

Propositions

attached to the thesis

Sustainable Pathways or Troubled Development? *Rural Community Dynamics in the Andean Valleys of Bolivia*

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1. Externally introduced organizational structures are generally incorporated by the community due to perceived temporary benefits, rather than representing the most adequate institutional solution. This increase in 'parallelism' and institutional density however often undermines rather than adds to the existing social capital (cf. Grootaert and Narayan 2004, this thesis).
2. The role of the traditional community organisation in market circumstances is diminishing. Under adverse environmental conditions or shocks this may lead to a vicious circle and *lock-in*, while in a few cases, and only under favourable circumstances, this may lead to new and more functional organizations (this thesis).
3. Education has been a transformational element in many rural communities. Nonetheless, the persistent difficulty of matching schooling approaches, content and quality with community needs and resources reflects the difficulty of attaining sustainable progress in education (following Mason 2009), basically translating in education-for-all-to-leave (this thesis).
4. The multiple logics and the diverging patterns in collective action trigger questions regarding the validity of universal theoretical or developments frameworks. The principles for 'effective collective action' (Ostrom 2000) do not incorporate the local complexities of existing power relations and shifting identities, or of contingent events in affecting day-to-day interaction processes (this thesis).
5. Externally defined 'normalization' policies related to land, education and irrigation practices had substantial impact on community responses and household behaviour, generally limiting their room for decision making. In a different and more inclusive manner, municipal decentralization broadened the space for community agency and allowed for more tailor-made development policies (this thesis).
6. Mistaken conceptions of rural communities, the sometimes complete absence of adequate 'theories of change' (Pritchett 2011) and the unilateral focus on externally defined objectives have obscured the understanding of community dynamics and of the differentiated nature of demands, needs and capabilities.
7. Uncoordinated 'gap-filling' in relation to the Millennium Development Goals generally fails to take local dynamics into account, stimulating a frequent over-dimensioning and a further shortening of the life cycle of public investments, and will not contribute to equitable local development.

8. The tendency towards micro-management exhibited by the Dutch parliament in discussions around the development cooperation budget and activities amplifies principal-agent problems down to the local level in the context of developing countries.
9. Development aid is one of the most evaluated subjects in government. Nonetheless, the considerable amount of studies has not been accompanied with the same systematic effort to incorporate lessons learnt from these manifold assessments or from the relevant academic literature at the operational level.
10. The objective of World Bank President Jim Yong Kim to transform the institution from a 'knowledge bank' into a global 'solutions bank' through a refined 'science of delivery' to a large extent denies the complexity of local dynamics, in particular related to the capacity of local actors and networks to define or to obstruct the creation of new development pathways.
11. Even in an increasingly interconnected world, the cyclical nature of embassy closures leads to rapid diminishment of network relations and significant loss of institutional memory, imposing high opportunity costs once these closures are reconsidered, as eventually occurs in most cases.