

Sovereign and Deadly Energy Transition: Communal Life against Extractivism in Mexico

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Morelos Integral Project (PIM) is a megaproject, part of Mexico's 'sovereign energy transition,' but detractors have called it a 'Death Project' for endangering individual and collective lives in Central Mexico. Peasant and indigenous communities fighting the project have linked its construction to human rights violations like harassment, incarcerations, and assassinations. Under the discursive and material proximity of this energy project to death, my research asks: how does a 'sovereign energy transition' threaten communal survival? I use three units of study around PIM: 1) expert witnessing in legal cases; 2) court-ordered indigenous consultation process; 3) regional emergence of an infrastructural complex. My research brings together historic, ethnographic, and legal perspectives to explore global climate change policies. Through these sources, I show how these energy megaprojects represent a renovated socio-environmental regime of accumulation that transforms the conditions of possibility for people's reproduction. An intervention of my work is looking at climate change policies through a place-based and historically informed research that explores the colonial legacies these policies reinvigorate. At the same time, I argue that indigenous people fighting against these policies in central Mexico reshape the meaning and practice of concepts such as climate justice and gendered energy transitions.