



Project Orientation and Advancing Science-to-Policy Dialogue Workshops in Lusaka



In late March 2025, we held an orientation workshop, in partnership with our Zambian partner [SAIPAR](#), for our newly recruited African doctoral researchers. We supplemented that orientation with a Science-to-Policy communication workshop, generously

provided by the [Nordic Africa Institute](#). As a research partnership, we recognize the importance of these workshops in addressing the challenges of connecting science and policy and fostering shared understanding across disciplines and decision-making contexts. We are glad that this workshop provided a space for in-depth discussions and practical exercises on identifying audience needs, briefing for impact, policy-focused writing, and other key science-to-policy communication skills.

Welcoming Our New Research Assistants at York University

As AEGT begins the new academic year in September 2025, we are excited to welcome a new group of talented graduate and undergraduate Research Assistants to the AEGT team at York University. These emerging scholars bring diverse skills, academic backgrounds, and fresh perspectives that will enrich our ongoing work. They will contribute to a robust, research- and policy-focused project while actively participating in knowledge-sharing activities with our networks in Canada and abroad.



Pictured Left to Right: Ashwin Shantha, Ibnul Chowdhury, Rachel Boaky, Theresa Decius, Vivi Nguyen and Esra Oney.

AEGT Expands Its Research Network with New Partner and Collaborator



We are excited to introduce our new partner organization, the **Institute of Resource Assessment (IRA)**, along with our new collaborator, Fasco

Chengula, as part of the AEGT research partnership. The Institute of Resource Assessment at the University of Dar es Salaam is one of Tanzania's oldest institutions for applied research in natural resource management and development planning. Today, IRA is globally recognized for its interdisciplinary research and policy involvement on climate change, natural resource assessment and management, environmental impact assessments, and related policy analysis.



Dr. Fasco Chengula is a Lecturer at the Institute of Resource Assessment (IRA), University of Dar es Salaam, holding a PhD in Social and Environmental

Anthropology from the University of Roehampton, London. His work examines the real-world effects of environmental policies, especially on vulnerable communities. Besides his academic role, he has extensive consulting experience in the extractive, energy, and infrastructure sectors, with expertise in Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD), ESG assessments, and the development and implementation of Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) and Livelihood Restoration Plans (LRPs). Dr. Chengula has collaborated with various organizations, including Geita Gold Mine, TRC, TANESCO, EACOP, WWF, and multiple international ESG consultancies.



Ongoing AEGT Research

In late 2024, we launched an inaugural call for research proposals. Of the proposals submitted, the Partnership's Steering Committee approved eight research studies spread across all four countries and our project's four research clusters. Please find the details of our ongoing research on the Partnership's [website](#). In this newsletter issue, we feature two of those studies.



**Dr. Sara
Geenen**



**Dr.
Janvier
Kilosho
Buraye**

Project title: "ASM formalization through financial inclusion and health insurance"

Project Leaders: Dr. Sara Geenen and Dr. Janvier Buraye (CEGEMI)

Research Cluster: Artisanal Small-Scale Mining (ASM)

Country Focus: Democratic Republic of Congo

While ASM formalization is widely recognized as an appropriate response to the perceived ills of the sector, as well as focuses on the question of how to incentivize ASM miners, the top-down nature of such attempts has been highly criticized. Instead, many have proposed that bottom-up formalization be envisioned and implemented to ensure ASM miners and their cooperatives are included and motivated to formalize their activities. This study, therefore, focuses on the use of two mechanisms of such a strategy: health insurance and financial inclusion. First, health insurance serves as a vital pillar of social protection in the ASM cobalt mines, where significant health and safety risks are present. Second, the project examines how financial inclusion, through access to finance and credit, has become central in assisting ASM in its formalization in DRC while providing financial resources for various activities, including investment opportunities, acquisition of necessary equipment, and promoting decent employment.

Project title: "Emerging ASM-LSM Linkages in Critical Minerals Production in the DRC and Tanzania"

Project Leaders: Dr. Chris Huggins (uOttawa) and Dr. Abel Kinyondo (University of Dar es Salaam)

Research Cluster: Artisanal Small-Scale Mining (ASM)

Country Focus: Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania

The project critically examines the relationship between Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) and Large-Scale Mining (LSM), as demand for critical minerals is set to exceed what LSM can supply, highlighting a potential key role for ASM in the global mineral supply chain. Using a critical comparative case study approach, this project aims to better understand how cooperation between the two sectors can be codified and/or promoted. In so doing, the project looks into the questions concerning the current legal framework in DRC as to whether it opens up possibilities or challenges for ASM-LSM collaboration and to what extent the demand for critical minerals shapes and is shaped by the ASM-LSM relations. The project further considers questions of traceability mechanisms along with other forms of due diligence requirements, the current political and policy context, and the role of financial and institutional structures, including those of pre-financing and legal cooperatives, to assess their impact on the relationship between the two sectors.



