

Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology

SPEAKER SERIES

Simulacra of extraction: Transforming cocaine with gold in Colombia

Some forms of resource extraction are regimes for the transformation of value, rather than for its production or accumulation. These “simulacra of extraction” challenge assumptions about profit in the extractive sector. This article traces examples of gold-based cocaine money laundering in Colombia to reinterpret resource extraction through a lens of transformation. The first part observes that not all the gold in Colombia’s gold rush comes from under the ground. The second discusses the ways narcotraffickers launder money through apparently legal activities. The third turns attention to the transformation of value through resource projects. The conclusion argues ethnography offers a way to research value transformation through resource economies. The analysis develops evidence from the gold rush in Colombia’s Chocó province alongside a review of old and new media accounts. [resource extraction, money laundering, gold, cocaine, Colombia, Canada].

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2:30-4:00 p.m.

**Friday, November 2nd, 2018
McCain Building, Room #1116**

ALL WELCOME!