

CALL FOR PAPER PROPOSALS

STS Underground: Investigating the Technoscientific Worlds of Mining and Subterranean Extraction

A Three-Day Research Workshop

February 5-7, 2017

Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO

With keynote speaker Gabrielle Hecht, author of *Being Nuclear: Africans and the Global Uranium Trade* (MIT Press, 2012)

The study of the extractive processes of mining and other forms of subterranean resource development is a potentially rich new area for the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS). The existing scholarship on extraction from anthropology, geography and environmental studies provides important insights on the social and environmental dimensions of natural resource production, especially the consequences of this development for vulnerable communities. Yet these fields remain largely distinct from STS and rarely engage practitioners, such as scientists and engineers.

Drawing and building on existing social science, we seek to help define a new subfield in STS on subterranean extraction. STS is well positioned to make an impact in this domain, opening up crucial questions about the expertise, knowledge, and power animating extractive practices. The mapping and extraction of underground resources are technoscientific practices that engage multiple, and sometimes competing, forms of expertise. An STS perspective on extraction will examine the technoscientific aspects of how questions about extraction are posed and deliberated, how extraction itself occurs, and how the consequences of such extraction are addressed.

Workshop Details

This intensive three-day workshop aims to bring together interdisciplinary scholars whose work addresses technologies, practices, and forms of knowledge related to the mining of minerals, groundwater and fossil fuels. It will highlight the theoretical and topical commonalities as well as disagreements and debates that make the study of mining and extraction a vibrant, nascent subfield of STS.

We seek papers that examine the technoscientific aspects of how questions about extraction are posed and deliberated, how extraction itself occurs, and how the consequences of such extraction are addressed. Paper topics may be wide-ranging, including: research and development on extractive technologies, environmental health and grassroots activism, extraction and indigenous communities, competing forms of expertise and knowledge about the subsurface, climate change and the Anthropocene, historical perspectives on extractive industries, labor and workers' rights, and mining and extraction infrastructures.

Twelve abstracts will be selected for the workshop, and authors will circulate their papers one month in advance. We encourage participation from graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty. Hosting the workshop at the Colorado School of Mines (CSM) opens up opportunities to directly engage with scientists, engineers and practitioners in the extractive industries. CSM researchers, students, and faculty will bring important perspectives to our work.

The workshop will include a public keynote address, a field trip/excursion with mining and petroleum experts, and a panel discussion with invited guest scholars. We will also include informal opportunities to network with fellow participants. Participants will not present their papers. Rather, submitted papers will be workshopped in small groups with an assigned discussant.

Instructions for Submission of Paper Abstracts

The deadline for submitting abstracts is **September 15, 2016**. Please send proposals (no more than one page for a single abstract, as a word or pdf document to phadke@macalester.edu and kincha@rpi.edu). Include full contact details (email, affiliation and address for contact).

Notifications and initial program details will be sent out by **November 1, 2016**.

The STS Program at the National Science Foundation has generously provided support for this workshop (SES 1632651). There is no registration fee for participants. All meals, lodging, materials and fieldtrip expenses will also be covered. Limited funds are available to offset participant travel expenses for graduate students and junior scholars.

Questions about the workshop can be directed to any of the organizers:

Roopali Phadke, Macalester College (phadke@macalester.edu)

Jessica Smith, Colorado School of Mines (jmsmith@mines.edu)

Abby Kinchy, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (kincha@rpi.edu)