**Dr. Chris
Huggins**



**Dr. Abel
Kinyondo**

Critical Minerals Podcast Series

We invite you to check out our podcast series!

In our [second episode](#), our undergraduate researcher Harshita Choudhary interviews Chris Huggins about his research on the sectoral relationship between LSM-ASM, focusing on Tanzania and DRC. Huggins discusses how ASM supports livelihoods and development but also faces challenges like safety risks and infrastructure issues.

In [episode 3](#), Harshita talks with Patience Mususa and Ben Radley about their study on the formation of a battery value chain in the Copperbelt. Their study examines the opportunities offered to, and challenges confronted by, the governments of the DRC and Zambia in operationalizing their long-term battery manufacturing plans.

In [episode 4](#), Harshita interviews Rene Loewenson, a Zimbabwean epidemiologist leading a training course, partially funded by the Partnership, on Health Impact Assessments (HIAs). Loewenson emphasizes the importance of HIAs for mitigating public health risks stemming from the extractive industries.



AFRICAN EXTRACTIVISM
& THE GREEN TRANSITION

AEGT Critical Mineral Seminar Series

In January 2025, the AEGT launched a monthly Critical Mineral Seminar Series to help communicate project findings and foster wider dialogue and knowledge-sharing among researchers, policymakers and stakeholders working on critical minerals. Please visit our [website](#) to find a schedule of upcoming events and a record of past seminars.

On March 20, we continued our seminar series with **Environmental assessment, extractivism, and the rise of critical minerals in Canada**. Emilie and Rosemary delivered a compelling presentation that unpacked how the Canadian government frames the critical minerals boom as a ‘generational opportunity,’ even as regulatory safeguards are weakened through expedited project approvals and streamlined environmental impact assessments (EIAs). Drawing on a case study of the recently approved BMC mine in Kaska Dena territory, Yukon—and its significant impact on the local Caribou herd—they underscored key shortcomings in the regulatory framework. In particular, they noted how national economic benefits are often prioritized over Indigenous rights, and how environmental assessments tend to facilitate project approval, functioning less as protective measures and more as tools to ‘manage dissent.’



AFRICAN EXTRACTIVISM
& THE GREEN TRANSITION

CRITICAL MINERALS SEMINAR SERIES

Environmental assessment, extractivism and the rise of critical minerals in Canada

Thursday, March 20, 2025
1:00-2:45pm EST

WEBINAR (Online Only)
Please register to attend:
<https://tinyurl.com/yc89cukt>
Or Scan QR Code:



Governments and the mining sector in Canada view the global demand for critical minerals as a “generational opportunity,” positioning Canada as a leader in sustainable mining that respects Indigenous rights. These same governments are also fast-tracking project approvals and streamlining environmental assessments (EA) in response to industry demands. Drawing on the case of a recently approved, indigenous-opposed critical mineral mine in Kaska Dena territory, Yukon, and broader research on EA in Nunavut and British Columbia, this seminar explores how EAs rationalize harms to endangered species, overstate economic benefits, and sidestep Indigenous opposition. The panel considers how the global rush for critical minerals is reshaping an already strained regulatory system and what opportunities may exist for intervention given the current conjuncture.

SPEAKERS:



Emilie Cameron
Associate Professor
Department of Geography
& Environmental Studies
Carleton University



Rosemary Collard
Associate Professor
Department of Geography
Simon Fraser University



Jessica Dempsey
Professor
Department of Geography
University of British Columbia

DISCUSSANT:



Gabrielle A. Slowey
Associate Professor
Department of Politics
York University



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SSHRC CRSH
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Canadian Institutes of Health Research



Dr. Yingfeng Ji

We're excited to start the new academic term with another engaging Critical Minerals Webinar! This time, we will be joined by Dr. Yingfeng Ji for **'The China Model of Resource Governance in the Rare Earth Sector: Economic Linkages and Industrialization as a Solution to the Resource Curse'**.

Dr. Yingfeng Ji, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow working on the [Green Industrial Policy in the Age of Rare Metals](#) project at the University of Sussex, will share her insights on China's governance of its burgeoning Rare Earth Elements sector. Dr. Yingfeng will be joined by Dr. Gregory T. Chin, an Associate Professor in the Department of Politics at York University, who will serve as a discussant.



Dr. Gregory T. Chin

The webinar will be held on **Monday, 29 September 2025 from 11:00AM to 1:00PM Eastern Standard Time**. Please kindly register for the event here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycxpety9>



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