



Society for
Mining, Metallurgy
& Exploration®

Washington DC Section

The Washington DC Section of SME proudly presents

Cristina M. Villega: A view from the field - Trends in African Small-scale Mining

Abstract: Cristina M. Villegas is Director of Mining at Pact, a large international nonprofit that is known for its mining and development work in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Pact works with large and small mineral producers across a range of materials, from gold, coal, cobalt, copper, cassiterite/tin, tantalum, tungsten, salt, REE, 'development minerals' (low value materials), gemstones, and more. She will discuss the three top new trends of note in mining across the African continent and will share some insights connecting small-scale miners to changing consumer markets worldwide.

Date: Wednesday April 10, 2019
Time: Social Hour 11:30 - 12:00 am
Section Business/Luncheon 12:00 - 2:30 pm
Location: Maggiano's Little Italy At Tysons Galleria
2001 International Drive
McLean, Virginia 22102
Metro Access: Silver Line Tysons Corner Station next to Route 123

Buffet Luncheon:

Soup: Creamy Tomato Basil
Choice of 3 Salads: Caesar, Orzo Pasta, Italian Tossed
Choice of 3 Sandwiches: Fazio's Italian Hero
Roast Beef (Blue Cheese & Mixed Greens)
Grilled Vegetables with Lemon & Spicy Basil Mayo
Choice of 3 Deserts: Triple chocolate Cookies
Vera's Lemon Cookies
Seasonal Whole Fruit

Cost: \$ 25 for DC Section Members and Guests

RSVP: Please reply by email to George K. Schuler at gkschuler@Verizon.net by Monday April 8, 2019

Biography: Cristina Maria Villegas is Director of Mining at Pact. She is a recognized global expert in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) and has 15 years of experience in the international development sector. She specializes in ASM, rural development strategies, mineral sector governance with direct field experience across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. In her current role, she designs and oversees multi-million-dollar field programs focused on mineral sector formalization, improving ASM's technical, social, environmental performance, and market linkages. She is a Gold Expert for the UN Environmental Program, an Expert Associate of the Artisanal Gold Council, a member of the Gemstone Knowledge Hub, Fairtrade's Technical Advisory Committee for Gold, and is on the advisory council for CRAFT, a new responsible mining standard for ASM worldwide. Ms. Villegas is a graduate of the University of California at San Diego, the London School of Economics, and is taking additional graduate coursework at Harvard. She lectures at the Columbia University's open online course (MOOC) focused on extractives. Prior to Pact, she ran her own consultancy focused on ASM of diamonds and gold, was a founding staffer of Estelle Levin Ltd., and worked the Fund for Global Human Rights, the World Wildlife Fund, and the World Bank