

## CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTERS

### CHINESE ENGAGEMENT IN AFRICA'S MINING SECTOR

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Chapter manuscripts (5,000-7,000 words)

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Since 1997 when Sinosteel acquired the Dilolong Chromite mine in South Africa, Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) in the exploration and mining of African mineral and metal natural resources is on the rise (Ericsson et al., Lof, 2020). There is evidence of more Chinese companies with full or partial control ownership of African mines in several African countries including the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ghana, Cameroon, Guinea, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In this book, we adopt a multi-disciplinary perspective to examine the nature of Chinese companies' engagement in Africa's mining industry. We pay attention to all types of companies (i.e. state-owned, family-owned, private owned enterprises) undertaking any types of mining (i.e. artisanal, small-scale and large-scale) of different minerals and metals (e.g. gold, cobalt, gemstones, lithium) whether (in)formally and, or (il)legally in different African jurisdictions.

Mining plays a critical role in the socio-economic, political, and cultural fabrics of a society. Some scholars consider the new China-Africa cooperation in mineral extraction as mutually beneficial because they develop infrastructure and promote development (Wang et al., 2021). However, others contend that they are a hex because of their unethical and irresponsible business practices such as environmental degradation (Shinn, 2016), bad human resources and corporate governance practices (Wegenast et al., 2019), human rights violations in mining communities (Sautman & Hairong, 2012), conflict and corruption (Crawford & Botchwey, 2017), insecurity and disregard for good political governance (Rapanyane & Shethole, 2020). Is the Chinese Engagement in Africa's mining industry a hex?

To answer this question, we intend to use diverse disciplinary and theoretical perspectives. We therefore encourage contributors from history, economics, geography, health science, political science, environmental science, sociology, anthropology, psychology, and organization studies to examine the effects of the Chinese Engagement in Africa's Mining Industry.

- Behavioral ecologies: historical evidence shows a link between China and Africa since ancient times (Jin, 2015; Jinyuan, 1984). What was the nature of that relationship with regards to mining? How did Chinese organizations behave towards Africans and vice versa in the past, and how do those behaviors compare with the present? European countries were not communist. However, their companies engaged in mining to fulfill their objective – economic development via the medium of domination. Are the behavioral ecologies of the past and current Chinese organizations like those of the Europeans during the colonial era? If not, how different are they?
- Economic benefits: studies on the economic implications of the Chinese engagement will also be helpful in outlining the benefits and/or harms of the engagement. Chinese investors will seek an economic return but at what cost? Are the Chinese-Africa extractive deals mutually beneficial? How transparent are these arrangements and do Africans really benefit from that investment? How far does lack of

transparency in Chinese-Africa extractive deals contribute to bottlenecks in minerals processing and manufacturing of intermediate products? How does this affect downstream stakeholders in global supply chains and extend the impact of Chinese-African extractive deals globally?

- Health and safety concerns: mining involves the use of mercury, cyanide and other harmful chemicals which have deleterious effects on the health of not only workers but also local communities particularly when they contaminate the water bodies, soil, foliage, etc. The working and living conditions in mining sites also affect miners' occupational health and well-being. How do the Chinese mining firm's practices impact the workers' health? How are concerns of health and well-being for both workers and the surrounding communities addressed? What is the prevalence of mining-related industrial accidents? What might be the pathways to health and safety culture maturity?
- Environmental degradation: the locus of mining is the environment. Environmental scientists can therefore provide insight on the environmental effects of the Chinese Engagement. Companies that are involved in illegal mining are likely to harm water bodies, soil, and foliage which negatively affects farming and livelihood of locals. Legal mining, particularly by large-scale and open-pit methods, and the infrastructure for removal of low value ores cause deforestation, creating land-use tensions and climatic feedback loops. The heavy equipment used for mining can affect the road infrastructure. All these will have negative effects on the socio-economic activities of the societies in which the mining is taking place. If there are good environmental effects it will be important to know them, too.
- Political relations: how do Chinese mining firms both positively and negatively influence institutional actors including governments as they settle to extract resources in, and from, host African countries. Are the Chinese co-opting political parties or governments to initiate, endorse, support, and protect their mining enterprises? Are local citizens consulted before any mining takes place, and do they give informed consent – or are activities of the Chinese miners imposed on them by the governments? How can local citizens hold both their governments and the Chinese firms accountable? How can relations be fostered that increase retention of mineral wealth, by developing process capacity to upgrade and add value to metal ores within African nations?
- Community relations: the social structure of societies in which Chinese mining occurs can also be affected particularly if there is displacement of communities. In Ghana for example, communities have been displaced to make room for Chinese mining. What are the sociological effects of such displacements? What types of corporate community engagement initiatives do the Chinese firms adopt, how do they relate with the local communities and what strategies are adopted for community engagement? What is the role of the state in condoning community displacement by companies, or protecting communities from external influences?
- Cultural dislocations: besides displacement of people, there are displacements of cultural norms, practices, and institutions as a result of the intermingling of the Chinese in the community. The engagements also result in forceful changes of social mores which may be damaging or beneficial. The cultural dislocations are spatially linked to geomaterial cultures. Rich mineral resources such as gold, diamonds, manganese, limestone, bauxite, iron ore as well as various clays and granite deposits are in land spaces that were typically cultural heritages. To the extent that they are destroyed so as to make room for Chinese mining, the engagement is likely to be harmful. It is also likely Chinese mining might be a welcome instrument, depending on community stakeholder mindsets.
- Psychological effects: The cognitive, affective, and behavioral orientations of individuals, groups, and communities are likely to be affected by the Chinese mining practices. What are the psychological mechanisms, processes, and effects of Chinese mining?
- Human and organizational issues: as Chinese mining companies expand their business interests in Africa, how are they impacting the local organisations particularly human resources management practices in Africa countries? Papers that shed light on how they address the local content policies, their impacts on the African mining ecosystems, the collaborative strategies of the Chinese mining companies, and the dark or bright side of these mining companies as forms of international business entry are encouraged.

Across all the disciplinary domains, various theories can be deployed to address the themes. Theoretical lenses such as institutions, geopolitics, governance, strategic alliance, political economy, regulation, resource dependence, transaction costs, social capital, as well as other psychological, sociological, economic, and anthropological theories will be helpful in looking at the degree to which the companies are engaging in responsible or irresponsible mining. Studies on mining futures and decolonial effects will also be informative. Equally interesting will be studies that compare African mining companies in China (if any) with Chinese mining companies in Africa. Such comparisons will show some parity in the China-Africa relations. To the extent that those studies are able to show scientifically some of the long run and short run effects of the African mining companies in China relative to the Chinese mining companies in Africa, they will resolve a major puzzle on the imbalance of the China-Africa economic relationship.

If interested, please send your abstracts (no more than 200 words) and contributors' biographies (100 words max) by 30th June, 2024 to ([Zoogahb@mcmaster.ca](mailto:Zoogahb@mcmaster.ca) or [judy.muthuri@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:judy.muthuri@nottingham.ac.uk)). Following the receipts and review of the abstracts, authors will be notified of the next stage(s). Please be clear on the following in your abstract: (a) discipline, (b) theory, (c) country of focus, (d) whether practice-oriented or academically-oriented.

### **Important Dates**

Abstract submission:	30th June 2024
Acceptance/rejection of Abstract:	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
Submission of full chapters:	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2025
Review Results Returned:	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2025
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