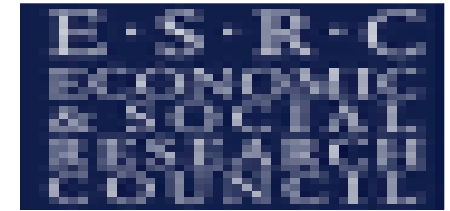




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# **“Social Movements, Indigenous Response and the Impact of Mining Conflicts in the Andes”**

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# Territory, Conflict and Development in the Andes

- **TCD Andes** is a collaborative enterprise with nongovernmental and social organizations from Latin America, Europe and North America
- Space for research networking (RIMISP, CEPES and PRISMA)
- Collaboration with non-governmental and social organizations supporting them in analysis and debate of rural development policies and processes
- ESRC funding

# Project Aims

to produce knowledge on the political ecology of social conflicts in the rural area, the factors driving the geography of NGOs and social movements as they relate to these conflicts, the relationships between civil society and political economy under conditions of neoliberalism, the implications for the future of rural environments and societies and the emergence of diverse development alternatives across space

# Research questions

- To what extent and under what conditions do civil society actors challenge and contribute to the geographies of neo-liberal development?
- Under what conditions are civil society actors able to change the terms of national and local debate on the types of rural economy that ought to be promoted in the region?
- What factors drive the geography of civil society?
- What are the relations (of cause and effect) between this geography and the geographies of neoliberalization?

# Methodological approach

- *Qualitative field based research* as a means of analyzing the emergence, strategies and interactions between civil society, government and business actors in each of the regions to be studied
- *Quantitative analysis* of existing data sets on the regional economies of the regions to be studied.
- Combining these two data sets, the research will trace the extent to which forms of negotiation and civil society intervention have effects in regional economic dynamics.

# **Social movements, indigenous response and the impact of conflicts**

Presentation:

1. Impact of Mining
2. Rise in mining conflicts
3. Conditions that lead to conflicts
4. Emergence of conflicts, case examples
5. Responses to conflicts

# 1. Impact of Mining

- Environment
- Economy
- Health
- Social and cultural impacts
  
- Conflict also an impact  
Emergence of a conflict and of a “conflictive atmosphere” that continues through time, goes through changes, constant tensions and mistrust as well as a issues of governance (breakdown of quality and legitimacy of government institutions)

## 2. Rise in conflicts

- Since the 1990's social conflicts in the mining sector have increased and been centred in the relationships between mining companies and the surrounding populations (Peru, more than 60% social conflict E.I. related –ombudsman report 2007)
- In Peru and Bolivia this type of conflict is not new, while in other countries it is (Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama)



# 3. Conditions lead to conflicts

- New mining boom and technological advances
- Sectoral adjustments and neoliberal development model
- Territorial expansion
- Company tactics
- Existing tension within communities, with the state, issues of rights, use of natural resources, territory, lack of employment, exclusion, etc

## 4. Emergence of conflict

- Conflicts are as much struggles over whose rights and voices count most in political economic decision making as they are arguments over the effects of different types of development
- The dynamics of neoliberalism have threatened the viability of much small and medium farm agriculture

# 4. Emergence of conflict

- Challenge the ability of rural and indigenous people to control patterns of change in their lived environments
- Pressures on the natural resources end up in struggles over the control and access to these resources
- *Conflicts would not emerge had companies not entered a given area, but NOT to say that they are sole reason or responsible for conflict*

- feeling invasion, mistrust
- no information
- excluded from decisions
- high expectations/ disappointment
- relocation, expropriation
- discrimination (racism and sexism)
- impact women, sexual abuse, fear, rape, increase family violence
- militarisation, physical violence, death
- community divisions

- Company CRS patronising and reinforces power imbalance
- “divide and conquer” tactic
- seek out key leaders or persons to convince community
- “play” on existing tensions in communities
- False accusations and imprisonment of leaders
- not miss information
- buy local media out to convince and sell project at any cost

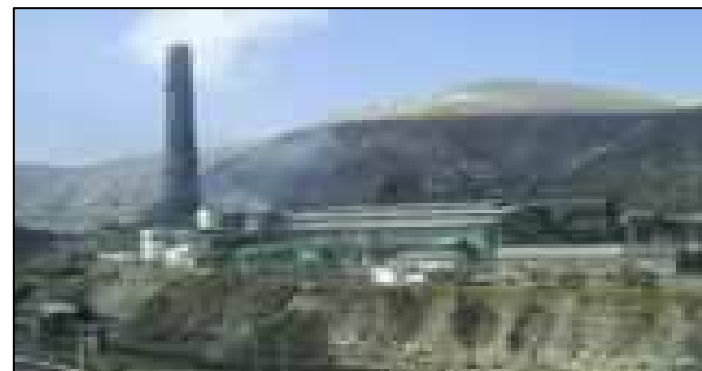
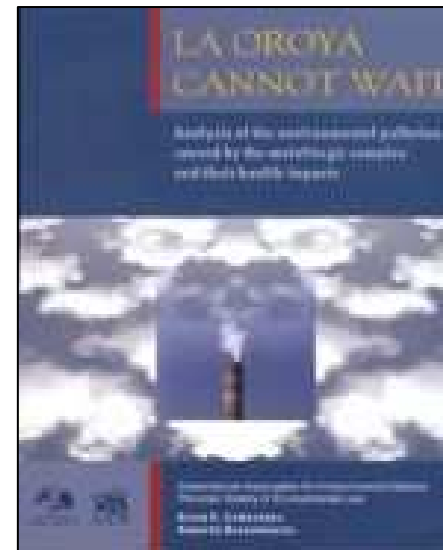
# 5. Responses to Conflict

- Direct actions, collective actions, protests, marches, street blockades, national and international campaigns
- Referendum or *consultas* , popular vote (Peru-Tambogrande, Majaz also Argentina-Esquel, Guatemala-Sipacapa)
- Roundtable, negotiations (Peru-Tintaya)
- (Argentina, neighbourhood *assembleas* regional lobby influence changes in laws to prohibit cyanide use, open pit mining)

# Yanacochoa



# La Oroya



# Tambogrande



# Majaz





# Tintaya



# Las Bambas



# Intag

# Morona Santiago



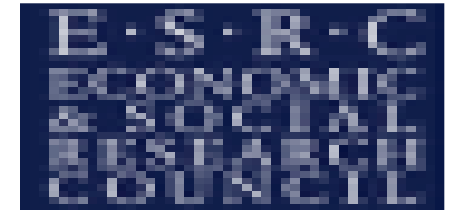
# 5. Responses to Conflict

## Social / indigenous movements

- Contest “rules of the game” and challenge development model (Tambogrande, Majaz)
- Indigenous participation in decision making and policies (Ecuador-Assamblea Constituyente)
- Process of rethinking indigenous identity (Peru-Conacami)
- Networks and resources; local, national, and international actors
- Highly vulnerable, fragile, lack social cohesion, contradictory objectives and interests, organisation and leadership weak



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