

## **Central margins: Sri Lanka's violent frontier**

### *Summary/Zusammenfassung*

Continuing long after wars end, the struggle for territory is maintained through claims for land and its natural resources (Peluso and Vandergeest 2011; Lunstrum 2009). These struggles are often rooted in processes of resettlement, relocation and colonisation, as projects of powerful political actors materialise in order to move people to and from specific locations, to claim access to natural resources or to expand the settlement patterns of a powerful social or ethnic group. These struggles are often surrounded by registers of “purifying” space, with the aim of making it ethnically homogenous (Hasbullah and Korf 2009, 2013; Korf 2006; Spencer 2003) thereby producing what can be described as “geographies of violence” (Korf et al. 2010; Korf and Raeymaekers 2012). Such “geographies of violence” are produced in the continued struggle for territory in post-war Sri Lanka. This doctoral project examines how development schemes produce different forms of violence in this struggle for territory, during and after the civil war (1983-2009) in Sri Lanka. It studies the case study of Weli Oya, a key site of development in the heart of the Dry Zone frontier, which has been located in the frontline of the civil war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Sri Lankan armed forces, and has been particularly contested throughout the ethnic conflict. The research focuses on how state led development schemes have been used to claim territory before, during, and after the civil war. The research in particular studies how struggles over territory continue even after the war has ended.

### *Keywords/Suchbegriffe*

Development, territorialisation, frontiers, margins, Sri Lanka

### *Project Leadership and Contacts / Projektleitung und Kontakte*

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