**Mining corporations’ counterinsurgency strategies: an ongoing process of territorial transformation in the south-east Ecuadorian Amazon**

When external actors come to settle in a territory aiming at the exploitation of its resources, resistance to extractive projects and counter hegemonic discourses and practices, together with everyday politics of acquiescence, collaboration and negotiation, arise. But what happens between the project exploration phase and the construction/exploitation one? And how does the initial resistance slide, although partially, into coexistence? Transnational mining companies have their own corporate counterinsurgency discourses and practices (Brock & Dunlap, 2018), where violence, militarization and displacement are only a part of a much more complex, internationally and locally constructed, strategy. In a global context of energy transition and always growing technological innovations, minerals demand increase and new vulnerable territories become economically profitable. Mining corporations have to revisit their “social license to operate” framework in the effort of cleaning up their past and adapting to present socio-environmental discourses and practices. Concepts, like good governance, used by and for the corporate extractive sector find fertile ground in the institutional and political national structure supporting the classic theoretical marriage between extraction and national development. This presentation aims to explore such strategies, comparing two mining projects at two different phases, advanced exploration and recent exploitation, in a rural-indigenous region of the south-east Ecuadorian Amazon. This territory is trapped in a historical internal “peripheralization” process that produced the conditions for its current transformation to a global “resource periphery” (Irarrázaval & Arias-Loyola, 2021) in a country where corporate large scale mining represents a very recent activity promoted by the last three governments (2008 to today). The presentation will mainly focus on companies - local governments – local communities’ relations, exploring their evolution, their territorial variables and the two mining companies’ corporate social responsibility politics’ differences and outcomes.

Brock, A., Dunlap, A. (2018). Normalising corporate counterinsurgency: Engineering consent, managing resistance and greening destruction around the Hambach coal mine and beyond. *Political Geography*. Vol. *62*, , p. 33–47.

Irarrázaval, F., Arias-Loyola, M. (2021). *Resource Peripheries in the Global Economy* (Springer).