

Propositions

attached to the thesis

The Shuar and Large-Scale Mining in Zamora Chinchipe, Ecuador. A study of ethnopolitics and the struggle over natural resources

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- 1.- Identity discourses at higher levels of indigenous political organizations do not resonate in everyday practices and notions of identity within indigenous communities (thesis)
- 2.- While the notion of an ancestral territory is key in the discourse of indigenous organizations, people and leaders from the communities might be less interested in claiming back or protecting the territory than in improving the material conditions of their communities (thesis)
- 3.- Shuar identity discourses are strongly shaped by their constant interactions and entanglement with the mestizo society (thesis)
- 4.- In a context of multiple and intersecting identity categories and life experiences, the construction of political identities allows indigenous leadership to articulate positions around shared notions of exclusion and shared interests, and through them, struggle to improve the material conditions of the people (thesis)
- 5.- In challenging Western notions of well-being and development, social scientists may end up dismissing the efforts of marginalized communities who want to improve their material needs, thus romanticizing notions of poverty and precariousness (thesis)
- 6.- The risk of indigenous leaders in Ecuador making alliances with neo-liberal sectors is that these will seek to implement policies that in the end will harm the marginalized communities those leaders represent.
- 7.- While minerals became politicized in nationalist, progressive governments in Latin America in the last decade for their key role in the re-distribution of wealth to impoverished populations, social movements became de-politicized as part of the government's efforts to shut down any possibility of resistance.
- 8.- Issues of gender are frequently ignored in the academic debate around large-scale mining in Latin America, as they are in the definition of state policies regarding inequality in the context of extractivism.
- 9.- The notion of a universal and efficient planning in social projects contradicts the principles of local and community participation that are key in achieving success.
- 10.- Issues of positioning during ethnographic research affect the outcome in many ways and should be considered crucial when defining a research question and a possible methodology.
- 11.- Happiness is waking up every morning to a view of mountains and valleys extending into the horizon.