

PROPOSITIONS

ATTACHED TO THE THESIS

TRANSFORMATIVE POLITICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STRUGGLES: A Comparative Analysis of The Mining Conflicts in Intag, Ecuador and Mount Ida, Turkey

by **Duygu Avcı**

International Institute of Social Studies

Erasmus University Rotterdam

1. Environmental struggles can potentially transform the subjectivities of the social actors that participate in them (*this thesis*).
2. Transformative politics in environmental struggles is fundamentally about challenging the dominant understanding of development that prioritize economic growth over social and ecological concerns (*this thesis*).
3. Questioning underlying processes that create and sustain environmental injustice, and forging inclusive collective identities that transcend the local level are crucial to the realization of the transformative potential of local environmental struggles (*this thesis*).
4. Transformative political action is enabled by the creation of political spaces for collective reflection and action around alternative ways of organizing social and environmental relations (*this thesis*).
5. Selection of the cases to be used in a comparative analysis should not be justified on the basis of the logic of controlled experiment. Case selection in comparative analysis should be made with a view to gaining a better understanding of how particular social processes (of interest to the researcher) operate in different contexts (*this thesis*).
6. Questions about what constitutes human suffering and human flourishing are essential to critical social science.
7. Social structures and practices are concept dependent, therefore meaningful. Thus, producing knowledge of social structures and practices requires inquiring into how social actors conceive their reality.
8. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) should not be used as a measure of social welfare because it does not take into account the non-market activities that contribute to welfare, such as women's unpaid domestic labour, yet include some activities that do not add to it, such as construction of prisons.
9. Neoliberalism is generally represented as a policy framework that calls for less state intervention in economy. However, although under neoliberalism the state has withdrawn from certain areas of economic life, such as the provision of public services, this formulation conceals the forms of state intervention under neoliberalism that expand the reach of the market ideology in areas of social life that were previously governed by non-market principles.
10. Most graduate programs in Europe (MA and PhD) do not prepare their students for the teaching responsibilities they are likely to take on in their future work. To remedy this problem, graduate programs should include training in pedagogy and provide their students opportunities to practice their teaching skills.
11. A post-capitalist world is possible.