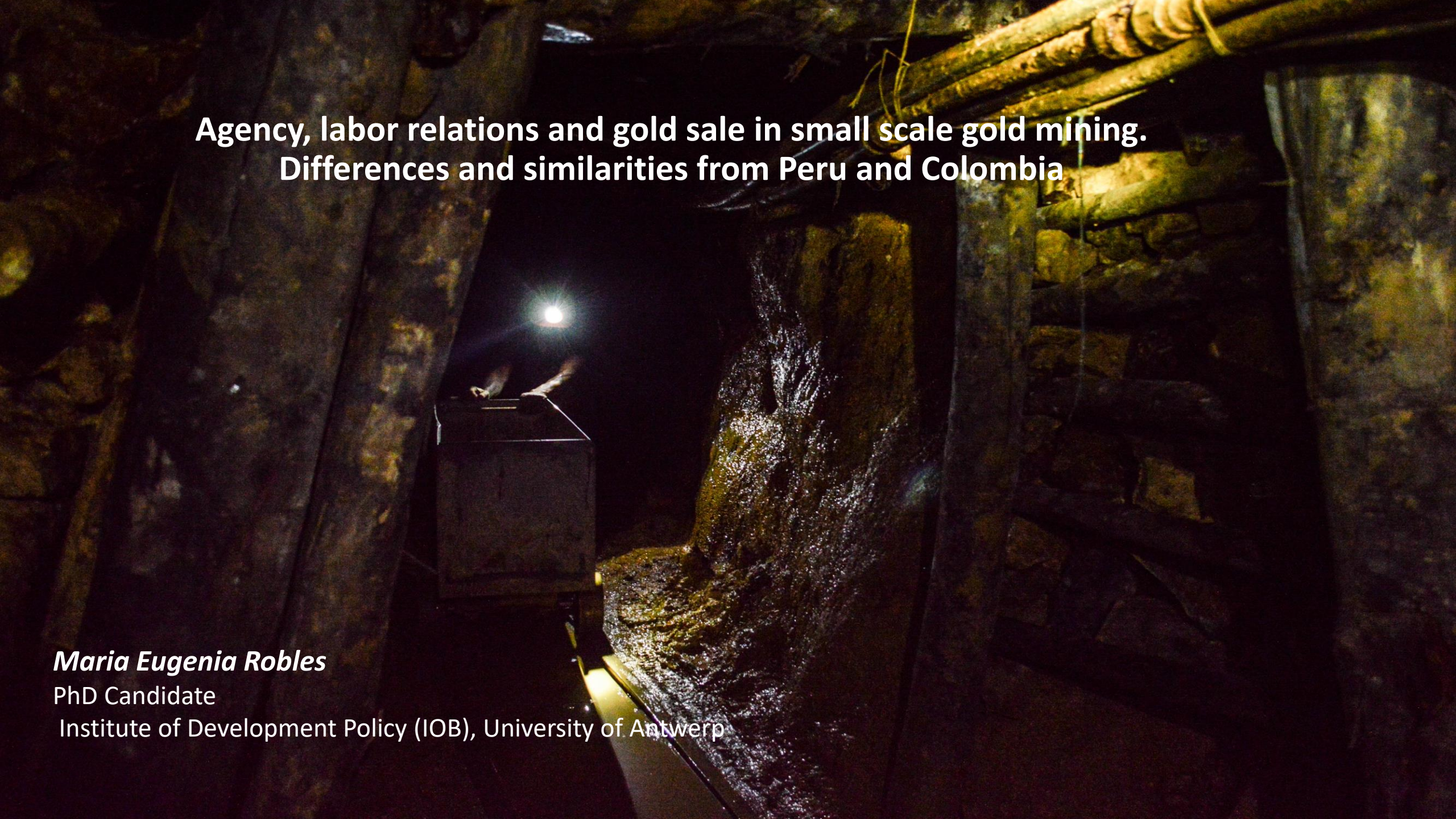

Agency, labor relations and gold sale in small scale gold mining. Differences and similarities from Peru and Colombia

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Areas of research

Colombia:

- Department of Chocó
- Marmato. Department of Caldas
- Remedios and Segovia.

