

THE RESISTANCE IN DEFENSE OF WATER IN BAJA CALIFORNIA: THE CASE OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

On March 21st and 22nd of 2020 a public consultation took place in Mexicali, where the continuation of the transnational brewery company “Constellation Brands” in the area was inquired. In this consultation there were two options you could vote: YES to the brewery or NO to the brewery, where the NO won with an astonishing 76% of the votes (29,793), meaning that the brewery project could not continue anymore in Mexicali.

This case of the resistance success raises some questions that I will try to answer throughout the paper: What has been the process and paths that the resistance has taken in defense of water? What determined the success of the resistance (manifested in the rejection of the brewery in the public consultation)?

In this research I analyze the case of the united resistance in defense of water against the transnational brewery “Constellation Brands”. The study conducted is a qualitative research with an important ethnographic component, where I use process tracing to analyze the resistance since the beginning in 2017 until early 2020 (April).

My main argument is that the case analyzed is a case of critical decolonial theory from the global south in practice (especially from Latin America), which is the theoretical approach that I develop in the paper. I also argue that three factors were crucial for the triumph of the resistance based on a comparative within-case research of two periods of the resistance: the legal and protests actions results in conjunction, the union of the social movements into a joint resistance movement and the government change to a left-wing party in the federal government, these

three factors could be seen as an adapting of INUS (insufficient but necessary causes, that jointly cause the outcome) which will be analyzed throughout the paper.