

## ECOPOLITICS PODCAST EPISODE 3.5: How can we confront the challenges of Canadian Mining? Additional Pedagogical Resources

**Summary:** *Mining is an essential component to our everyday lives, providing us with the raw materials we need to create a wide variety of products. However, while mining contributes to our technological progress, it comes with an often hidden dark side rife with environmental and human rights abuses. When more than 60% of the world's mining companies are based in Canada, what does this mean for us as everyday ecocitizens? What responsibilities do we have with respect to holding these companies to account for their use and abuse of people and planet? These are some of the questions we drill into today with guests Chandu Claver, International Spokesperson for the Cordillera Peoples' Alliance, Teresa Kramarz, Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, and Sheri Meyerhoffer, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE).*

### Key Takeaways

- Minerals extraction can have direct and indirect consequences for the environment and human rights. Often, however, these impacts are out of sight from those who consume materials extracted in remote or far away places.
- A majority of the world's mining companies are headquartered in Canada, and we know there are significant consequences of Canadian mining operations in communities globally.
- Mining is connected to the global economy through various industries, including the financial sector. As a result, individual Canadians may be invested in mining through their pension funds, investments, or participation in various banking activities, without even knowing it.
- People living in communities adjacent to mining projects sometimes join forces to resist mining projects or mitigate their negative effects. However, in many countries, there is limited decision-making or regulatory space that includes the voices of communities who experience harm in a meaningful way. To address the gaps in global accountability and corporate responsibility, some governments have crafted new legislation to better regulate resource extraction.
- There are significant steps that could be taken to address human rights violations and extraction by Canadian mining corporations abroad. For example, the introduction of legislation that creates clear regulations and boundaries around resource extraction practices in developing countries, and creating the governance tools that recognize the rights of affected communities to seek justice.
- Canada's Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) is a new human rights institution designed to investigate complaints made against companies working in mining, oil and gas, and the garment industry, based in Canada.

## Discussion Questions

1. How would you describe the relationship between global finance, mining interests operating globally, and the environmental harms experienced in some communities?
2. What do you see as the role for eco-citizens in addressing the challenges of Canadian mining?
3. What do you think of the new office of the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE)? To what extent do you think it will make a difference?

## Learn more about our Guests

### Chandu Claver

- Learn more about Cordillera People's Alliance <https://www.cpaphils.org/>

#### Read more about Chandu Claver's work in the news

- Zoledziowski, Anya and Natashya Gutierrez. "Land Defenders are Killed in the Philippines for Protesting Canadian Mining." *Vice World News*. January 10 2020.  
<https://www.vice.com/en/article/qj4743/land-defenders-are-killed-in-the-philippines-for-protesting-canadian-mining> Accessed January 18 2022.
- Ponting, Samatha. "Why Canada is at the Centre of Global Mining Atrocities." *Spring Magazine*. May 10 2021.  
<https://springmag.ca/why-canada-is-at-the-centre-of-global-mining-atrocities> Accessed January 18 2022.

### Dr. Teresa Kramarz

- Learn more about Teresa's work at the Munk School of Global Affairs  
<https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/profile/kramarz-teresa/>
- Explore Teresa's work at <http://www.teresakramarz.com/>

#### Select articles, books, and videos:

- **Kramarz, Teresa**, and Donald. Kingsbury. *Populist Moments and Extractivist States in Venezuela and Ecuador : The People's Oil?* Cham: Springer International Publishing AG, 2021.
- **Kramarz, Teresa**. "Extractive Industry Disasters and Community Responses: a Typology of Vulnerable Subjects." *Environmental Politics* (2021): 1–21.
- **Kramarz, Teresa**, and Susan Park. "Accountability in Global Environmental Governance: A Meaningful Tool for Action?" *Global Environmental Politics* 16.2 (2016): 1–21.

**Sheri Meyerhoffer**

- Learn more about the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/index.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/index.aspx?lang=eng)
- Read the April 2019 Order in Council establishing the *Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise* <https://orders-in-council.canada.ca/attachment.php?attach=37587&lang=en>
- Read the September 2019 Order in Council that amends the mandate of the *Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise* <https://orders-in-council.canada.ca/attachment.php?attach=38652&lang=en>

