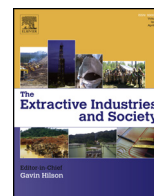




Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

The Extractive Industries and Society

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/exis

Editorial



Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Extractive Industries and Society*. This dynamic and exciting new journal will provide a much-needed space for debate on key issues in the mining and oil and gas sectors, bringing together academics, the NGO community, industry, donors, activists and policymakers.

For decades, social scientists – those in the fields of environmental management, business, economics, anthropology, sociology, political science, development studies and history – carrying out research on mining and oil and gas have struggled to find appropriate outlets for their work. Only with patience and persistence has rich analysis of, *inter alia*, the impact of the extractive industries on communities, the resource curse and Dutch Disease, mining taxation, gas flaring and mine closure managed to find its way into leading social science journals. This work has informed broader academic debates and policy dialogue. Flagship social science journals will continue to attract a steady stream of high-quality papers which examine key mining and oil and gas issues.

Surprisingly, social scientists working on extractive industries have been able to produce high-quality work despite not having a platform for developing, exploring and refining their ideas and engaging in debates with others in the field. The importance of having such a space has been demonstrated elsewhere. For social scientists looking at forestry, fishing and manufacturing, for example, having in place dedicated journals has allowed for a more concise and in-depth exploration of topics such as deforestation, overfishing and the orientation of supply chains. Dedicated platforms have spawned critical discussion which has nurtured debates, and by reaching those most affected and involved, have assisted scholars with repackaging their arguments for presentation to wider academic and policy audiences.

For many scholars looking at mining and oil and gas-related issues, initially, the most logical outlets to pursue were the technical journals in the field. But whilst indexed in the same locations, these engineering and science forums reach very different audiences. Not surprisingly, few have failed to raise the profile of key issues in the extractive industries, or foster anywhere close to the level of discussion and debate expected; nor have efforts to 'borrow' space in journals serving specific disciplines such as economics, development studies and geography. With the launch of *The Extractive Industries and Society*, social scientists looking at mining and oil and gas wanting to have a

lasting impact on scholarship and policy with their research no longer have to scramble to find an outlet for their published work.

The idea for *The Extractive Industries and Society* came about in 2006, although Elsevier was not approached until 2010. Between 2010 and 2013 an expert editorial board was assembled and an extensive marketing campaign took place: social networking was used, flyers were distributed at international conferences and emails were sent out in the hundreds to prospective authors. The response has been phenomenal. Colleagues in academia, government, industry, the donor network and NGO community were all informed about the journal. To best serve these parties, it was decided that, in addition to publishing original articles on and critical reviews of topical issues in the extractive industries, the journal would also feature a 'Viewpoint' section. This has been set up to generate debate amongst colleagues in the private sector and civil society in particular who are engaged in very important and relevant work. Many do not have the time to develop an 8000-word research paper but can commit to penning a 2000-word 'Viewpoint' or commentary capable of stimulating debate.

This is the first of two 'extended' issues of *The Extractive Industries and Society* to be published in 2014. Beginning in 2015, the journal will be published quarterly. In this issue, a diverse collection of papers is presented, including analysis of the dynamics of conflicts induced by industrial mining projects, controversies surrounding pipelines, oil and gas legislation, and the impacts of small-scale mining. The issue provides a flavour of the breadth of topics and debates which the extractive industries touch on, their importance to societies across the world, and the number of lives they affect.

The journal welcomes contributions from across the social sciences. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact the founder and editor-in-chief of *The Extractive Industries and Society*, Professor Gavin Hilson, at any time.

Gavin Hilson*

Chair of Sustainability in Business, The Surrey Business School,
Faculty of Business, Economics and Law, University of Surrey,
Guildford GU2 7XH, United Kingdom

*Tel.: +44 01483 686326

E-mail address: g.m.hilson@surrey.ac.uk (G. Hilson).