  Department of Antioquia

Peru:

- La Rinconada. Department of Puno

Agency in gold mining

- Large Scale Mining: Union perspective
- Small scale mining: linked to an economic structure.
  - Lack of opportunities, poverty driven.

- What other factors influence miners choice to stay on mining?

Chocó - Colombia

- Afro-descendants.
- Identity: traditional miners. 500 + of mining tradition.

Types of “artisanal” Mining.

- Barequeo or mazamorreo
- Guache
- Dredges
- Water pump (Chorreo)

- Use of Retroexcavators (mechanized mining)

- Drivers:
  - Lack of opportunities.
  - Verbal contract with no previous requirements

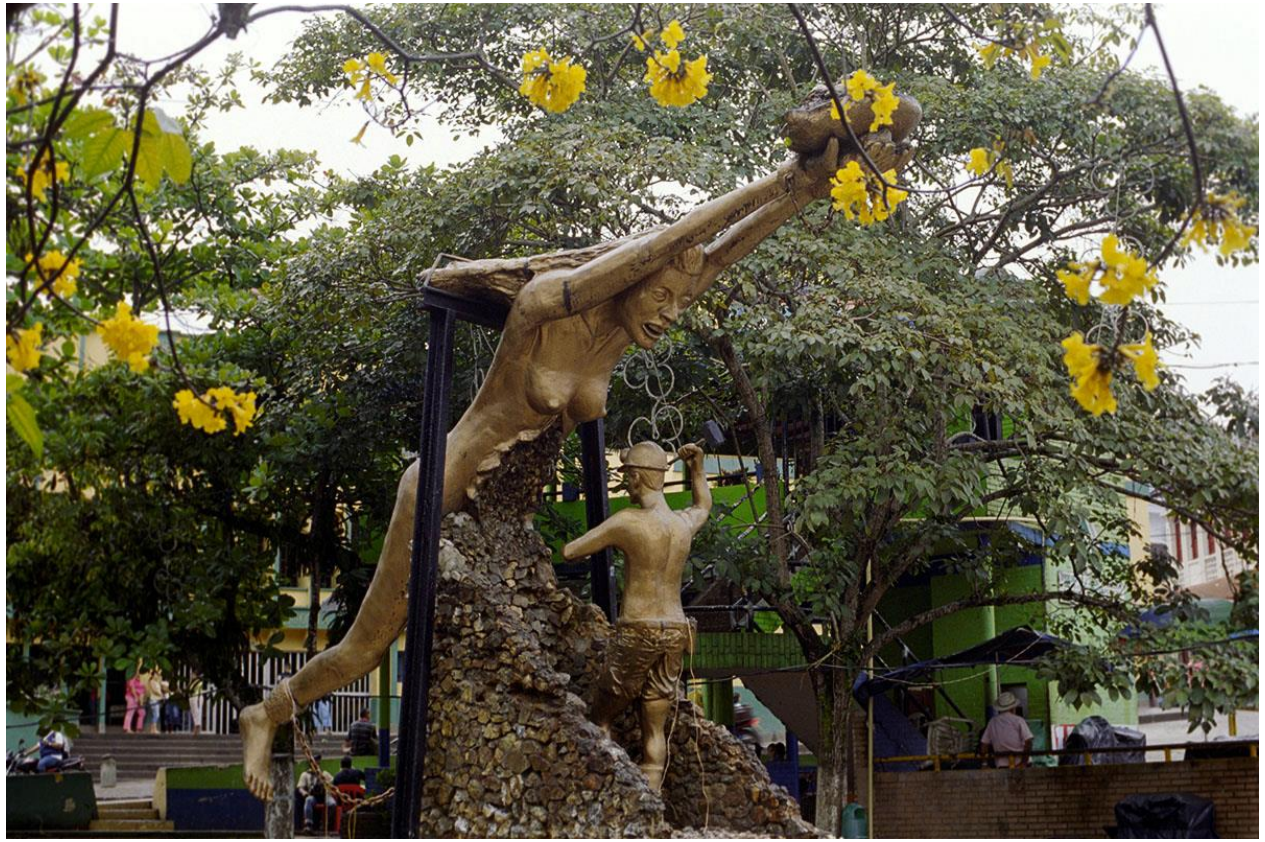
- Influencing factors to stay:
  - Acquired knowledge since childhood.
  - Ancestry. Tradition. Discourse gives high value to ancestors in times of slavery.
  - Familiar activity.

