

CALL FOR PAPERS

Resource Nationalism(s) in the 21st Century: An International Conference on Resource Nationalism in the Global South – Experiences, Innovations and Debates

York University (Keele Campus)
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
28-30 May 2024

In the 21st century, countries across the Global South increasingly have sought to strengthen control over their extractive industries with the aim of boosting revenues and enabling improved local social and economic benefits – for example, greater domestic participation through ownership and stronger upstream and downstream linkages in local supply chains. Regulatory reforms have also included the bolstering of public oversight measures, environmental protections, and financial, technical and legislative support for smaller, indigenous or citizen-owned mining operations. Together, these innovations have underscored a ‘new wave’ of resource nationalism across the Global South, especially in the wake of the commodities ‘supercycle’ of the early 2000s.

In response, researchers using diverse lens and methodologies have explored the motivations, regulatory tools and outcomes of resource nationalism in its new forms. In Southern Africa, a four-year multi-country research partnership, *Resource Nationalism in Southern Africa: policy challenges and emerging opportunities*, investigated the varying trajectories of national-level reforms with the aim of providing new comparative evidence-based research for policy debates in three case study countries, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and more widely in the region.

As its research draws to a close, the partnership is convening an international conference with the aim of presenting its findings to the wider scholarly and policy advocacy community, and inviting comparative research contributions from key sites of extractives sector policy reform in the Global South, including notably Latin America, West Africa and Asia. Recognizing that resource nationalism in the Global South in the 21st Century has been marked by a diversity of strategies, experiences, policy debates and material outcomes, we encourage contributions which explore the drivers and dynamics of resource nationalism at national and/or regional level. These may include factors which are primarily domestic (for example, the nature of local political competition, or structural constraints on local finance markets and industrial expansion), international (including new commodity market opportunities, and the emergence of alternative sources of investment and extractive technologies), or which speak to the evolving global context provided by the green transition. We also welcome comparative contributions which examine resource nationalism across a range of different geographical cases or extractive commodities.

With the above considerations in mind, we invite abstracts for papers that explore themes related to the overarching question of 21st Century resource nationalism, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Resource nationalism, industrial policy and local content
- Resource nationalism and fiscal receipts: social investment and tax justice initiatives
- Appropriating and adapting resource nationalist initiatives: extractive industry engagement with resource nationalism

- Resource nationalism and inclusion: ASM and mining community participation
- Resource nationalism and the most marginalised: empowering women and youth
- Resource nationalism and indigenous sovereignty
- Resource nationalism and democratic spaces: politics, movements for reform and policy-making
- Resource nationalisms and sub-nationalisms: alternative and competing movements
- Resource curse or structural transformation: evidence from extractivist initiatives
- Resource nationalism and political ecologies of extractivism
- South-South alternatives: co-operation or new avenues for conflict around investment and trade

Paper abstracts should be no longer than **300 words**. Please also provide us with a **brief personal description**, no longer than **150 words**, indicating:

- ❖ your position
- ❖ organization/home institution
- ❖ affiliations, and
- ❖ scholarly/professional interests

Deadline for Submissions: Please submit your paper abstracts and personal descriptions to **Prof Richard Saunders** (rn.conf2024@yorku.ca) before **March 1, 2024**. Should you have any queries please send them to this above listed email address.

A limited number of bursaries will be available to subsidize the travel and accommodation of Canadian graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. Students and postdoctoral participants should indicate if they might require bursary assistance.

Participants who require a Canadian visa are encouraged to submit their proposal in time for the conference organizers to issue an invitation letter.

Resource Nationalism in Southern Africa: policy challenges and emerging opportunities is a research partnership of African and Canadian universities, non-governmental organisations and research units, and researchers working in Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The project is supported by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and contributions from partner organisations. For further information on the project and its activities please visit us at <https://resourcenationalism.ca/>



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