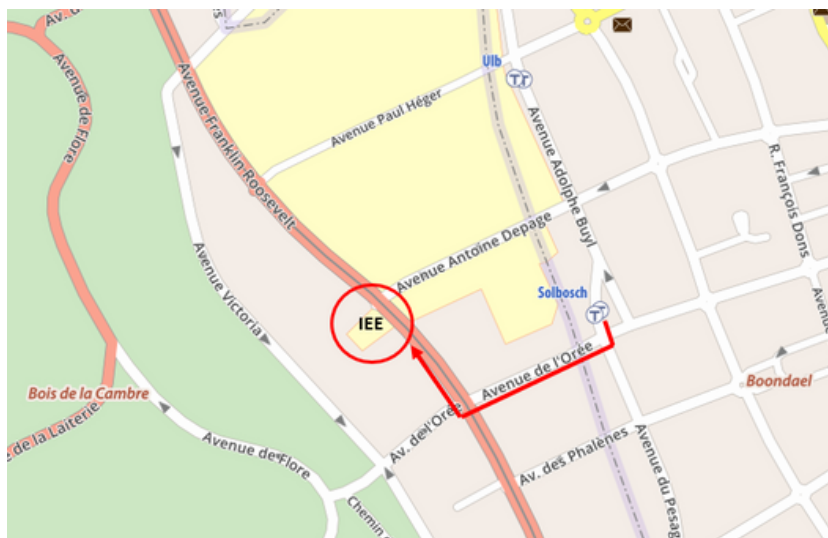
DIRECTIONS

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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