Extraction, inequalities and territories in Bolivia

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Outline

• Extractive industries and territorial inequalities

• Institutional transitions to equity?

• Hydrocarbons and the challenges of new inequalities: Tarija and Bolivia

• Conclusions
Extractive industry and territorial inequalities

*Inequalities between territories*

- Geological difference and differences in territorial dynamics
- Fiscal arrangements and geographic inequalities in redistribution
- Territories of extraction and places of accumulation

*Inequalities within territories*

- New inequalities of power lead to new inequalities
  - in access to resources
  - in labor markets
  - in service provision markets
  - of access to community development
  - Inequalities of exposure to environment change and risk
Institutional transitions to equity

• Inequality as outcome, inequity as cause?

• Sources of equity enhancing institutional change?

  – Social protest and mobilization
  – Policy networks
  – Political economies of growth dynamics
Hydrocarbons and the challenges of new inequalities: Tarija and Bolivia
1. Primeras actividades 1913 - 1929
2. Traslado del centro de la producción a la región de Santa Cruz 1960
3. Prospección en el Chapare y La Paz
4. Ampliación de la región de prospección al Reni, Pando y el Altiplano 1972 - 1990
Cuadro N° 1: ÁREAS DE OPERACIÓN, ÁREAS RESERVADAS PARA YPFB Y ÁREAS LIBRES
AREAS DE EXPLORACION
SUBANDINO SUR
EN ZONA TRADICIONAL

Bloque 9 IÑAU
Bloque 13 TIACIA
Bloque 14 “N” AGUARAGUE NORTE
Bloque 14 “C” AGUARAGUE CENTRO
Bloque 14 “S A” AGUARAGUE SUR A
Bloque 14 “S B” AGUARAGUE SUR B
Bloque 15 IÑIGUAZU
• “Desequilibrios”:

  – Tarija accounts for 35% of Bolivian departmental public investment

  – Government in 2008 redirects funds to national social programs

• Tensions around territorial inequalities

  ➢ department-centre conflicts
  ➢ inter-departmental conflicts
  ➢ intra-departmental conflicts
Department of Tarija

Rio Pilcomayo

Serranía de Aguaragüé
• Overlapping geographies of gas and territory
  – Weenhayek, Taipete, Guarani

• TCO Weenhayek
  – Gas exploration in 80s: imposed
  – TCO, 1993
  – Weenhayek Federation: ORCAWETA
  – Pending TCO claims: claims fail in presence of hydrocarbons
  – Increasing resistance: British Gas offers “Indigenous Development Plan”
Inequalities of intervention

- Indigenous Dev Plan
  - BG selects communities

- IDP – structures relationships
  - Extraction/territory
  - British Gas / Weenhayek
  - Among Weenhayek

- Issues among Weenhayek:
  - Transparency in negotiations (BG bilateralises negotiations)
  - Socio-spatial inequality in distribution of benefits
  - Dissatisfaction with impact/amount

- Effects:
  - Internal conflicts
  - Rival领导ships
  - ORCAWETA weakened?

- A territory in which “structured inequities” become the “central political fact in the landscape”
Conclusions

• Inequalities in power:
  – Central government-territory
  – Government-company
  – Company-community

• Geographical inequalities
  – Among departments within Bolivia
  – Among provinces within Tarija
  – Among groups within the Weenhayek
• Institutional pathways to equity?

- Territorial dynamics undermine capacity for collective action
  - State-society
  - Across and within social groups

- Undermines public sphere – the space for the debate on what is “fair”

- Short-circuits institutional pathways to equity

- Undermines institutional routes out of the resource curse