

Central questions of the symposium are:

- What relevance does space have in conflicts over land, and how can we analyze and theorize the spatial dimensions of conflict?
- How do conflicts over land shape, and how are they shaped by, different authorities and patterns of domination?
- What interrelations exist between global transformations and changing labor relations in agriculture and mining?
- How can we analyze social movements and their struggles for or against mining and agro-industrial projects?



Photo: Jan Brunner

GLOCON is a junior research group studying the relations between global transformation, land use change and social conflict in two world regions: Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. It is based at the Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science and the Institute of Latin American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin.



1 - 2 December 2016
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GLOCON
Global Change - Local Conflicts

International Symposium

Conflicts over land and global change

Freie Universität Berlin, 1 - 2 December 2016



Photo: Sebastian Rötters



Photo: Bettina Engels

Global change

such as the growing demand for raw materials or the financial and food price crises, together with national policy reforms, have provoked large and rapid land use changes for agro-industrial and mining purposes worldwide.

Conflicts over land?

Land and resources are central to social power and belonging, human (re)production, political control, environmental systems and cultural representation. Changes in their use, control, distribution and representation are contested and in many cases lead to conflict.

The international symposium focuses on four thematic dimensions: 1) spatial dynamics, 2) state, authority and citizenship, 3) labor relations, and 4) social movements. It aims to further the exchange of conceptual approaches between scholars from different fields of research and to compare empirical findings across world regions.

Conflicts over land and global change

International Symposium, Freie Universität Berlin, 1 - 2 December 2016

Thursday, 1 December 2016

- 13.00 Registration & Coffee
- 14.00 Welcome & Introduction
- 14.15 **Michael Watts (Keynote lecture):**
Conflicted frontiers and the land question at the edges of the state
- 14.45 **Astrid Ulloa:** Comment
- 15.00 Plenary discussion
- 15.45 Coffee & tea
- 16.15 **PANEL: Spatial dynamics**
Bernd Belina: Territoriality, ground rent and the circulation of capital through the land
Kristina Dietz: State, space, society: Conflicts over mining in Colombia
Boris Verbrugge: Small-scale gold mining in Mindanao
Géraud Magrin: New mining in the margin (Western and Central Africa): territorial (dis)-integration?
- 18.00 End of Day 1

Friday, 2 December 2016

- 9.00 Welcome back & coffee
- 09.30 **PANEL: State, authority and citizenship**
Elisabet Rasch: Citizens as criminals. Violence and citizenship in socio-environmental conflicts in Guatemala
Sarah Kirst: Traditional authorities and conflicts over land in Ghana

- Detlef Müller-Mahn: Africa's land rush – future-making at the margins?
- 11.30 Coffee & tea
- 12.00 **PANEL: Labor relations**
Akua Britwum: Organizing for interest representation: Smallholders and outgrowers in Ghana's plantation agriculture
Oliver Pye: Labor and the social relations of nature in the palm oil industry
Jan Brunner: Labor relations and worker struggles in the sugarcane sector of São Paulo, Brazil
- 13.30 Lunch
- 14.30 Book Launch: Contested extractivism, society and the state
- 15.30 Coffee & tea
- 16.00 **PANEL: Social movements**
Louisa Prause & Bettina Engels: Linking social movement studies, political ecology, and spatial theory
Victor Munnik: Seeing coal like an activist: dealing with the dynamics of coal contention in early 21st century South Africa
Katy Jenkins: Making the Extraordinary Every day: Women anti-mining activists' narratives of staying put and carrying on in Peru and Ecuador
- 17.30 Haroon Akram-Lodhi: Concluding remarks
- 18.00 End of symposium