

New deadline for submissions: 12 October 2016

5th Workshop of the Working Group “Nature, Resources and Conflicts” of the
German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies

**The enforced expansion of extractive frontiers: struggles over power,
meaning and knowledge**

Freiburg, 10-11 November 2016

Different actors ascribe different meanings to the visible and palpable dimensions of the physical environment. They hold distinct considerations about acceptable and suitable forms of interactions between people, society and nature. Such multiplicities of meanings and considerations enter in conflict as capital flows to remote territories fuel the expansion of the so-called ‘extractive frontiers’ - which is a contested term itself. Antagonisms among indigenous peoples, local communities, activists, national and transnational corporations, governments and multilateral organizations arise. Having unequal power resources at their disposal, these actors are differently affected by the socio-environmental transformations underpinning the spreading out of ‘extractive frontiers’. They also make sense of and cope with these transformation processes in different ways. In some cases, distributional issues about the risks and benefits deriving from the oftentimes enforced appropriation and commodification of nature are at the centre of contention. In other cases, conflicts are about rights to secure access to and control of nature as the basis of cultural reproduction. What is ultimately at stake is the creation, thickening or discarding of meanings to legitimize and authorize competing interests, knowledge systems, practices, and identities. In this workshop we invite contributions exploring issues of power, meaning and knowledge in environmental conflicts connected to the re-drawing of extractive frontiers. The contributions should touch upon the following questions:

- Which meaning structures, interpretations and rhetorical strategies (e.g. “South-South”) are configured in the processing of conflicts arising from the expansion of extractive frontiers?
- How are identities and subjectivities forged and performed within these contentious processes?
- Whose interests, values and knowledges prevail, and whose are repressed, as natural resource governance arrangements are set in place when extractive frontiers expand?
- What socio-material assemblages emerge backing up or resisting the expansion of resource frontiers? To what extent are traditionally “weak” actor-networks capable of leveraging power dynamics in socio-environmental conflict?
- How do these interactions affect and are influenced by geopolitical trends connected to the expansion of extractive frontiers?

This workshop aims to foster interdisciplinary discussions and invites the participation of doctoral, as well as post-doctoral researchers from a variety of disciplines comprising, but not limited to, political science, international relations, political ecology, science and technology studies, environmental governance, geography, ethnology and anthropology. Empirical contributions may focus on single or multiple case studies from the Global South and the Global North, unfolding in, or at the intersection of local, national, transnational or global scales. Research harnessing the interpretive strength of qualitative methods is particularly welcome.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

Dr. Mariana Walter, ICTA, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Dr. Mariana Walter is an experienced researcher at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Her work focuses on the analysis of environmental conflicts in mining and deals with issues related to social metabolism, expert-lay knowledge interplay, institutional change, and decision-making at different scales. Recent publications include articles such as Walter M., Urkidi, L. *Community mining consultations in Latin America (2002–2012): The contested emergence of a hybrid institution for participation*. Geoforum. 2015.

Dr. Peter Larsen, University of Luzern

Dr. Larsen obtained a PhD in Social Anthropology and Development Studies from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva) and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris). His research focuses on indigenous rights, conservation, and the role of international organizations and NGOs. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in the Peruvian Amazon, Vietnam and global policy arenas. Recent publications include the book *Post-frontier Resource Governance: Indigenous Rights, Extraction and Conservation in the Peruvian Amazon*, London, Palgrave MacMillan., 2015.

Workshop Date and Venue: 10-11 November 2016, Arnold-Bergstraesser Institute (ABI) at the University of Freiburg (Windausstr. 16, 79110 Freiburg, Germany)

Submissions: To participate, please send an abstract of your contribution (250-300 words, including title, author(s) name and affiliation) via e-mail to crisrina.espinosa@abi.uni-freiburg.de and fabricio.rodriquez@uni-jena.de by **12 October 2016 (extended deadline)**. Participants will be informed about decisions on their abstracts by **15 October 2016**. Full papers (max. 6,000 words) are to be submitted by **1 November 2016** for circulation with the workshop participants.

Fees: The conference has no participation fees. Participants have to cover their travel and accommodation expenses.

Participants: 15-20 doctoral candidates and post-doctoral researchers at an early stage of their career

Organisers: Cristina Espinosa (PhD/ Senior Researcher and Cluster Coordinator, Politics of Natural Resources, ABI) and Fabricio Rodríguez (Researcher BMBF-Project “BioInequalities”, University of Jena)