

Resistance between contention and counter-hegemony: towards an understanding of social development as enacting alternatives

Conveners:

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An increasing body of literature on so-called post-development points at the importance of local forms of social mobilization and their visions of alternative modes of development for unlocking processes of inclusive social transformation. Nonetheless there is still a paucity of theoretical and conceptual approaches of how we can research social activism that often transcends the grassroots level and challenges both state authority and international peace and development projects. Indigenous forms of political and cultural self-determination, peasants' cooperatives for alternative economies, or peace communities in the midst of civil war illustrate that we need to go beyond the analysis of local social mobilization in terms of contentious politics and to look at the discourses and practices through which resistance is enacted as an alternative to existing forms of social hegemony.

We invite panelists from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds to discuss how local social activism can be understood as forms of constructive resistance, and how this relates to alternative social development. The contributions should explicitly reflect upon how we can theorize the nexus of resistance and social development with the help of perspectives such as (but not limited too) critical theory, post-Marxism, Postcolonial or Gender studies.