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Transformation politics

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Two different approaches

Systems
-
Social complexity



Brief outline

- The ambition of our study
- Our theoretical research problems
- The questions we posed to our material
- Conclusions
- A single question to take into the mash-up



Ambition

Investigation of a change process

- Crucial moments in the process where directions were chosen
- Identify which values were chosen or sacrificed
- Logic behind these choices?



Theoretical research problem

Transformations research has developed in isolation from social theory

- A systems approach has problems dealing with issues of power, influence and participation
- Social complexity can only be made visible when agency includes a social subject



Research questions

- What should be protected, facilitated, avoided and developed by natural resource legislation?
- What is at stake when legislation is discussed from different stakeholder's perspectives?
- Whose values/ideologies/logics dominate the dialogue between stakeholders?



Conclusions

- A systems approach shapes social reality according to its own logic of efficiency
- Predefined goals of economics optimization prevail over social continuity
- A reduction of social complexity hides issues of politics, accountability and participation



A question?

Social complexity must be empirically included in transformation research.

How is this compatible with a systems ontology?



Thank you!

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