

INTERNATIONAL WASTE CHAINS IN GHANA: SCRAPYARDS, COMPANIES, AND FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURES

DAGNA RAMS (UNIVERSITÉ DE
LAUSANNE)



Agbogbloshe: the world's largest e-waste dump - in pictures

A Global Graveyard for Dead Computers in Ghana



Africa

From soot to gold: Finding opportunity among hardship in Africa's largest e-waste site

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Illegal mines tarnish gold from Ghana

Afua Hirsch 26 Apr 2013



URBAN MINING EXTRACTION

Scrapyards	Companies that buy from scrapyards
Spaces of life, work, and socialising	International conferences, interventions

EXTRACTION VERSUS RECYCLING

Primary raw material – from extraction

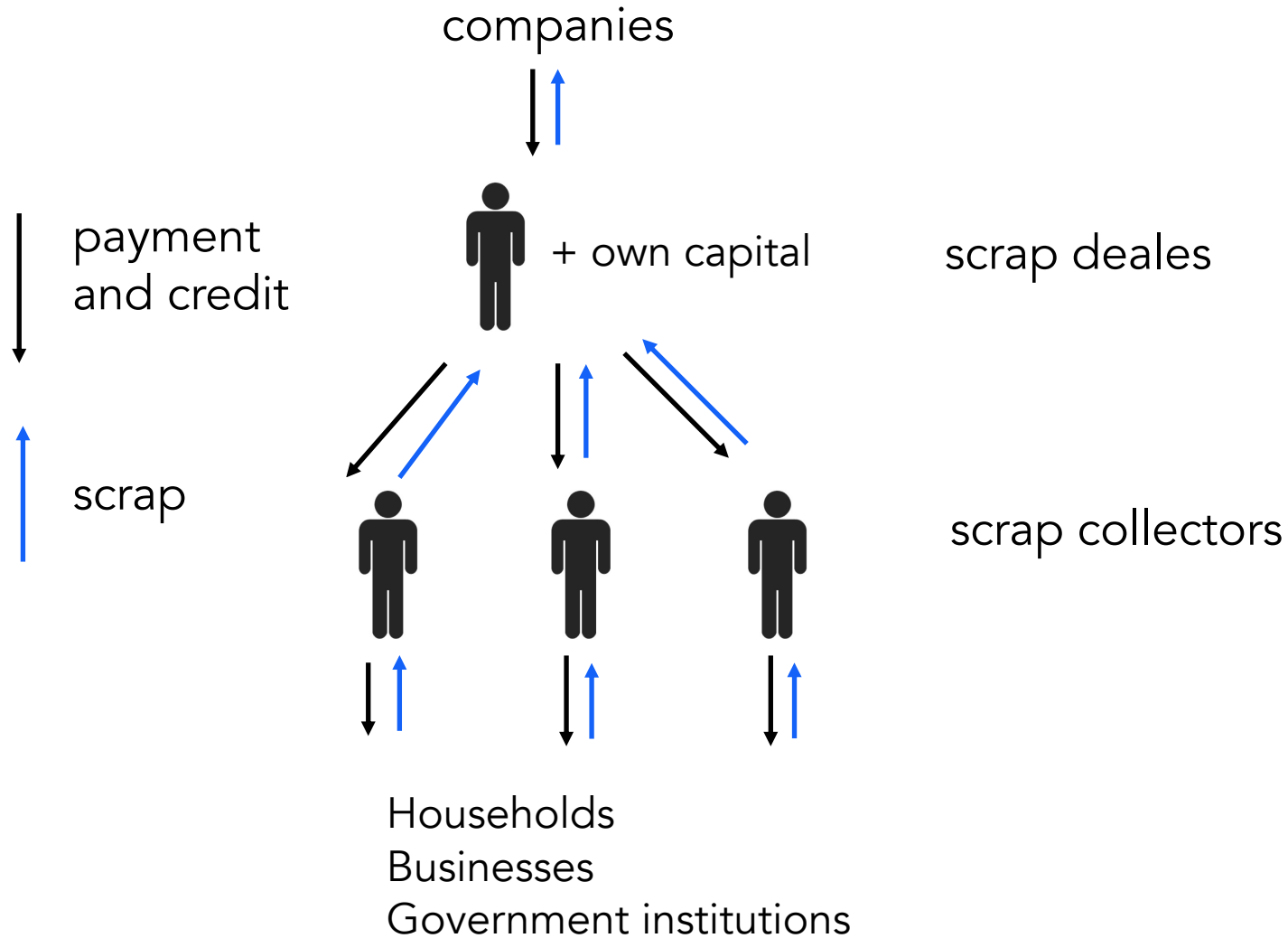
Secondary raw material - recycle – from waste

Demand: Industrial or Export





'URBAN MINING SYSTEM' – ECONOMIES OF SCALE



COMPETITION AND COMMODIFICATION

Competition for scrap waste

Scrap metal is easier to locate than to collect

« It's a try and luck business »

« I don't have money to work »

FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SCRAPYARDS

Financial markets – ensuring liquidity and managing temporal risks
(credit, price differentials)

'Urbanity' of urban mining – social inequalities, slumlording,
patrimonial ties, political entrepreneurship

CONCLUSION

Scrap metal – harbinger of commodification of waste

Economies of scale and the valorisation of informal labour

Hazard and financial risk - individual or socialised