

Does Commons Grabbing Lead to Resilience Grabbing? The Anti-Politics Machine of Neo-Liberal Development and Local Responses

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

This Special Issue focuses on land grabbing as commons grabbing and how state institutions (agrarian development reforms/compensations) and voluntary corporate social responsibility (CRS) initiatives enabled this process. It also looks at how institutions and CSR are labeled as development strategies to legitimate investments, but act as *Anti-Politics Machines* (Ferguson 1990, 2006), hiding privatization and loss of land and related commons (Haller 2012, 2016). Often it is not investment in “wastelands”, but in commonly owned and used land-related resources. We are also interested in the way this institutional change leads to institutional pluralism, and how companies and local elites pursue “institution shopping” to legitimate exclusion (Toulmin 2009, Haller 2016). This process, we argue, also leads to the undermining of local marginal actors resilience (resilience grabbing) because cash compensations or employment do not cover the losses. However, these changes also trigger local reactions, which might lead to more participatory development of institutions for reclaiming the commons (Haller, Acciaioli and Rist 2016).



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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