

# BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIA SUMMER TERM 2022

## Extractive entanglements: Mining and the cosmologies of mineral resources in the early modern period

**Monday, 23 May 2022 / 16.15 - 17.45 / Leibnizstraße 1, Rm. 105**

**Tina Asmussen, Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum, Germany**

From the late fifteenth century, mining helped redefine the notion of “nature” from the perspective of resource exploitation. Mining represents an early form of large-scale landscape transformation with far-reaching consequences. Early modern extractive industries differed from modern practices, yet they are often seen as the origins of a mentality that values nature as little more than a passive container of resources that had irreversible consequences for the environment. In this presentation, I open a broader perspective by focusing on the extractive entanglements between subsoil, surface, and cosmos. It aims at an understanding of human-resource relations that goes beyond mere economic and technological rationalities, connecting materials, landscapes, people, and cosmologies in a broader perspective. This approach emphasises the interconnectedness of material and symbolic spheres. Thinking about the early modern practices and rationalities of human interventions into nature also spurs a critical reflection on contemporary missions and understandings of technological innovation, as well as sustainability that largely builds on a techno-economic and secularised understanding of nature.



*Hendrick van Cleve III. – An extensive landscape with a statue of Saturn.*

**Contact:**

**For more information, please contact**  
[office@sfb1266.uni-kiel.de](mailto:office@sfb1266.uni-kiel.de) or  
[office@roots.uni-kiel.de](mailto:office@roots.uni-kiel.de)