Traction: The Role of Executives in Localizing the Global Mining and Petroleum Industries in Papua New Guinea

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How do international mining and petroleum companies establish themselves when they enter a new country? Who, concretely, makes decisions for these companies? This talk answers this question by drawing on interviews and participant observation with mining and petroleum elites in Papua New Guinea, a country whose GDP is set to double due to a world-class liquid natural gas facility that is being built there. This talk will argue that 'country managers' use their personal connections with politicians and civil servants to facilitate the operation of the companies they represent. They do so because they see oil and mining as the only way to generate the economic activity which they hope will 'develop' the country. The result is an unusual situation: educated elites who facilitate the extraction of their country's natural resources in the name of patriotism.

**Alex Golub** is an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He studies mining and petroleum development in Papua New Guinea, where he focuses on how micro-level politics affects the macro-level political economy of companies and nations.

Presentation VIDEO: https://vimeo.com/49808730