

Oil and the Licit Life of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea: The Contract



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Critical approaches to capitalism often argue that profit-oriented market practices exacerbate inequality. Drawing on fieldwork from U.S. based oil companies in Equatorial Guinea, this talk argues that markets are in fact made by that inequality. Global markets, the oil market chief among them, do not merely deepen racialized and gendered postcolonial disparities; they are constituted by them. Drawing from material on subcontracts and marriage contracts in Equatorial Guinea's oil industry, Appel shows how forms of racial segregation and heteronormative domestic intimacy come to proxy for "the rules of the economy."



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