

Security of international supplies of strategic minerals and insecurity in Africa

Public Lecture

by **Dr. Apoli Bertrand Kameni**

**Université Omar Bongo, Libreville (Gabon) /
Sciences Po Lyon (France)**

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Herder Building, R100

Tennenbacher Str. 4

In this talk, Dr. Kameni will introduce and discuss a novel approach to the analysis of conflicts and political violence in Africa. While the conventional wisdom attributes conflicts in Africa to ethnic and religious antagonism, his research demonstrates that the race to secure international supplies of strategic minerals plays a pivotal role in many African conflicts. By elucidating this fundamental logic behind the structural insecurity in Africa, Dr. Kameni argues that it is imperative to move towards a more comprehensive Diplomacy of Natural Resources. This is all the more necessary today, he argues, because political efforts towards a Green Economy are further fueling these dynamics. In his talk, Dr. Kameni will talk about the Democratic Republic of Congo as an example, where international and local actors, including armed groups, are engaged in competition for cobalt, a strategic mineral used in batteries that power electric vehicles.

Dr. Apoli Bertrand Kameni holds a PhD in Political Science and Strategic International Relations from the University of Strasbourg (France). He is a researcher and lecturer at the Université Omar Bongo of Libreville (Gabon). He is affiliated with the Institut d'Études Politiques (Sciences Po) of Lyon (France). His research interests include globalization and geopolitics, with a focus on Africa.