



# **GOLD MATTERS**

Transformations to Sustainability in Artisanal and Small-scale Mining

# The project

- Aims and objectives
- The institutional partners and team
- Trans-regional, multi-sited empirical research
- Our theoretical approach



# Miners, the bogeymen of sustainability

- We challenge dominant assumptions on extractive development
- Sustainability is situated in relation to the heterogeneity of mining practices around the world; and encompassing the politics of mining in relation to governance
- Our research foregrounds an interplay between mobility – of people, things and technology - with territorial and landscape dynamics



# Underground conviviality and competition

- The research incorporates a suite of methods, including from ethnography and Geographical Information Systems
- Transdisciplinarity is generated through different forms of co-labouring with miners using visual methods:
  - Joint filming, mapping and drawing
  - Participatory art production in workshops
- This presents a means to visualize socialities at work; predicaments in the present and possibilities for new futures



# Making the invisible imagined

- As researchers we take a political position, giving expression to voices which are often silenced or ignored and exposing inequality
- Trans-disciplinarity – particularly between academia and the arts – opens up the possibility for “sustainability conversations”



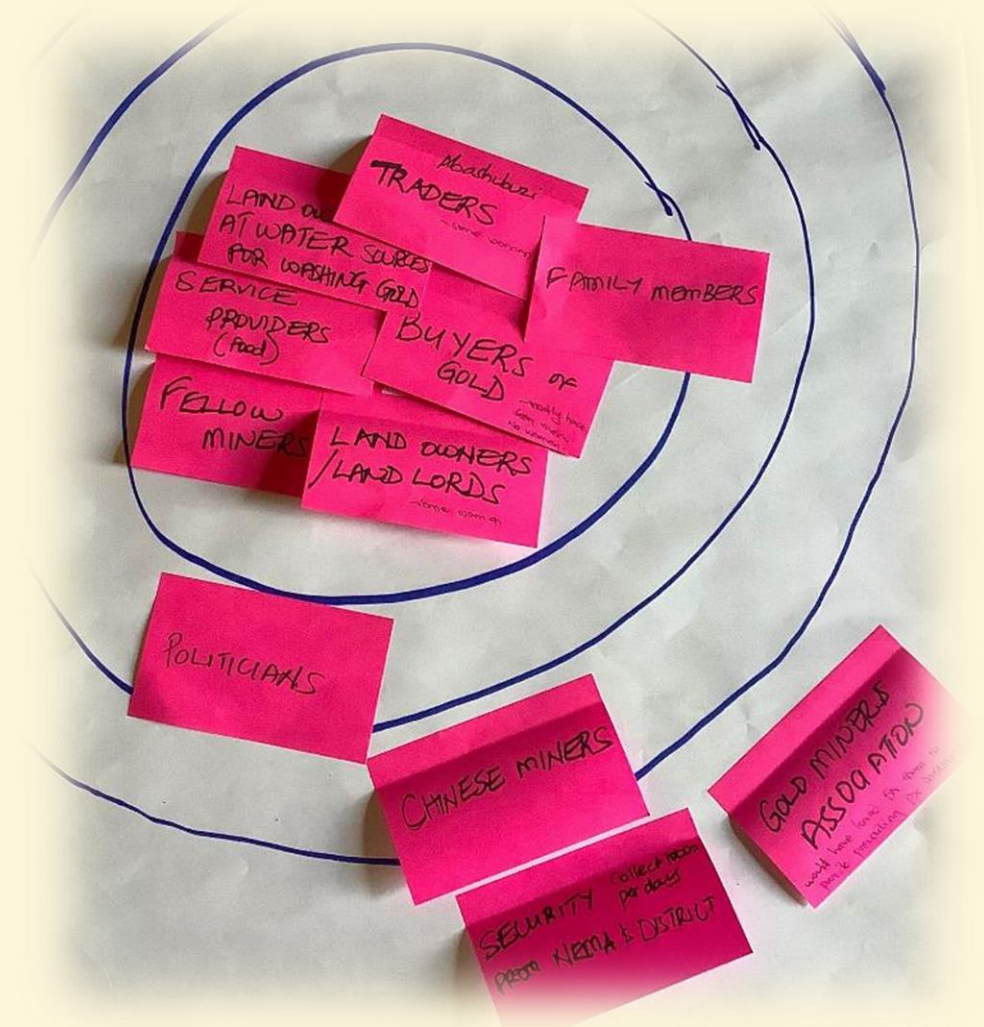
# Co-labouring sustainability

- Opening of Gold Matters' pop-up exhibition in Northern Ghana, January 2020. Video clip by photographer Nii Obodai [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wc--yHDg\\_ME](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wc--yHDg_ME)
- Behind the dancers is an artwork that Christophe Sawadogo, an internationally renowned painter from Burkina Faso, created with women of Kejetia using bags for carrying mining ore and paint mixed with local earth
- The artwork commemorated gold miners who died in two tragic recent mining accidents



# Transforming our world?

- We are at a productive stage of ‘intellectually grappling’ with our approach(es) to transformation
- Using cosmology as an ‘entry point’, our work emphasises the role of non-human agents and materiality within processes of change
- Recognition is given to an “ethics of care” that can cultivate the political desire for transformation



# Thank you from the Gold Matters Team!



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<http://gold-matters.org/>



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