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## Networks of resistance: a regional analysis of extractive conflicts in Central America

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## **Networks of resistance: a regional analysis of extractive conflicts in Central America**

Mining companies exploit natural resources in Central America, one of the most dangerous regions in the world for activists, subject to increased control and repression by both the state and corporations as well as human rights violations. In response, social and environmental movements in the region have formed alliances to resist mining operations and promote Environmental Justice (EJ) such as the Central American Alliance on Mining. This dissertation explores three case studies of mining conflicts in Central America: Escobal (Guatemala), Guapinol (Honduras), and El Dorado (El Salvador). My research will address how alliances transform the dynamics of activism and campaigning by promoting EJ and modifying the spaces available for the pursuit of justice. Through the lenses of political ecology, political settlements theory, networks of resistance, and communication, I will use qualitative case study research methods to examine the perspective and goals of activists, community leaders, and movements' struggles against mining.