

Leonard Lief Library
Political Science
School of Natural and Social Sciences
present
A Reading and Discussion

***Underground Wealth of Nations:
On the Capitalist Origins of Silver Mining***
Jeannette Graulau

Capitalist mining corporations - the earliest capitalist industries of feudal Europe - appeared in the Alps, Carpathians, Tuscany, Sardinia, and the Balkans from the 12th century onward. These private shareholding societies employed notaries, accountants, chief engineers, mine geometry specialists, cashiers, and ore carriers.

Investors were the CEOs of mining corporations and Europe's earliest capitalists. They paid the costs of continuous operation and enjoyed the economic gains of mining - at the expense of poor free miners, serfs, women, and idle feudal lords.

The Underground Wealth of Nations: On the Capitalist Origins of Silver Mining, A.D. 1150-1450 by Jeannette Graulau, Professor of Political Science at Lehman College, will be published soon by Yale University Press.

Image caption: Medieval miners 'roasting' silver-lead ores
Source: *De re metallica, liber VIII*, by Georgius Agricola
(Basel, ca. 1556)
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**Monday, December 12, 2016
4:00 - 5:00 PM**

Library - Treehouse Conference Room 317

RSVP by December 8th: <http://JeannetteGraulau.eventbrite.com>

Information: Alison.LehnerQuam@lehman.cuny.edu, 718-960-7756

Light Refreshments will be served