Marmato, Remedios, Segovia.

- **Marmato:**

- Mostly underground mining.
  - Drivers:
    - Verbal contract with no previous requirements
  - Influencing factors to stay:
    - Resistance: Sense of Identity. Aroused with the conflict of The Gran Colombia Gold in 2007.
    - Temporality (500 years).

- **Remedios and Segovia:**
- Less preferred mining area due to the presence of armed groups: FARC, ELN, Paramilitaries, Bacrim, and the national army.
- Influencing factors to stay:
  - Identity
  - Temporality: 150 years
  - Sense of Identity
  - Resistance against the presence of the multinational Gran Colombia Gold.



La Rinconada, Peru

- Drivers:
  - Easy entry
  - Verbal contract, no requirements
  - No state control
  - Quick gold

Influencing factors to stay:

- Cachorreo system. Bondage.
- Myths surrounding appearance of gold. There is dialogue with Pachamama and gold.

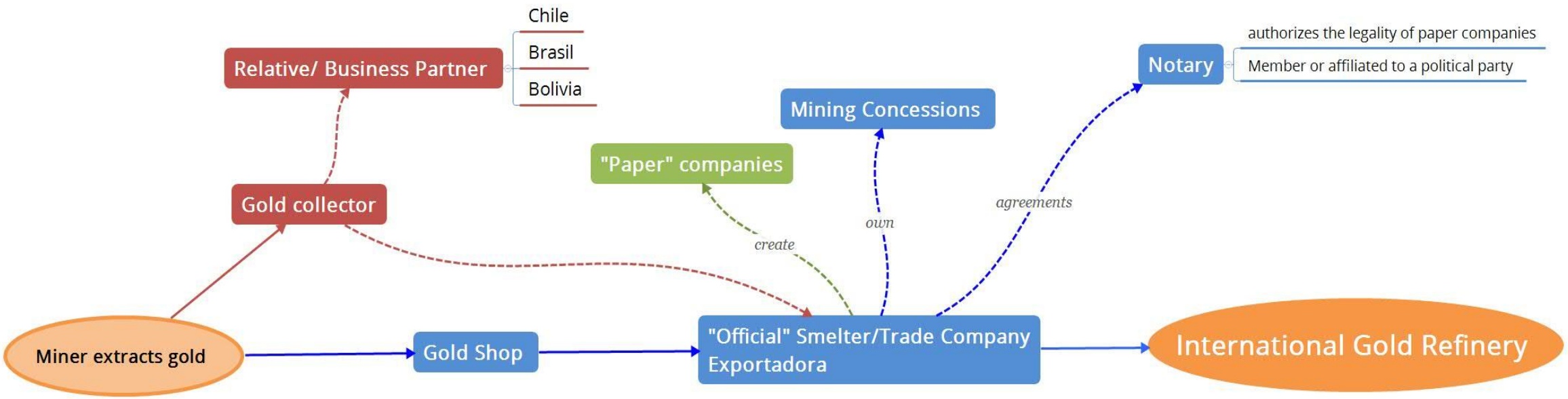
- Alcoholism
- Bar-brothels (the new gold mines)
- Sex (more than 3000 girls working as prostitutes, 60% have been trafficked, majority under 25 years old)

- How are these schemes of behaviors incorporated to their lives once inside of the mines?
- Can we think of psychological factors influencing miners?
- Can it also be looked at from a gender perspective (construction of masculinities)?

