

T09P13 / Multistakeholder Participation and Natural Resource Governance in Latin America

Topic : T09 / Governance, Policy networks and Multi-level Governance

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GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

The extractive sector (comprising mining, oil and energy) in the Latin American region, promoted by booming commodity prices, has generated massive fiscal revenues for national, regional and local governments during the past two decades. Indeed, conflict situations associated with extractive activities have significantly increased in many countries of the region creating many negative impacts for the extractive companies, the states and the communities. Conflict and instability episodes are related to many social environmental and economic drivers; regularly identified a lack of positive impact perceived from extractive operations. Negative perceptions are very likely to be connected with the low impacts in the quality of life of local communities around extractive operations, as well as with the effects on the environment.

This issue has been broadly researched around the world. Indeed, this phenomenon has become a global debate discussed among scholars of various fields under the term resource curse, which is commonly assessed in terms of GDP growth, conflict situations (both violent and non-violent), poverty, corruption, income inequality, lack of revenue diversification and low performance in sustainable development. By far, extensive research on the resource curse has produced mixed results, which have demonstrated that this phenomenon exists but it cannot be generalised to all resource-rich countries. Even within a country, it may be possible to obtain mixed evidence around positive and negative impacts derived from resource extraction. Certainly, research conducted in countries which did not suffer the curse, or that have been able to overcome it, has contributed to demonstrate that the quality of institutions and governance are key factors to translate revenues and natural resource exploitation in the extractive sector into comprehensive development strategies. Particularly, the role and impact of local capacities and participatory modes of governance, involving state and non-state actors from multiple levels of government is being studied by the IADB, OECD and the NRGi as an essential step to improve conditions towards sustainable development.

This panel seeks to contribute to the existing literature by collecting and sharing research on the role played by stakeholders, both at the national and subnational levels, and belonging to the public and private sectors, and the civil society, in processes of natural resource governance—e.g. prior consultation, environmental monitoring and evaluation, investment of extractive revenues, accountability, negotiation processes, etc. While those factors are addressed by the existing literature, this panel seeks to deepen into the study and discussion of those relations and networks created between stakeholders, and in which extent those experiences are contributing to improving natural resource governance.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Selected papers for the panel will contribute to understanding how different types of participation and patterns of interaction between state and non-state stakeholders may affect natural resource governance outcomes. In this sense, it will be possible to compare and contrast models of stakeholder engagement which is required to foster partnerships in development and strength participatory, inclusive and polycentric modes of governance.

This panel is constrained to the Latin American Region due to the particularities it has and the need to share lessons learned to create a thematic agenda for scholars working in this field in this region.

This panel welcomes papers in the following lines of research:

- Prior consultation
- Territorial development
- Environmental assessment and monitoring
- Revenue management
- Accountability and transparency

- Conflict prevention and dialogue
- Local economic development in extractive contexts
- Participatory processes in natural resource management and governance
- Corporate social responsibility