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Gertrude Saxinger



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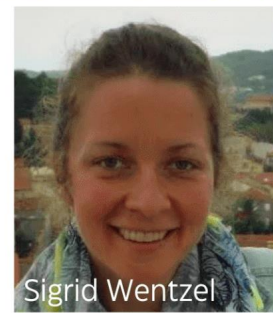
Marlene Auer



Susanna Gartler



Ellen Marie Jensen



Sigrid Wentzel

APRI working group Social and cultural systems (section Gerti Saxinger)

APRI Annual Meeting
26 Nov 2026

Working group Update

BEYOND HOT AIR

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Beyond Hot Air – conversations around critical raw materials supply for the ‘green’ transition
- EU-PolarNet – Co-ordinating and Co-designing the European Polar Research Area (also Wolfgang Schöner, Andreas Richter and Peter Schweitzer groups)
- ILLUQ – Permafrost, Pollution, Health (also Peter Schweitzer group)
- InfraNorth – Arctic infrastructures (also Peter Schweitzer group)
- Snow2School – transdisciplinary research with schools on snow in GL and AT (also Wolfgang Schöner and Peter Schweitzer groups)



Research themes including MA and PhD topics

- Land-use decision making and natural resources extraction in the Arctic and sub-Arctic, Deep sea mining
- Critical raw materials for the European Green Deal and “green” transition
- “Green colonialism”, (neo-/de-)colonial dimensions of community–industry–state relations
- Future-making-future-thinking, temporality and transformation
- Human–environment relations, more-than-humans, built environment and infrastructure
- Cultural revitalization, protest and Indigenous self-determination
- Immigration in the Arctic
- Architecture, regional planning, urbanity in/and remoteness
- Mobility, multi-locality (Fly-in, fly-out work)
- Human security/international security
- **Decolonial research methodology, co-creation of knowledge, transdisciplinarity**
- **Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research collaboration across social and natural sciences, humanities and technology**
- **Science politics, solidarity in science and academia, research ethics**



BEYOND HOT AIR

Conversations around critical raw materials supply for the 'green' transition

a new MinErAL sub-project (2023 – 2025)

BEYOND
HOT AIR



miningbeyondhotair.org



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Europe's Largest Deposit of Rare Earth Metals Found in Northern Sweden



🏠 » News » 2023 » *Kiruna in the spotlight during the Swedish EU Presidency inauguration*

Kiruna in the spotlight during the Swedish EU presidency inauguration



Climate emergency and energy transition dependent on critical raw materials

- The relevant questions relate to **where** mining should occur and should not occur, and the **conditions** under which it should occur. (O’Faircheallaigh, 2023)



Addressing the contradictions & dilemmas of mining for CRM & challenging dominant discourses

- ‘Green’ transition and ‘green growth’ strategies entail a rising demand for CRM
- Need for sincere and honest discussions about the dilemmas and contradictions:
- Need to decarbonize (wanting ‘to be green’) but needing minerals to do this,
- (Silently) accepting and externalising the massively increasing social and environmental costs of mining for these resources



