

## **Special Session:**

### **Beyond Development and Resource Extractivism: Feminist Perspectives**

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Key words:

extractivism, neocolonialism, redistribution, ecological costs

#### **Summary:**

Our era is characterized by the end of easy-to-extract oil reserves. Unconventional and risky extraction techniques are proliferating. Oil extraction as motor of an economy has always had significant consequences for social and political organization, which are best understood if one looks at the different stages of oil exploitation, from prospection through production, processing and finally consumption, which can be viewed as the social metabolism of oil.

Women have not only been at the forefront of resistance against oil drilling in many parts of the world, they also suffer specific effects of oil-centered economies. Not only are women's livelihoods deeply affected in the territories sacrificed to the drilling of oil.

The necessarily centralistic logic of oil-based economies, combined with the socially exclusive, undemocratic and proprietary logic of oil technology, also reinforce structural patriarchy within state and social organization.

Furthermore, in many developing countries, oil wealth tends to keep women out of the formal labor force and, consequently, reduce their political influence (Ross 2008). As a result, petroleum wealth in low- and middle-income countries tends to shut down an important route toward gender equality.

To overcome oil civilization, it is necessary to explore feminine and communitarian principles in opposition to centralistic and patriarchal ones. I will illustrate this with examples from Ecuador and Latin America.