

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

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Tobias Haller

Institute of Social Anthropology,
University of Bern, Lerchenweg
36, 3000 Bern 9, Switzerland

Dr. Fabian Käser

Institute of Social Anthropology,
University of Bern, Bern,
Switzerland

Dr. Mariah Ngutu

Institute of Anthropology, Gender
& African Studies, University of
Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

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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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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Christine Fürst

Institute for Geosciences and
Geography, Department
Sustainable Landscape
Development, University of Halle,
Von-Seckendorff-Platz 4, 06120
Halle, Germany

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Contact Us

Land Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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