



FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

MINING, ENVIRONMENTS AND PEOPLE: DEPICTING
ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
UNDERSTANDINGS OF MINING CONFLICTS IN CAJAMARCA, PERU
AND CORDILLERA DEL

This thesis intervenes in an effort to contribute to the literature on extractivism in Latin America. Two case studies were selected, the Yanacocha mine in Peru and the Cordillera del Condor region in Ecuador. The aim from these studies is to illustrate the dynamic change in social and environmental struggles over the

the geographical scale at which conflict is experienced and the scale at which decisions are politically defined. The discussion reveals the role of politics of scale in conceptualizing mining discourses across geographical scales and how it is used to simultaneously structure, disassemble and restructure power relations among actors and scales. Finally, this analysis provides insights for conflict-resolution potential on the political complexities of mining conflicts.

The implications of this body of research suggest that mining decisions are ultimately political decisions that do not necessarily acknowledge the importance of contextualizing extractivism within the realm of environmental justice, human wellbeing and rights for democratic decision-making. It is hoped this research can shed light on how particular development futures, territorial transformations, and struggles over decision-making interplay with the socio-ecological impacts of mining. It is also expected that key policy initiatives become evident for improving socially acceptable outcomes for mining development in Ecuador and beyond.

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