

Propositions

Attached to the thesis

The Political Economy of Industrial Tree Plantations in the Era of Global Land
Rush: the case of Guangxi, China

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1. The role of China in global land politics is not limited to that of the country-of-origin of numerous foreign land investors and as a major site of agro-product consumption, but that the country is also a destination of foreign land investments in a global crop boom. *This thesis*
2. This Chinese ITP case also shows a reverse labour and capital inflow from urban areas to rural areas, with a few villagers returning to rural areas and engaging in the ITP sector with the financial capital they gained in urban industrial sectors. *This thesis*
3. To understand the complicated trajectory of land politics, instead of being “land-centric”, the differentiated interests of affected villagers and their wins and losses should be a key unit of inquiry. *This thesis*
4. Faced with extensive changes in land-use and land control, villagers’ livelihood changes and political reactions are highly diverse, stemming from their distinct resource endowments and access to alternative livelihood sources. *This thesis*
5. Within land deals, villagers might also accumulate at the expense of their fellow villagers, rather than being simply victims or resisters. These are critical reminders to go beyond the dichotomies of “small vs. large”, “outsider vs. local actors” and “victims vs. grabbers”, and instead focus on the dynamics of social relationships around land and production processes. *This thesis*
6. “[T]he restless never-ending process of profit-making alone is what he (capitalist) aims at.” -Karl Marx
7. Villagers are not homogeneous, but have varying interests and resource endowments, including land control, labour conditions, financial resources, and social relations.
8. Examining what and how much is left to villagers in a particular context is equally important as analysing what and how much has been taken.
9. A context is more than a background in which social phenomena take place, but a factor that leads to intended and unintended outcomes.
10. Within the process of social change, actors and their practices are not completely independent, but are continuously shaping and are shaped by each other in one way or another.
11. Capital accumulation is possible not only *with*, but also *without*, dispossession of villagers.