Beyond Hot Air - - Research and conversation platform

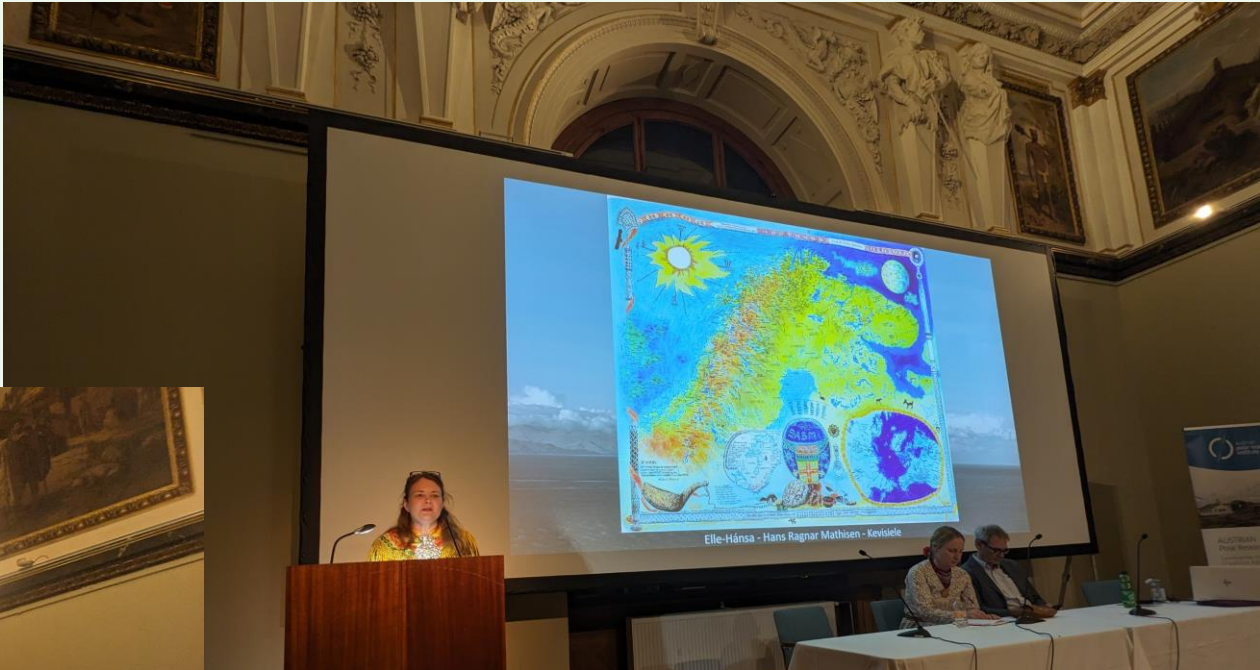
Stepping out of the comfort zone

- Beyond Hot Air project wants to go beyond the polarising ways of talking about extraction
- We invite stakeholders in CRM mining & the public to step out of their comfort zones - together with us



Polar Talk #13

Natural History Museum Vienna



Beyond Hot Air Workshop Vienna



BLOG

ations around critical raw materials supply for the 'green' t



What is 'hot air'?

THE BEYOND HOT AIR TEAM – DECEMBER 20, 2023

Beyond Hot Air is a conversation about the green transition and the minerals required to make it happen. As a group of researchers and practitioners, when we first got together to discuss this topic, we realised that in different fields and disciplines (geology, social science, industry, politics) there is a lot of misleading information and...

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Single-use vaping and lithium waste: a UK perspective

EMMA WILSON (ECW Energy & APRI) – FEBRUARY 22, 2024

In January 2024, the UK government announced [a ban on disposable e-cigarettes](#), primarily out of concern for the health of young people. The decision should also address the huge amounts of waste created by the burgeoning trend in the use of single-use vapes. UK vapers currently discard more than [5 million disposable vapes each week](#), with their built-in lithium-ion batteries.

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Too much consumption – too little resources?! Types and quantities of Critical Raw Materials needed to meet growing demands on the globe

FRANK MELCHER (University of Leoben) – APRIL 3, 2024

Batteries for electric vehicles, wind turbines, mobile phones, computers – these users of critical raw materials (CRM) are everyday items, and demand is growing. But there are a lot more uses for CRM, especially in well-established industries. Unless Western economies reduce their consumption very substantially, more CRMs are needed.

Keep reading



Critical Raw Materials and the construction of criticality

GABRIEL EYSELEIN (University of Vienna) – APRIL 9, 2024

Raw materials (RM) are a crucial part of our everyday lives and the backbone of the economy: Nearly every economic process starts in some form with raw materials. Whereas some of these materials are omnipresent, like oil, others remain outside the broader public's eye, like niobium or bismuth. But from time to time, and often because of technological developments or scandals connected to their extraction, certain raw materials step into the spotlight.

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Photo credit: [Lithium mine at Bolivia's Uyuni Salt Flat, on a CBERS4 MUX yesterday's image](#) by [Coordenação-Geral de Observação da Terra/INPE](#) is licensed under [CC BY-SA 2.0](#).



BRIEFING PAPERS

BP 1/2024

Types and quantities of Critical Raw Materials needed to meet growing demands in the European Union and worldwide

By Frank Melcher, Department of Applied Geosciences and Geophysics, Montanuniversität Leoben, Austria

Visit the Beyond Hot Air conversation platform for our blog, videos, briefing papers, webinars.....

miningbeyondhotair.org



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Mining on First Nation Land – The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun in Mayo/Yukon Territory

Mining for critical raw materials (CRM) often takes place on the lands of Indigenous Peoples, such as in the (sub-)Arctic. Stories of historical and contemporary mining in settler-colonial places can teach us about the claims for full participation in environmental decision making and what is at stake for local and Indigenous inhabitants of extractive zones in times of booming CRM mining. This film tells the stories and portrays the views of people from the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun in Mayo/Yukon Territory in Canada about mining on their traditional territory.

Produced by the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun, 2017. A film by Gertrude Saxinger, Robert Gebauer, Jörg Oschmann, Susanna Gartner. 13 min

About
 'Beyond Hot Air. Conversations around critical raw materials supply for the 'green' transition' is a sub-project to the 'MinErAL – Knowledge Network on Mining Encounters and Indigenous Sustainable Livelihoods' funded by SSHRC – Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Beyond Hot Air is a conversation. It is an international, multi-stakeholder initiative that explores the complex landscape of mineral raw materials supply for the 'green' transition.

Especially critical raw materials (CRM) are a vital part of current forms of 'green' transition strategies and corresponding technologies, such as e-mobility, renewable energy and communication technologies. In Europe's backyard, mining for critical minerals is thus set to increase.

Combating climate change requires that all of us around the globe step out of our comfort zones – considering the full impact of mining for local communities and environments. Through constructive and collaborative conversations, we focus on the complex relationship between mining and the energy transition. We seek to dig deep to expose the dissonances, injustices and potential synergies in current debates, challenging the status quo.



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