

## COLLOQUIUM

### Mineral Incorporations

Lead, Labor, and Life in Peruvian Neo-Extractive Politics

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Bodies with minerals—  
permeated with heavy metals  
from mining operations— have  
become pivotal actors in  
contemporary Peruvian

politics. As metal and oil production ballooned at the turn of the 21st  
century, discursive strategies rooted in the science of toxic exposures  
fiercely disputed this supposed economic inevitability. Yet, as "health"  
moved to the fore of Peruvian environmental movements, latent  
antagonisms of inequality reemerged to resist this new threat to

extractive economies and social life. Among the most vocal dissidents of toxicity-based  
environmentalism in Peru are those most acutely exposed to heavy-metals on a daily basis at  
historical sites of extraction.

This talk

ethnographically unpacks  
these political disagreements  
from within two "toxic"  
ecologies, wherein mineral  
exposures exist as a  
fundamental condition of  
both making and unmaking  
life. By doing so, the analytic  
aim is to allow the paradoxes  
and limits of  
environmentalism in Peru to  
challenge our perspectives  
on broader strategies of  
resistance to extractive  
regimes of governance.



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3:30-5:00pm

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**Dr. Stefanie Graeter** is a Chancellor's ADVANCE postdoctoral fellow at UC Irvine in the Department of Anthropology and an Assistant Professor of Latin American Studies and Anthropology at the University of Arizona (Fall 2020). Her current book project, *Mineral Incorporations*, examines lead toxicity science and the politics of extractive economics in contemporary Peru. Dr. Graeter's peer-reviewed articles are published in *Cultural Anthropology* and *American Anthropologist*. She completed her Ph.D. in 2015 in sociocultural anthropology at the University of California, Davis with a designated emphasis in critical theory. Previously, she taught Latin American Studies and Anthropology at the University of Chicago (2017-2019) and held the Science in Human Culture postdoc at Northwestern University (2015-2017).