

PRESENTS

The precarity of women and children mining for renewable energy and Tech industries: The case of the Democratic Republic of Congo.



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By

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Zoom

Abstract

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is endowed with the world's minerals demanded by tech industries to produce products that have become necessities in the developed world and for renewable energy innovations. As it is with many African countries, mining has failed to engender development, peace and security for local communities. The extraction and smelting of the minerals mostly by mining companies, has not only devastated the environment, land, and water; it dislocates communities; exposes them to armed conflicts and increases poverty. The failure of mining activities to improve communities' livelihoods forces women, children and young people to work under difficult and inhumane conditions in and around the mines. Moreover, no formal effort has been made to interrogate the voices of the very people most impacted by the extraction of the minerals. My research work focuses on grassroots agency and local cultures to engender homegrown governance mechanisms, policies and practices that reinforce people's livelihoods, security, and environmental protection. My research advances the idea of community-based natural resource governance and 'green peacekeeping'. In an environment where the DRC's resources have been plundered for centuries and in the process their environment degraded, the people in the DRC.

About

Dr. Evelyn Namakula is an Assistant professor in the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies at Carleton University. She is the recipient of the 2020-21 James N. Rosenau Postdoctoral Fellowship from the International Studies Association (ISA), which recognises excellence in scholarship, outreach, and professional development in academic settings. Her doctoral thesis, *People's Experiences, Perceptions and Images of Conflict and Peacebuilding in South Kivu, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo*, received the University of Manitoba's Distinguished Dissertation Award. Dr. Namakula's interdisciplinary research work follows trajectories of critical analysis, decolonization, and African Indigenous philosophy at the intersection of global political economy, natural resources, race, politics, and governance. Her research examines issues of governance, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, security, labour, gender, and human rights challenges associated with the political economy of mineral resource sectors in Africa.

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