

**Narratives of Swiss Players' Trade of Gold Mined in Peru  
And the Associated Damage to Humans and the Environment**  
*A Decolonial Perspective*

An Abstract of the Thesis By

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Switzerland is central in the gold trade but gold mining is linked to damage to people and the environment. With a decolonial perspective – particularly Quijano's coloniality of power, this study researched narratives on Swiss players' trade of gold mined in Peru among people publicly opining on the Swiss gold trade and the effects of gold mining in Peru or engaged in addressing these effects. While one interviewee construed industrial mining as sound practice and a model for artisanal and small- scale mining to develop toward, allowing a continuation or consolidation of the gold trade's coloniality, other interviewees voiced systemic criticism and saw solutions to contemporary extractivism in alternatives linked to de-growth and postextractivism. Two aspects indicate continued coloniality in the discourse: explicitly unveiling the gold trade's coloniality and criticizing capitalism seems uncommon and unwelcome, and participation of people directly affected by gold mining – including Indigenous Peruvians – hardly seems to exist.