



## The African Eco-Thriller

A Magical Quest in the Oil Industry

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Abstract: Based on a reading of two African thrillers, Helon Habila's *Oil on Water* (2010) and Bessora's *Petroleum* (2004), this article explores how magical realism conveys a postcolonial critique of natural resource exploitation. The novels deal with oil extraction, in Nigeria and Gabon respectively, initiated by colonialists and continued to the present day by European companies.

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