

## **Neo-extractivism and the multiple forms of territorialization in Latin America: evidence from agro-industrial palm oil extraction in Colombia.**

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### **Abstract:**

The agrarian history of Latin American countries is characterized by the struggles of peasant, indigenous and afro-descendants for their right to the ‘territory’. These struggles have been rooted in territorial dispossession resulting from processes of both colonization and agrarian capitalism. To a certain extent, the current extractive imperative in Latin America is still embedded in colonial and capitalist forms of territorialization from the past. However, the Latin American neo-extractivism also advances through newer forms of territorialization that include a larger and varied array of accumulation by dispossession practices as well as other forms of colonialization of lifeworlds such as “assimilation” practices, i.e. practices of incorporation of local populations into modern processes of development, in an attempt to realise a measure of equity, that deny differences rooted in identity and culture (Escobar, 2006). In this paper, I draw on empirical evidence from the agro-industrial palm oil extraction in Colombia since the year 2000 in order to identify: i) different forms that territorialization practices take under the contemporary extractive imperative in Latin America, ii) how such practices are interwoven with the agrarian history, iii) and how those practices affect different dimension of livelihoods or rural people through both physical dispossession (i.e. eviction, displacement, locking out, relocation) and the transformation of the environments that sustain rural people’s livelihoods.

### **Short Bio:**

Victoria Marin-Burgos is a researcher from Colombia. She received her PhD on Political Ecology from the University of Twente (Department of Governance and Technology for Sustainability) in 2014. Although her original background is in law (Master of Laws - Utrecht University) and international relations (Master of Arts - Bologna University), she has adopted

a multidisciplinary approach in her research. She combines concepts and theories from different disciplines - political ecology, political economy, ecological economics, critical sociology, peasant studies, environmental justice and human rights - to investigate the grievances and resistances connected with this expansion of extractive activities.