

Colombia Internacional

School of Social Sciences

Political Science Department • Universidad de los Andes (Colombia)

Call for Papers

Colombia Internacional invites the academic community to participate in its next call for papers. The objective of this special issue, coordinated by Professor John-Andrew McNeish (Norwegian University of Life Sciences), is to contribute to debate regarding the theme of **Resource Extraction and Conflict in Latin America**. Articles may be submitted between **March 13th and April 14th, 2017**.

In this edition of *Colombia Internacional* special focus is given to the current trend of low-level conflict, violence, and contestation resulting from natural resource extraction. As such, the special edition seeks to explore the political and economic foundations of these complex dynamics and trends at the regional level.

Latin America has re-emerged in the course of the last decade as one of the world's powerhouses of economic and social development. However, whereas there is now wide agreement amongst international institutions and analysts about the improvements made to indicators for economic and social development in this period, few have been convinced of their sustainable nature. Recognizing that development in Latin America has heavily relied on the expansion of non-renewable resource projects and related construction of massive infrastructure projects, academics, policy analysts, and environmentalists alike coincide to some degree in their concerns regarding the economic stability and social and environmental costs of a so-called "neo-extractive" model. Observations (e.g. OLCA and Ejolt) of political dynamics throughout the region map the growing tendency for socio-environmental conflict generated by an expanding frontier of natural resource extraction. Articles dealing qualitatively or quantitatively with focused cases of resource extraction and conflict from throughout the region are invited to participate.

We nonetheless recognise that this theme is of particular interest to Colombia at a time in which the final details of a set of peace accords are being worked on and preparations for the post-conflict period are being made. In common with other Andean countries, Colombia has significantly expanded the exploration and extraction of its non-renewable resources (minerals and oil being key items amongst them) as well as related infrastructure projects often aimed at servicing them (roads, bridges, ports, etc.). In the context of Colombia, the government's support for the *energy and mining locomotive* has not only changed the patterns of regional development but has also attracted the interests of warring groups engaged in the armed conflict. It is no coincidence that the vast numbers of people displaced by the conflict in recent years frequently come from areas of coveted natural resources. As a result, human rights

organisations, civil society organisations and analysts now suggest an "environmental peace" to be an essential element in creating the foundations of a sustainable and lasting conclusion to a long history of violence. The special edition therefore aims to include articles that consider the question of resource extraction and conflict with specific connection to the context of Colombia and its current challenges.

Whilst socio-environmental conflicts have become a recognised part of the political landscape throughout Latin America over the years, there has been less academic discussion of the legal and political responses to this situation. Significant changes have occurred in national legislation and corporate operating practices in recent years, enshrining claims to rights and granting opportunities for deliberation to local communities. A key example of this has been the adoption of prior consultation exercises among the region's indigenous communities regarding development and extraction in their territories. Considering that governance can also come from below, we invite articles that consider the value and validity of prior consultation and of political and legal alternatives that are now being tested. In doing so, we aim to explore both top-down and bottom-up forms of resource governance. As such, we also see that through this special edition there can be contributions to current thinking and debates regarding both "environmental peace-building" and "environmental justice."

To summarize, in this special edition we welcome papers to the *dossier* section of the journal that relate to the following themes:

- 1. Resource Extraction and Conflict:** e.g. the dynamics of resource extraction and corresponding contestation and conflict in Latin America.
- 2. Resource Extraction and Conflict in Colombia:** e.g. the linkages between the peace process, resource extraction, armed conflict, and displacement.
- 3. Responses to Resource Extraction and Conflict:** e.g. the practice and testing of prior consultation, legal and political innovation, concrete mechanisms for the establishment of legitimate environmental governance and/or environmental peace.

Colombia Internacional also publishes reviews, bibliographic essays, and brief research documents with a critical approach to the specific subject of the special issue in English, Spanish and Portuguese. We remind you that we also accept articles of general interest for other sections of the magazine.

During the submission period, you will be able to submit manuscripts via the link on the electronic version of the magazine, or send them directly to the following email address: colombiainternacional@uniandes.edu.co

You may check the editorial guidelines and criteria for presentation of articles on the magazine website: <http://colombiainternacional.uniandes.edu.co/>

Instructions for authors are available at:

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