

Tug of War: State Building and Citizenship Around Bogotá's Water Management

Prof. Claudia Leal (Bogotá)
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Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg



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In Chingaza National Park, park authorities clashed with Bogotá's Waterworks: while the former had few resources to fulfil their responsibility of protecting a wide territory valued for storing water, the latter managed the income that resulted from water provision and was in a better position to take care of the infrastructure that allowed water to flow from the high Andes into the city. This difference led to a tug-of-war between two institutions, revealing a common trajectory of state building, which derives from tensions between intra-state competition and cooperation that privileges some state developments over others. This talk will explain this form of state building and its relation, in the case of Chingaza National Park, to the consolidation of water provision as a right, and thus, to the expansion of citizenship, and to a transformation in the perception of *páramos*, a high Andean tropical environment, from bleak and inhospitable to keeper of water and source of life. In the end, this talk relates ways in which nature has been understood and transformed with processes of state building that link cities with their environs.



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(Prof. Dr. Melanie Arndt)