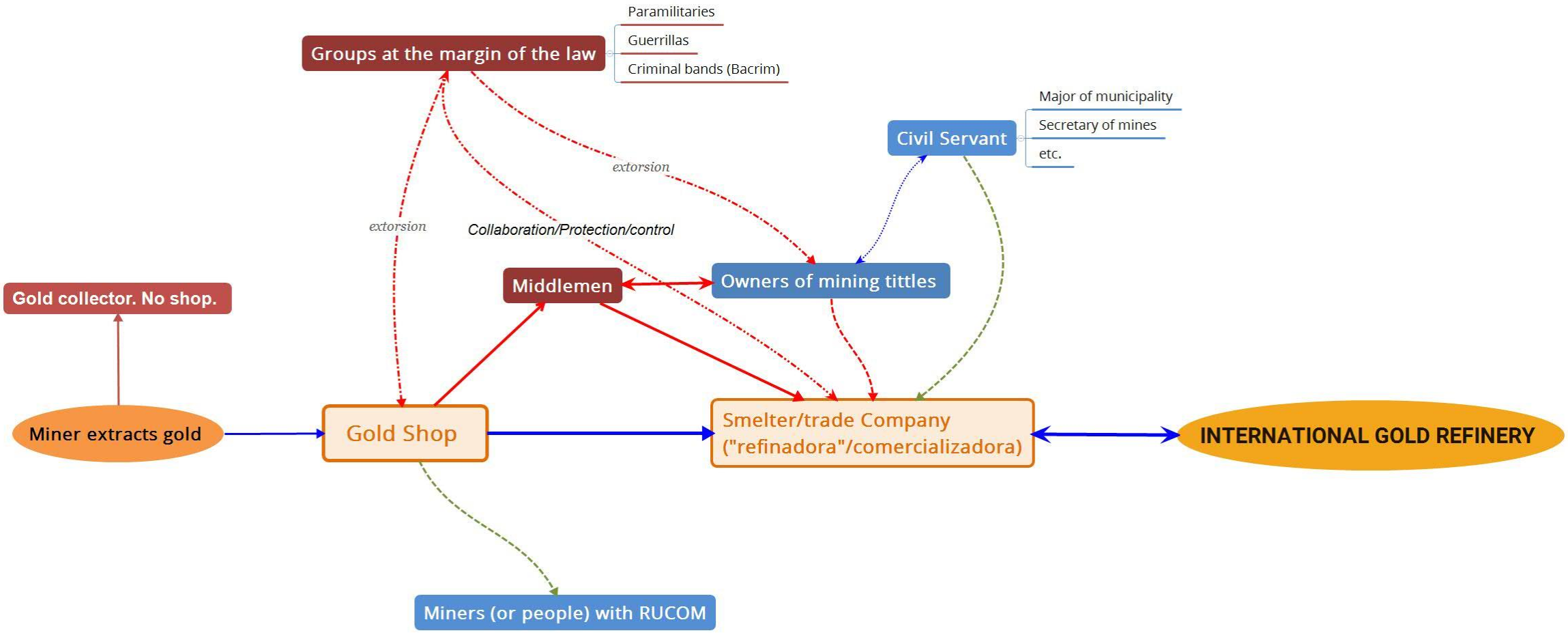
Gold trade

Gold commercialization in Peru

PERU



Gold commercialization in Colombia



Conclusions

- Agency
- Identity, resistance, temporality, and psyco-social factors that influence miners to stay in the mining activity.

- Gold trade
- Altough different context, certain patterns repeat (Philippines). The global affects the distribution at the local level. The gold laundering process occurs with the affiliation of an international refinery and a local smelter company.
- Who benefits the most in the chain?
- Middlemen, local smelter companies.

GRACIAS!