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DEVELOPMENT LECTURE

Landscapes of extraction and resistance: insights from Central America and Chile

This ÖFSE Development Lecture examines environmental conflicts related to agrarian and mining extractivism in Latin America, with a particular focus on Central America and Chile. It asks: Why do environmental conflicts emerge and why do they sometimes not? What do these conflicts reveal about social and environmental inequalities across the region? And how are local communities organizing to resist them?

The talk highlights how environmental change is shaped by unequal power relations and rooted in the colonial and historical legacies of resource extraction. Environmental conflicts are understood as collective mobilizations against the social and ecological harms caused by extractive or development projects. They are struggles over who controls natural resources, who benefits from them, and how they are valued. Rather than viewing these conflicts as isolated problems to be managed or contained, the lecture presents them as arenas of social transformation that illuminate the deep structural inequalities from which they arise.

Registration: ingrid.fankhauser@univie.ac.at by November 10, 2025.

Organizers:

ÖFSE 
Austrian Foundation
for Development Research

 universität
wien
Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Landscapes of extraction and resistance: insights from Central America and Chile

13.11.2025, 18-20 Uhr

C3 – Centrum für Internationale
Entwicklung Sensengasse 3, 1090 Wien



Speakers:



Foto: ©Universidad de Chile

Grettel Navas is a political ecologist specializing in toxic pollution, public policy, and environmental justice. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of Chile's School of Government and an Associate Lecturer in the Master's program in Planetary Health at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain). She serves on the leadership and coordination team of the Environmental Justice Atlas (EJAtlas), a global initiative documenting environmental conflicts and resistance movements. In November 2025, she will hold a Paul Lazarsfeld Visiting Professorship at the University of Vienna's Faculty of Social Sciences.

Ulrich Brand is Professor for International Politics, Head of the Research Network Latin America at the University of Vienna and Chair of the ÖFSE Supervisory Board.

Valerie Lenikus is senior scientist at the Department of Political Science at the University of Vienna, with a focus on political ecology, agrarian extractivism and socio-ecological conflicts, with a regional focus on Latin America.

Herbert Wasserbauer is a policy officer at DKA Austria. He focuses on resource policy and mining in the Global South and supports related projects in Latin America. Within the AG Rohstoffe (Alliance on Raw Materials), DKA collaborates with other NGOs to advocate for human rights-based and sustainable resource policies.

Facilitation: Karin Küblböck (ÖFSE)

Gefördert durch die

 Österreichische
Entwicklungs-
zusammenarbeit

Programme

18.00

Welcome words & introduction

Ulrich Brand

Research Group Latin America, University of Vienna

18.15

Keynote Lecture

Grettel Navas

Facultad de Gobierno, Universidad de Chile

18.50

Comments

Valerie Lenikus

Research Group Latin America, University of Vienna

Herbert Wasserbauer

DKA Austria

19.10 Q&A

20.00

End of conference followed by drinks and snacks

By participating in this event, you agree to the publication of photos and film footage taken during the event by the organizers.