

# 主論文の要約

## (Abstract of Dissertation)

論文題目 : From ‘Victims’ to ‘Perpetrators’: Rural Communities, Artisanal Crude Oil Refining and Environmental Pollution in the Niger Delta

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論文内容の要約 :

Crude oil extraction and environmental pollution by Multinational Oil Companies are major issues of discussion in the Niger delta. Using a qualitative approach, the research explored the dynamics of rural response to artisanal crude oil refining as a newer source of environmental pollution on one hand, and to understand the dynamics of individual actions as they contribute to the functionality of artisanal crude oil refining on the other hand.

Chapter two focused on mainstream literature regarding oil-producing rural communities as victims of exploitation and pollution, a situation that led to antagonistic responses towards oil companies. Moving forward, inherent limitations in this position are highlighted in the wake of artisanal crude oil refining. In chapter three, an overview of artisanal crude oil refining is presented. This included the legal and institutional aspects, relative history and connections with oil extraction and oil theft in the region. These are used as background for the analyses in subsequent chapters.

The research finds that two related outcomes inform the expressive change in response of communities to oil-related pollution. The first outcome, as shown in chapter four, is that artisanal refining has become a functional informal economic activity in communities of operation. This functionality is shaped by the limitations of a centrally regulated petroleum distribution mechanism, entrepreneurial intent of rural participants in the industry and refiners’ mobilization of informal networks of interaction and the social capital on which such relations are built.

With regards to the second outcome in chapter five, the findings show increasingly affective actions by communities towards the disregard of artisanal refining as against oil company pollution. As much as community apathy to the environmental damage by artisanal refining is influenced by its economic relevance to individuals, it is shaped more by collective experiences with decades of extraction-induced pollution and environmental management style of the state and Multinational Oil Companies in these communities.

The research concludes that there is an objective shift in the position of communities from being ‘victims’ of the effects of environmental pollution to beneficiaries and perpetrators of pollution. The outcome of the study highlights the movement from concern for the environment to a loss of concern embedded in the economic instrumentation of a pollution-inducing informal economic activity. However, the study notes that even with the material and affective colorations of this shift in response, the environmental downsides represent a paradox of resource use and a vicious cycle of poverty with severe implications for sustainability and intergenerational survival in these communities.