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Bettina Engels • Kristina Dietz  
Editors

# Contested Extractivism, Society and the State

Struggles over Mining and Land

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*Editors*

Bettina Engels  
Freie Universität Berlin  
Berlin, Germany

Kristina Dietz  
Freie Universität Berlin  
Berlin, Germany

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## PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The conceptualisations and analyses of struggles over mining and land in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, and Southeast Asia presented in this volume are the result of vivid and sustained debates and interactions among the contributors. In this sense, the book represents more than just a compilation of diverse articles. It is, rather, a collective endeavour to deepen our understanding of how (hidden) power relations—inscribed in state-society relations, state formations and structures, and political-economic relations, as well as social movements and discourses—both hinder and nurture social contestations over extractivism across scales, national borders, and world regions.

This undertaking grew out of the fruitful encounters among the contributors during numerous workshop discussions. The first step towards compiling a book on ‘Contested Extractivism, Society and the State’ was made at the international workshop ‘Struggles Over Resources: Resistances against Neo-Extractivism, Mining and Land Grabbing’ in Berlin on 7 November 2014. The workshop was organised by the editors and joint heads of the Junior Research Group ‘Global Change – Local Conflicts? Conflicts over Land and in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa in Times of Global Transformation’ at Freie Universität Berlin and was funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). This workshop fed into the ideas and debates that evolved during a second international workshop on ‘Contested Extractivism, Society and the State’, which was also organised by the editors and held in Berlin on 23 October 2015. This second workshop was funded by the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung für Wissenschaftsförderung. Both workshops brought together international

scholars and activists from different world regions and with different disciplinary backgrounds, all of whom focus in their research on conflicts over mining- and land-related transformation processes, social movements and their repertoires of contention, resource-dependent development strategies, spatial dimensions of resource conflicts, the role of the state, and state–society relations in different world regions. The book in hand is the product of these encounters and the subsequent exchanges.

There are many people we wish to thank for making this book possible, more than can be mentioned here. First of all, we would like to express particular gratitude to all of the contributors to this book, especially to Jonas Wolff and two anonymous reviewers whose comments on some of the chapters and on the outline of the book were of great help. The Latin American Institute and the Otto Suhr Institute for Political Science at Freie Universität Berlin provided institutional support for the realisation of the project. Zoe Goldstein and Charlotte Röhren did a splendid job of style editing and preparing the text for publication; Hillary Faulkner prepared the index; and Amber Husain and Christina M. Brian supported the project at Palgrave Macmillan and were always very helpful. Jean Grugel, by accepting the volume for her series, encouraged us to push the project of the book forward. Finally, we wish to thank the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research for funding the research that made this book possible.

Bettina Engels  
Kristina Dietz  
September 2016  
Berlin

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## NOTES ON THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Coleman Agyeyomah** is the director of Venceremos Development Consult, a development and organisational change consulting firm in Northern Ghana. He holds a Master degree in Development Studies from the University of Leeds, UK. He also provides consulting services to diverse local and international organisations such as the former Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) now Department For Global Affairs, UNICEF, World Bank to mention but a few.

**Davide Chinigò** is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. He is a political scientist by training with a Master's (2007) and PhD (2011) from the University of Bologna. His research addresses the political economy of agrarian transformation and state formation in sub-Saharan Africa. It incorporates themes that range from the access and use of land, decentralization and local government reforms, the politics of resources, and rural-urban relationships.

**Gordon Crawford** is research professor in Global Development at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University, UK. He has a BA in Sociology, MA in Development Studies, and PhD in Politics from the University of Leeds. His research examines various issues of human rights, democracy, and development, especially in countries of the Global South, and he has undertaken extensive fieldwork in Ghana. Current research focuses on resource politics, community-led development, and participatory democracy. He is an editorial team member of the journal *Africa Spectrum*.

**Kristina Dietz** is head of the junior research group ‘Global change – local conflicts? Conflicts over land in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa in the context of interdependent transformation processes’ at the Institute for Latin American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin. She holds a PhD in Political Sciences from the University of Kassel. Her research and teaching focuses on political ecology, conflicts over land and resources in Latin America, climate and energy policy as well as spatial and democracy theory.

**Bettina Engels** is junior professor for Conflict and African Studies at the Otto Suhr Institute for Political Science, Freie Universität Berlin. Together with Kristina Dietz, she is head of the junior research group ‘Global change – local conflicts?’ Her research focuses on conflict over land and resources, spatial and action theory, and resistance, urban protest as well as social movements in Africa.

**Victoria Marin-Burgos** is an independent researcher. She holds a PhD on Development Studies and Political Ecology from the University of Twente, The Netherlands. Her research focuses on the grievances and resistances connected with this expansion of extractive activities, combining concepts and theories from different disciplines such as political ecology, critical sociology, environmental justice, and human rights.

**Facundo Martín** is assistant professor in the Department of Geography, National University of Cuyo, and researcher at the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), Argentina. He graduated in Agronomical Engineering at National University of Cuyo, holds a Master degree in Social Agrarian Studies from FLACSO, and a PhD in Social Sciences from UBA, Argentina. He has an interdisciplinary and critical background in nature–societal relations and focuses on political ecology, environmental history, and critical studies of rural development.

**Atinga Mba** is the Rector of Bolgatanga Polytechnic in the Upper East region of Ghana. He holds a PhD in International Affairs and Development from Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia. His main research focus is on issues of conflict and development.

**Renata Motta** is assistant professor in Sociology at the Institute for Latin American Studies from the Freie Universität Berlin. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the Freie Universität Berlin. Her research is located at the intersection of political sociology, political economy, risk sociology, social

inequalities, and media studies. She has authored articles in these areas for *Social Movement Studies*, *Sociology Compass*, *Journal of Agrarian Change* (forthcoming).

**Stefan Peters** is assistant professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Kassel University. He studied Political Science, History and Peace and Conflict Studies at Philipps-Universität Marburg and Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He received his PhD from Kassel University (2012) with a thesis on education reforms and social inequalities in Latin America in the context of the current Left Turn in the region. His post-doctoral research deals with Rentier Societies and the Political Economy of (Neo-)Extractivism in Latin America.

**Boris Verbrugge** is a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Cultural Anthropology and Development Studies, Radboud University Nijmegen (Netherlands), and at Conflict Research Group, Ghent University (Belgium). He has conducted extensive field research in small-scale mining areas in the Philippines, particularly on the conflict-affected island of Mindanao. His research interests include Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM), mineral resource governance, the political economy/ecology of resource conflicts, and the informal sector.

**Jonas Wolff** is head of research department and executive board member at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (Leibniz-Institut Hessische Stiftung Friedens- und Konfliktforschung, HSKF) as well as adjunct professor at Kassel University. He studied Political Science, Economics, and Sociology at the University of Frankfurt, where he also received his PhD. He completed his habilitation at the University of Kassel. His research focuses on Latin American politics, international democracy promotion, and the interrelation between social conflict, political transformation, and economic development.

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