

Call for Submissions -- Special Issue on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining: Women and Health

DEADLINE: October 31, 2017.

Women and Environments International (WEI) Magazine is seeking submissions for its upcoming issue on **Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining: Women and Health**. The objective of this issue is to critically examine the issue of artisanal and small-scale gold mining in relation to women's health. Deadline for submissions (or letters of interest/proposals): **October 31, 2017**.

Please see the magazine's website: <http://www.yorku.ca/weimag/>

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) activities are divided into 3 streams: up-stream, middle-stream and down-stream. The up-stream level covers the activities in mining sites, along riverbanks (for alluvial types of mining) and transporting ore to processing facilities. The middle-stream level covers processing activities such as grinding, crushing and extracting gold into rough nuggets or amalgam. The down-stream level covers activities such as gold purifying processes, gold processing (e.g. into jewellery etc), tailings management and other impacts of ASGM.

Contributors are invited to explore gender perspectives in relation to the following topics (among many others):

1. Artisanal and small-scale gold mining, mercury and health – exploring specific articles in the Minamata Convention on mercury: Article 7 on ASGM, Article 8 on emissions, Article 9 on releases, and Article 16 on health aspects of the treaty and focusing on women and children.
2. Global gender politics of ASGM and gender mainstreaming in ASGM at the national or local level.
3. ASGM as livelihood, highlighting various types of livelihoods and women's roles in ASGM up-stream, middle-stream and down-stream activities.
4. Exploring the ripple effect and rip-off effect of ASGM in all streams and how women are affected.
5. Displacement in relation to ASGM activities: domestic or in-country displacement; Indigenous peoples' displacement and/or threat of displacement to local communities, farmers, etc.
6. ASGM, poverty and vulnerability highlighting women and other vulnerable groups.
7. Gendered divisions of labour, risk, sexual violence, occupational hazards, and opportunities in relation to ASGM.
8. Women's indirect labour and employment in ASGM.
9. A critical eye on social activism and ASGM: miner-financed activism vs. genuine activism by indigenous peoples, miners, communities, etc.
10. Associations/formalisation of ASGM miners and women workers.

11. Comparing the challenges faced in Large Scale Mining companies (LSM) and ASGM on vertical and horizontal conflicts, corruption, etc.
12. Governmental and non-governmental policy mandates in relation to ASGM.
13. ASGM from the perspective of international aid and support.
14. Trade in mercury, cyanide, arsenic, and other toxics associated with ASGM (including import and export) and women's role/involvement.
15. The role of women health workers in ASGM hotspots.
16. Mercury poisoning in ASGM hotspots areas, the threat of new Minamata Disease, congenital diseases and the burden of environmental diseases for women and their families and women in community roles.

WEI aims to gather content from both the North and the South. Submissions may be in the form of critical studies, essays, case studies, book or film reviews, poetry, photography, and/or visual art. While we appreciate every submission to WEI, only contributors whose work has been selected will be contacted.

Submissions: Send submission(s) electronically by October 31, 2017 to weimag@yorku.ca using "Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining: Women and Health" as your subject heading. Please refer to the Editorial guidelines at <http://www.yorku.ca/weimag/WRITFOR/editorialguidelines.html>

General Information: WEI is a magazine that examines women's relations to their natural, built, and social environments from feminist and anti-racist perspectives. It has provided a forum for academic research and theory, professional practice and community experience since 1976. Like most scholarly publications, WEI does not pay for contributions but retains a high-quality wide readership so your contribution will reach a wide audience. Upon publication, WEI assumes a non-exclusive, worldwide, and perpetual right to publish and reproduce contributions in any format in and outside the magazine context. This does not preclude contributors from granting permission to publish their materials after publication in WEI provided WEI is acknowledged as the original publisher.

The Editorial Group for this issue will include:

Dr. Olga Speranskaya, IPEN Co-Chair

Yuyun Ismawati, IPEN Lead on ASGM <http://www.ipen.org/>

Helen Lynn

Wildcard Research

Visiting Researcher at the Occupational and Environmental Health

Research group, University of Stirling.

Facilitator for the Alliance for Cancer Prevention

www.allianceforcancerprevention.org.uk

Campaigner on www.frompinktoprevention.org

Jennifer Spalton, MES student, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada

Reena Shadaan, PhD student, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada

NB: The first Conference of Parties to the United Nations Minamata Convention on mercury which enters into force on August 16, 2017) will take place in Geneva starting September 25, 2017.

Mercury is used in gold mining to extract gold from ore by forming "amalgam" - a mixture composed of approximately equal parts mercury and gold. ASGM is still the largest use of mercury. All of the mercury used in ASGM is released directly into the environment, poisoning air, soil, water, fish, rice, and people.