

ISTANBUL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMICS AND SOCIETY (ISTCES) 2025

*Pathways to Inclusive Growth: Overcoming Challenges in
Emerging and Developing African Countries.*

24-26 SEPTEMBER 2025

Book of Proceedings

Editors

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Copy Editor

Şeyma Kılıç

ISBN

978-625-93023-8-6

1st Edition

İstanbul - 2026

IHU Press

155

Executive Editor

Savaş Cihangir Tali

Publishing Director

Ayşenur Alper

Design

IHU Press

Cover Design

IHU Press

Layout

Muhammed Muttaki Topcu

**Imprinting
and Binding**

Milba Matbaacılık
Certificate No: 77090

Istanbul Conference on Economics and Society (ISTCES) 2025 : pathways to inclusive growth : overcoming challenges in emerging and developing African countries / Hasan Vergil, Muhittin Kaplan, Asad Ul Islam Khan, Ayman Bekirođlu, Arab Dahir Hasan, Ayuba Napari, Mohammed Muntaka Abdul Rahman, Mahat Maalim Ibrahim, Abdülkadir Kömü, Enes Cebe ; copy editor Şeyma Kılıç. -- First edition -- Istanbul : Ibn Haldun University Press, 2026.

352 s. ; 24 cm. -- (IHU Press ; 155.).

Bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-625-93023-8-6.

1. Economic development_Africa. 2. Inclusive growth_Africa. 3. Africa_Economic conditions.

HC800

330.96

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37.

Rethinking Phosphate Infrastructure in Morocco: Technopolitics, Extractivism, and Islamic Environmental Ethics

Safa Fadil¹

Following the 2020 global crisis, food security became a crucial focus, elevating Morocco's phosphate industry to a new level of global significance. Phosphate production is not only linked to fertilizers but also influences green energy transitions and economic growth. Since its discovery, phosphate extraction has been viewed only as a technical objective economic resource for exploitation. However, scholarship reveals its subjective ideological nature, especially within the post-colonial context of Morocco, where large-scale projects often serve the interests of colonial powers and capitalism. This research examines Morocco's phosphate industry not only as a system of material extraction and distribution, but as an epistemological regime that shapes which forms of knowledge and ethics are deemed legitimate. Drawing critiques from technopolitics, extractivism, and epistemic violence, the study explores how phosphate infrastructure and extraction establish certain knowledge and worldviews and erase other alternatives. In response, it proposes Islamic environmental ethics, grounded in concepts like *khilāfa*, *mīzān*, and *'adl*, as an alternative framework for rethinking the phosphate infrastructure. By reintroducing Islamic ethical thought into the academic realm, the project promotes a decolonial approach. It criticizes Morocco's extractivist model by reviving neglected Islamic knowledge and highlighting its importance for sustainable governance. This approach adds to broader conversations on environmental justice, development ethics, and the re-politicization of infrastructure in the Global South.

Keywords: Morocco, Phosphate Industry, Technopolitics, Extractivism, Postcolonialism, Islamic Environmental Ethics, Epistemic Justice

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