**Explore resources mentioned in this episode:**

- Blackett, Adelle, and Anne Trebilcock. “The Rana Plaza Disaster Seven Years on: Transnational Experiments and Perhaps a New Treaty?” *International Labour Review*. 159.4 (2020): 545–.
- Government of Philippines. *Philippine Mining Act of 1995*. [https://www.lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra1995/ra\\_7942\\_1995.html](https://www.lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra1995/ra_7942_1995.html) Accessed January 12 2022.
- Global Affairs Canada. “About us.” CSR Counselor. [https://www.international.gc.ca/csr\\_counsellor-conseiller\\_rse/About-us-A-propos-du-bureau.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/csr_counsellor-conseiller_rse/About-us-A-propos-du-bureau.aspx?lang=eng) Accessed January 19 2022,
- Kramarz, Teresa, and Susan Park. *Global Environmental Governance and the Accountability Trap*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2019. Print.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers. “Canadian Mine 2021.” Web. <https://www.pwc.com/ca/en/industries/mining/canadian-mine-2021.html> Accessed January 12 2022.
- Parliament of Canada. C-300. *An Act Respecting Corporate Accountability for the Activities of Mining, Oil or Gas in Developing Countries*. 2011. <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/40-3/bill/C-300/first-reading> Accessed January 15 2022.
- Learn more about the Canadian Pension Plan <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/publicpensions/cpp.html>
- Learn more about Ivanhoe Mines <https://www.ivanhoemines.com/>
- Learn more about the Provinces of Philippines <https://www.discoverthephilippines.com/category/provinces>
- Learn more about the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan <https://www.otpp.com/en-ca/>
- Learn more about France’s mining regulations <https://www.mineralinfo.fr/en>
- Learn more about Netherland’s mining regulations <https://www.nlog.nl/en/legislation>
- Learn more about the United Nations <https://www.un.org/>
- Learn more about Export Development Canada (EDC) <https://www.edc.ca/>
- Learn more about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

## ECOPOLITICS PODCAST EPISODE 3.5: How can we confront the challenges of Canadian Mining?

- Learn more about the United Nations Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf)
- Learn more about Canadian NGOs active on mining issues: <https://miningwatch.ca/> and <https://rightsaction.org/>

### Learn more about Canadian Mining Projects and Resource Extraction Globally:

- Gordon, Todd, and Jeffery R. Webber. "Imperialism and Resistance: Canadian mining companies in Latin America." *Third World Quarterly* 29, no. 1 (2008): 63-87.
- Holden, William N. "The New People's Army and Neoliberal Mining in the Philippines: A Struggle Against Primitive Accumulation." *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 25.3 (2014): 61-83.
- Nolin, Catherine., and Grahame Russell. *Testimonio: Canadian Mining in the Aftermath of Genocides in Guatemala*. Toronto: Between the Lines, 2021. Print.
- Oxfam. "Position Paper on Gender Justice and the Extractive Industries." 2017. Web. [https://42kgab3z3i7s3rm1xf48rq44-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/position\\_pater\\_on\\_gender\\_justice\\_and\\_th\\_extractive\\_industries\\_oxfam.pdf](https://42kgab3z3i7s3rm1xf48rq44-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/position_pater_on_gender_justice_and_th_extractive_industries_oxfam.pdf) Accessed January 15 2022.

### Learn more about Corporate Social Responsibility, Policy, and Legislation:

- Bodruzic, Dragana. "Promoting International Development Through Corporate Social Responsibility: the Canadian Government's Partnership with Canadian Mining companies." *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal* 21, no. 2 (2015): 129-145.
- Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA). "Government Policy." <https://cnca-rcrce.ca/issues-analysis/du-diligence-csr-mining/> Accessed January 19 2022.
- Canadian Mining Journal Staff. "Canadian mining industry wins with Bill C-300's defeat." *Canadian Mining Journal*. <https://www.canadianminingjournal.com/featured-article/canadian-mining-industry-wins-with-bill-c-300-s-defeat/> Accessed January 19 2022.
- Janda, Richard. "An Act Respecting Corporate Accountability for the Activities of Mining, Oil or Gas in Developing Countries: Anatomy of a Failed Initiative." *The McGill International Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy*. 6.2 (2010): 97-. Print.
- Keenan, Karyn. "Canada's New Corporate Responsibility Ombudsperson Falls Far Short of its Promise." *Business and Human Rights Journal*, 5, no. 1 (2020): 137-142.
- North, Liisa L, and Laura Young. "Generating Rights for Communities Harmed by Mining: Legal and Other Action." *Revue Canadienne d'études du Développement* 34.1 (2013): 96-110.
- Natural Resources Canada. "Canadian Mining Assets." *Government of Canada*. <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/maps-tools-and-publications/publications/minerals-mining-publications/canadian-mining-assets/1932> Accessed January 20 2022.