



LANDac ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
4-5 July 2019

LAND GOVERNANCE IN TRANSITION
How to support transformations that
work for people and nature?

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Theme 3b: Displacement and Resettlement

PANEL

Displacement, dispossession and defence strategies around land

Maaïke Matelski & Selma Zijlstra, Radboud University Nijmegen

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Displacement and dispossession for development, investment or conservation come in many different forms. Instigators such as governments or private actors are usually required to conduct impact assessments and develop resettlement action plans, yet some actors prefer to operate under the radar in informal negotiations, or engage in illegal practices. The different types of investment (conservation, mining or agriculture) result in various alliances between communities, environmentalists, human rights organisations, governments and businesses. Displacement might be planned or ad-hoc, beneficial or harmful, and on an individual or community basis. Dispossession can be in the form of losing land, but also losing fishing grounds, agricultural crops or livestock, and community cohesion. The impact of these processes and the way they are shaped are products of defence and counter-defence strategies of communities in various partnerships, which in turn are highly influenced by contextual factors such as political interest and historical dynamics.

In this panel, we will explore the different dimensions of displacement and dispossession in various contexts, and map the realms of agency and defence strategies of affected populations. What are the main contemporary drivers of displacement and dispossession in each region? In what different shapes do displacement and dispossession occur? How do authorities and private actors interact with affected populations? How do affected populations seek to defend their interests, individually or in partnership or coalition with others such as civil society organizations?

Potential presenters

- Marja Spierenburg, Radboud University Nijmegen (case study South Africa)
- Maaïke Matelski, Radboud University Nijmegen (case study Kenya)
- Selma Zijlstra, Radboud University Nijmegen (case study Kenya)
- TBC (relevant paper proposals welcome)

This session welcomes abstract submissions.

PANEL

Everyday experiences of 'development' and 'dispossession': understanding longer-term impacts of megaprojects

Gemma van der Haar & Stephanie Hobbis, Sociology of Development and Change, Wageningen University and Research, in collaboration with Both Ends (tbc)

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Large scale projects for hydropower, infrastructure, or extractivism are under scrutiny for their negative impacts on affected populations and the failure to produce positive development outcomes at the local level. It has become clear that people affected by such projects suffer various forms of dispossession, both material (loss of land, water, livelihood assets) and immaterial, although the latter are far less understood and often not immediately evident. In this session we look at megaprojects that have been initiated some years back in order to understand how, over time, they have impacted local societies and how, in turn, local societies have made sense of, and adapted their lives to the megaproject. We especially seek to understand multiple forms of dispossession, people's attachment to their surroundings, and changes in local social relations. In the session—which will have an interactive format—we will share insights from recent field research on the region affected by the Bujagali dam in Uganda and hope to attract presentations on other settings.

We welcome contributions that explore questions relating to:

- multiple forms of dispossession and, potentially, re-appropriation
- changes in people's attachment to place
- political identities that develop around such projects
- changing social relations, including gender relations

In the session we aim to develop a joint reflection on issues such as:

- the role of local and regional state authorities
- the role of advocacy of local or international NGOs
- how experiences with such projects inform the way new or follow-up projects are received (and managed)
- what lessons can or should be drawn for social and economic impact assessments

Potential contributors: We count on the presentation of three WUR students (whose field research in Uganda was facilitated through Both Ends), possibly someone from Both Ends (depending on availability), and are open to other presenters.

This session welcomes abstract submissions.

PANEL

When do displacement and resettlement end? The temporalities of dislocation, socio-political engagement, and sustainable development

Kei Otsuki, Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning, Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University & Nikkie Wiegink, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Utrecht University

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One of the most direct implications of large-scale land investments is displacement of people who are considered to be “in the way” of the investment projects (Oliver-Smith, 2009). Recently, the World Bank estimates that 20 million people are displaced due to the investment projects each year (Cernea and Maldonado, 2018). The displaced people are usually clustered and relocated in new forms of settlements in both rural and urban areas. These new settlements profoundly transform landscapes and people’s socioeconomic conditions. While much attention has been paid to adequate compensation and livelihood restoration in the planning for and immediate aftermath of resettlement, the protracted processes toward sustainable place-making have attracted little scholarly and policy attention. How do actors involved in resettlement, such as governments, investors, affected populations, civil society organizations, and academics, understand this process in terms of temporality? When does their commitment start and when and how does it end? When is resettlement considered to be “over”? And what does sustainable development mean in such a context?

In this panel we aim to address these questions (and others) by approaching resettlement as a process and agent of transformation. In addition to investment-induced displacement and resettlement, we wish to discuss cases of protracted refugee camps, or resettlement projects created due to natural disasters. More specifically, we welcome papers that address questions such as:

- What are the long-term effects of resettlement projects on their destinations’ natural and socioeconomic landscapes?
- How do implementing actors of resettlement projects deal with the positive and negative effects of the resettlement experience? And how do such engagements change over time?
- How do different actors involved in resettlement envision the potential and effective time period for the political and social engagement?
- How can we study dislocation as a process of transformation?

This session welcomes abstract submissions.

PANEL

Land rights; expropriation and compensation. Recent advances, insights and implementation tools

Leon Verstappen & Björn Hoops, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen; Jean du Plessis, UN-Habitat, GLTN; Richard Sliuzas, ITC Twente

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Description will follow.

This session welcomes abstract submissions.