



3rd INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CONTESTED TERRITORIES

DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES WITHIN CONTESTED TERRITORIES IN LATIN AMERICA

29-30 January 2020, University of Sheffield

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Previous workshops on *Contested Territories* elaborated how this concept centres on the production and appropriation of space in relation to often overlapping cultural, economic, environmental and spatial conflicts (workshop in Leeds, May 2019). These also examined, from a political economy perspective, how the contestation of territory is deeply connected to the production, circulation and consumption of value (workshop in York, September 2019). The upcoming third and final workshop at the University of Sheffield builds on the above and further develops the concept of *Contested Territories* through a focus on development alternatives.

Recent political changes in Latin America point towards a return towards nationalist, (neo)colonial and neoliberal ideologies. Such trends are often accompanied by a deepening of intersectional inequalities, processes of democratic decline, and violations of human rights and rights to nature. Throughout the region, grassroots movements are actively involved in challenging such uneven patterns of development. This is evident in previous and current social uprisings and territorial struggles throughout the region which confront the exploitation of populations and nature, call for a reduction of inequalities, and advocate for development alternatives framed around, among others, the commons, degrowth, feminist and afro-descendent thought, as well as indigenous cosmovisions. Such alternatives possess the potential for sustainability and transferability across different contexts and provide innovative approaches to territory production and associated human-environment relations, values and knowledges. Yet, to date, such alternatives have been marginalised by policy makers and private sector representatives. Importantly, such approaches challenge dominant world-views and are orientated towards the Pluriverse – an understanding of reality that is constituted “not only by many worlds, but by many kinds of worlds, many ontologies, many ways of being in the world, many ways of knowing reality, and experimenting those many worlds” ([Querejazu 2016](#)).

This workshop will focus on the construction of development alternatives in the context of *Contested Territories*, focusing not only on previous and recent social uprisings in Latin America but also on the institutionalisation of development alternatives – for example, within Bolivia’s and Ecuador’s constitutions – as well as on more subtle conscious and unconscious day-to-day practices which put into question conventional forms of development. In particular, we invite contributions that address one or more of the following questions:

- In which contexts and how do innovative approaches, framed around the notion of development alternatives, emerge in relation to *Contested Territories* in Latin America?
- What are the differences between distinct articulations of development alternatives? How can we highlight and reconcile tensions between such different articulations and associated ontological and epistemological positions?
- How are development alternatives being integrated into legal systems and governance mechanisms? To what extent and how are development alternatives engaged differently in policy and governance mechanisms on one hand, and in daily practices that shape, negotiate and appropriate *Contested Territories* on the other hand?

- What epistemological, theoretical and methodological approaches are required to make visible bottom-up models of scientific, cultural, political and economic innovation framed around development alternatives?
- What are the limits to 'development alternatives'? Are they simply 'alternatives to development as usual'?
- What are the convergences and divergences between official rhetoric on development and alternative knowledges epitomised in the Pluriverse? What are the resulting implications for *Contested Territories*?

WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE ABOUT?

This International Workshop is the third event related to a collaborative project on [Contested Territories](#), funded by the White Rose University Consortium bringing together a network of researchers interested in rural and urban territories in Latin America from the Universities of Leeds, York and Sheffield.

ORGANISATION AND LOGISTICS

This is a 2-day workshop taking place from 5-6th February 2020 at the University of Sheffield. There are no fees to pay and light meals will be provided during the workshop. However, we cannot support travel and accommodation (unless for those affiliated with the collaborative project and research network at the Universities of York or Leeds). While we encourage physical attendance in the event, we are aware that travel to a UK workshop – especially from Latin America – is very costly. We therefore will welcome a limited number of contributions via Skype.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts may be submitted in Spanish, Portuguese or English, summarising the objectives of the proposed paper communication and explain how they relate to the key questions addressed in this call. Abstracts should not exceed 200 words and include the names, contact details and affiliation of all authors. Drawing on the method of counter-cartography (see for example, [This is not an Atlas](#)), as part of the workshop, we will also be producing a collaborative map to visualise our different perspectives towards development alternatives within *Contested Territories*. For this, we will ask every participant to bring along an artefact (e.g. photo, painting, poem, etc) which helps to foreground your perspective on this topic. Priority will be given to PhD and ECRs but the event is open to all.

Please submit by: 13 December 2019

Send abstract to: development_alternatives_sheffield@outlook.com

WORKSHOP DYNAMICS

All accepted participants will be asked to produce a short communication in English, Spanish or Portuguese (no more than 900-1250 words) by 17th January 2020. We welcome both brief academic texts as well as other representations (be that fiction, poetry, or other arts-based expressions). The short communication will be shared with all participants prior to the workshop to better prepare interaction and discussion. The chair in each session will then use these contributions to instigate a panel conversation amongst the speakers and wider participants. We will not rely on conventional PowerPoint presentations as part of this event. However, you can draw on photos or other representations to support your contribution. If you agree, we would like to publish your contribution as well as the collective map on [our website](#).