

Formality and criminality in the Colombian post-conflict: the contested return of state control to gold extraction in Northeastern Antioquia

Summary/Zusammenfassung

The demobilization of most of the armed actors that have been involved in Colombia's protracted armed conflict has led to a situation where the state gradually re-establishes its public authority in former war zones. These dynamics are especially salient in the mining sector. The state attempts to sever the ties between resource extraction and criminal actors by formalizing artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) or by distributing mining concessions. This study aims to understand how this formalization contributes to the renegotiation of legitimacy and criminality at two gold mining sites in Northeastern Antioquia. More specifically, the study analyses how mining communities mobilize dis/incentives to formalization in order to legitimize their access to mining sites, how formal legislation interacts with emic understandings of informality in the mining sector, and to what extent formalization contributes to the criminalization of ASM.

Keywords/Suchbegriffe

Post-conflict, artisanal and small-scale mining, formalization, criminalization

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