

## Critical Minerals Symposium Programme

7 November 2025

Seminar Room, UCD Humanities Institute, Dublin

Organisers: Dr Ge Tang & Katie Donnolly

8:30–9:00 Reception

9:00–9:10 Opening Remarks

**Associate Professor Sarah Comyn, UCD**

9:10–10:10 Keynote

Quarry of Thought: Minerality and AI

**Associate Professor Tom Nurmi, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology**

10:10–10:30 Coffee Break

10:30–11: Panel 1: Critical Minerals, Colonial Legacies and Contemporary Distrusts

Excavating the Origins of China's Relationship with Africa: Gold, Indenture, and Race in South Africa

**Nicholas McGee (Durham University)**

War Geology: Toward A Longer View of Critical Minerals and the United States

**Gustave Lester (KTH Royal Institute of Technology)**

How are Ethical Judgements of the Mining Sector Formed by Social Trust, Values, and Value Similarity?

**Geertje Schuitema (UCD)**

11:30–11:45 Break

11:45–12:45/13:05 Panel 2: The Costs of Green Energy Transition

Lithium Extraction, Technological Dependency, and the Green Transition in Brazil (TBC)

**Nicole Ísis de Ayub (University of Campinas)**

Rethinking Critical Minerals for a Just and Sustainable Energy Future

**Aileen Doran (Satarla)**

Human Rights and the Rule of Law beyond the EU Green Transition: The Impact of the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) on the Informal Lithium and Cobalt Mining Sector in Africa

**Mary Goretti Byamugisha (University of Salerno)**

Rematerializing Ireland's Race to Net Zero

**Diplali Mathur (Trinity College Dublin)**

12:45/13:05–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:00 Panel 3: Imaginaries and Representations of Extractivism

Imaging Extraction: Critical Minerals and the Ethics of Environmental Witnessing in Richard Mosse's *Broken Spectre*

**Alexia Bozas (Pennsylvania State University)**

Visualisation and the Coalmining Imaginary

**Gary Boyd (UCD)**

Egyptian Ores and Gothic Curses: Mineral Orientalism in *The Beetle*

**Ritam Dutta (Jadavpur University)**

15:00–15:15 Coffee break

15:15–16:00 Feature Paper (Virtual)

Below Our Feet: The Rocky Foundations of Canadian Museums

**Camille Mary Sharp (Western University)**

16:00–16:15 Break

16:15–17:35 Panel 4: Critical Methodologies and Research Ethics

Cobalt, Speculation and Norwegian Art in the Nineteenth Century

**Helene Birkeli (University of Bergen)**

On Trinitite

**Eleanor Armstrong (University of Leicester)**

Communicating Criticality: Making a Research-led Critical Raw Material Exhibition at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History

**Kelly Richards & (Oxford University Museum of Natural History)**

Critical Materialism within a Broad Framework for Responsible Research across Disciplines

**Padraig Murphy (Dublin City University)**

17:35–18:00 Reflection Workshop and Closing Remarks

19:00 Conference Dinner

(This symposium is supported by the UCD College of Arts and Humanities, the UCD Humanities Institute, and Research Ireland through the Starting Laureate Minerals project.)