

Propositions

Attached to the thesis

Mining Reform, Governance and the State in the Democratic Republic of the Congo The traces 'conflict-mineral' policy left behind on natural resource governance in Katanga

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1. Conflict mineral reform practice has moved away from its initial objective to promote peace and alleviate human suffering in the DRC, towards the objective to develop a traceable and conflict-free product for the Western consumers market. (*This thesis*)
2. Policy implementation provides an arena in which various state and non-state actors renegotiate their mutual governance relations. (*This thesis*)
3. While bringing about clearly organized trading chains and more oversight, conflict-mineral reforms have also led to a plurification of regulatory frameworks, rendering local governance orders more obscure and complex. (*This thesis*)
4. Private sector interference in natural resource governance has resulted in the consolidation of extortive state behaviour and a normalisation of the central state's limited engagement in artisanal mining governance, while ensuring the latter's revenue collection over it. (*This thesis*)
5. Conflict-mineral policy evaluation should go beyond its effects on militarization and should acknowledge that it has left a possibly even larger footprint on governance and mining communities' livelihoods in the less conflict-ridden province of Katanga. (*This thesis*)
6. The saying by John le Carre that 'the desk is a dangerous place from which to view the world' is applicable to policy making and evaluations in general, but is especially apt for fragile and precarious settings where institutional landscapes are particularly fluid and being on the ground becomes indispensable to grasp the situation.
7. The deliberate creation of ambiguities in regulation, the instrumentalization of those ambiguities and the resulting disorder pose one of the most serious obstacles to Congolese sustainable economic development and prosperity.
8. As it is often difficult to anticipate and plan for the exact characteristics of an ethnographic fieldwork location in advance, it requires observation, flexibility and analysis (Stepputat and Larsen 2015) from a researcher to develop an effective research approach and define one's research site.
9. Research aiming to provide a balanced analysis nonetheless risks causing negative unintended consequences, and therefore research ethics should not only be required at the start of a research project but should be conducted as an ongoing reflective exercise (Fujii 2012) throughout ones fieldwork and writing.
10. In addition to the statement of Edmund Burke that 'the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing', it must be added that 'doing something' can be equally harmful and even facilitate perverse systems to triumph.

11. Fieldwork is much more than methods, data gathering and planning. It is about human interaction; self-reflection; a curiosity for the unknown and the acceptance of vulnerability; yet most of all a realization that human life is endlessly varied and yet very recognizable in all its forms.