

Summaries

Michael Spies: Climate Change Adaptation as Discourse: Contrasting Perspectives on Flood Issues in Jakarta, Indonesia. Based on a case study of flood-affected neighbourhoods in Jakarta, this article discusses the impact of the ‘adaptation discourse’ on local climate change and disaster risk reduction projects in the global South. Currently, climate change policies are dominated by a very narrow understanding of adaptation that neglects not only the underlying causes of vulnerability, but also the fact that from a local perspective climate change may be just one among many factors that people have to deal with. The case study shows how the adaptation paradigm is manifested in community-based projects, where humanitarian organisations tend to limit their focus to narrowly-defined activities of flood risk reduction that (a) overlook the well-functioning self-help structures that already exist and (b) neglect that for local people flooding often constitutes a rather minor issue when compared to other livelihood problems. This indicates that either more effort is needed to promote alternative conceptualizations of adaptation or that the idea of adaption itself needs to be questioned with attention refocused on vulnerability reduction.

Rosa Lehmann: More than (Hot) Air: Wind Parks in Mexico Intensify Inequalities. Conflicts about natural resources in countries of the global South have consistently gained more political and scholarly attention. In the context of climate protection and the ‘green economy discourse’, contentious renewable energy projects are becoming an important area of research. In the Mexican state of Oaxaca in the region of Istmo de Tehuantepec, local *asambleas* (assemblies) criticize the implementation of wind parks by transnational corporations, arguing that the latter as well as the Mexican state are ignoring and violating agrarian and indigenous rights guaranteed in the International Labour Organization (ILO) convention 169. This article gives a brief overview of the conflict in Istmo and argues that the implementation of wind parks is reproducing and intensifying existing structural conflicts surrounding land rights and competing processes of participation.

Alexander Brand & Wolfgang Muno: Climate versus Oil: The Absence of a ‘Climate and Energy Turn’ in Oil-Dependent Venezuela. Focusing on the situation in Venezuela, this paper discusses the conflict between active policies aimed at mitigating climate change and economic development strategies that are fundamentally based upon the extraction, the consumption, and the export of fossil resources. The specific quality of Venezuela’s neo-extractivist model of economic development, as well as more recent trends in the oil sector (e.g. China’s growing interest, the exploitation of tar sands in the Orinoco delta), leave very little room for a ‘climate and energy turn’. Moreover, the marked absence of a ‘*buen vivir* discourse’ in Venezuela, which incorporates the idea of environmental protection, may be contributing to this situation. While societal pressure and activism for change in

climate policies is relatively low in the domestic context, Venezuela takes a different position in international fora and negotiations. In articulating the specific responsibility of 'capitalism' in general and 'the West/North' in particular for the destructive economic dynamics resulting in climate change, Venezuela has so far shunned any liability for a more active climate change policy.

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