



TCD Andes
Territory, Conflicts and Development in the Andes

**“Extraction, water, and territory:
extractive enterprises, indigenous peoples and resource conflicts”**

**University of Manchester/Developing Areas Research Network seminar
to be held at
Newcastle University, March 20th, 2009**
G21/22 Devonshire Building
Newcastle University
Newcastle

Programme

10.00 – 10.20: Arrival and coffee

10.20: Welcome: Nina Laurie, Newcastle University and Developing Areas Research Network; Anthony Bebbington, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester

10.30-12.30a.m. *Part 1: Extraction, water and livelihoods*

Chair: Anthony Bebbington, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester

Interactive research in water and mining in Peru, Bolivia and Chile; a comparison of emergent priorities and research experiences

Jaime Amezaga, Institute for Research on Environment and Sustainability, Newcastle University

Mining and struggles over control of water in southern Peru

Jessica Budds, Department of Geography, Open University

Potosí mining contamination: farmer responses in the upper Pilcomayo basin, Bolivia

David Preston, Latin American Centre & Centre for the Environment, University of Oxford

Commentator:

Esteban Castro, Professor of Sociology, Newcastle University

Discussion

12.30-1.30pm

1.30-3.30

Part 2: Extractive industry in indigenous territory

Chair: Nina Laurie, School of Geography, Politics and Sociology

Old and New Carbon Values: Oil Development and Alternative Forms of Wealth Making in the Ecuadorian Amazon

Laura Rival, Department of International Development, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford University

Negotiating extraction: TCO experiences from the Bolivian Chaco

Denise Humphreys Bebbington, Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester

Indigenous territories? A treasure to be preserved? A resource for development and progress?: Competing discourses on biodiversity and the Peruvian rain forest, and the shaky existence of natural reserves.

Patricia Oliart, Latin American Studies, Newcastle University

Commentator

Emma Gilberthorpe, Department of Anthropology, Durham University

3.30-4.00 Coffee

4.00-5.00pm ***Discussion and Wrap Up***

Comparative reflections: West African insights on Andean extraction

John Stirling, Head of Sociology, Northumbria University

Open Discussion

Closing summary: Nina Laurie, Newcastle University, Anthony Bebbington, University of Manchester.

Abstracts

Indigenous territories? A treasure to be preserved?, A resource for development and progress?: Competing discourses on biodiversity and the Peruvian rain forest, and the shaky existence of natural reserves.

Patricia Oliart, Newcastle University

In this paper I will report findings from a one year research project conducted in partnership with the Instituto del Bien Común and funded by the National Centre of Competence in Research North-South from the University of Geneva.

Peruvian laws define natural protected areas as continental or marine spaces acknowledged for their cultural, scientific and landscape value, but also for their contributions to the sustainable development of the country. Constant references to the regulated use of those spaces clearly challenge conservationist notions, and weaken the idea of natural reserves as a common good. The political and economic

use of these legal ambiguities by all actors involved or interested in the areas considered natural reserves, creates a very complex scenario for constant tensions and conflict.

The Comunal Reserve Amarakaeri in Madre de Dios was created in 2002 after intense lobbying from the FENAMAD (indigenous federation of Madre de Dios) to both guarantee and protect indigenous access to areas of the rainforest otherwise free to be exploited by anyone, and to have legal resources to stop the intense pressure that illegal loggers (mahogany) and informal miners (gold) were exerting in the area since 1989, thus endangering crucial water sources for fishing and agriculture. The brief and thorny life of the Amarakaeri reserve shows the powerful cultural and political changes brought by money, the difficulties to shape stable alliances, and the shifting meanings of notions such as indigenous autonomy, conservation and development.

Worth mentioning: the area of the reserve is part of block 76, currently assigned for exploration to Hunt Oil.

Potosí mining contamination: farmer responses in the upper Pilcomayo basin, Bolivia

David Preston, Latin American Centre & Centre for the Environment, University of Oxford

The upper part of the Río Pilcomayo basin has been the site of major mining activities from about 1545. Mining has continued, although at varying levels, until the present. The Pilcomayo has therefore carried mining waste for over 460 years. The load of contaminants varies according to the level of mining activity and also reflects seasonality of rainfall. Sudden events, such as the rupture of a tailings dam or an extreme storm event after waste has accumulated during the dry season also cause higher levels of contamination of river water. New dams built downstream from mines and *ingenios* in Potosí may reduce contamination levels if competently maintained.

Recent research has shown that farmers in riverside communities have developed practices which minimise the use of river water at times of high contamination and, where possible, alternative water sources are used for irrigation and for domestic consumption.

Contemporary farmers producing crops for urban markets are sensitive to the dangers of media reports of dangers to human health from eating contaminated vegetables. Our research has showed that drinking water from sources other than the Pilcomayo may also carry relatively high levels of some contaminants such as arsenic. It is concluded that much more research is needed into the levels and sources of contamination even in river basins whose main water channel is known to be contaminated in order that communities can be helped to minimise their uptake of metals and metalloids.

Old and New Carbon Values: Oil Development and Alternative Forms of Wealth Making in the Ecuadorian Amazon

Laura Rival, University of Oxford

This paper explores the potential and realised values of carbon by linking together a number of apparently disconnected issues, which all involve the valuation of ‘nature’ in a corner of western Amazon, a strip of Ecuadorian forest comprised between the Napo and Curaray rivers, where the Huaorani, a people with whom I have worked for the past twenty years, live. I discuss various oil development and carbon sequestration proposals currently being examined by government of Ecuador. I then discuss the cultural and moral values through which economic and political arguments around the value of carbon are framed, paying particular attention to the ways in which the presence of indigenous people (particularly the Huaorani and their ‘non-contacted’ relatives) shapes and reconfigures the development futures that are being imagined in these proposals. I end with a discussion of decentralization in terms of resource distribution and expansion of ‘citizenship.’

Negotiating extraction: TCO experiences from the Bolivian Chaco

Denise Humphreys Bebbington, Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester

In the past decade Bolivia has seen a marked expansion of hydrocarbon activity in both traditional and non traditional regions but primarily in the Eastern Chaco. This expansion, first begun under a neoliberal regime, is now actively pursued by the Morales government, ostensibly a post neoliberal regime and one openly sympathetic to the historical claims for territory of lowland indigenous groups. This paper examines how the expansion of natural gas operations is directly impacting the livelihoods and social organisation of indigenous Guaraní and Weenhayek communities and giving rise to increased levels of tension and socio-environmental conflict. Specifically, the paper examines the trajectory of State - indigenous organization negotiations in an increasingly dynamic and complex political and economic environment.

Mining and struggles around control over water in Southern Peru

Jessica Budds

This paper examines issues arising from the use of water in mineral extraction processes in Peru. As mining requires large amounts of water, demand for water resources have increased in line with the expansion of extractive industries throughout the country. Rather than conceptualising water as merely an input into mining, or a resource that is impacted by extractive processes, I seek to analyse the social power relations that underlie the control of water, which in turn shape *waterscapes* (a concept that encompasses physical resources, modes of access to water, and discourses over how water should be managed) in particular ways. The paper then presents Peru’s existing water governance framework and considers its adequacy for responding to use and demand for water by mines, and goes on to outline the wide

range of mining-related water issues that have arisen. Drawing on examples of mining projects in the Moquegua region of southern Peru, I then illustrate some material and discursive contestations and conflicts over water use by mining, and consider the ways in which these have shaped lives, livelihoods and landscapes in minesheds. I finish by arguing that the control of water is paramount for both mining companies and communities, and thus becomes a key site of conflict in mineral-based development.