

The Political Economy of NIMBY

Institutional Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources
Institutioneller Wandel der Landwirtschaft und Ressourcennutzung

edited by/herausgegeben von
Volker Beckmann & Konrad Hagedorn

Volume/Band 69

Alexander Perez Carmona

The Political Economy of NIMBY

Conflictive Landfill Siting in Colombia

Shaker Verlag
Aachen 2017

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>.

Zugl.: Berlin, Humboldt-Univ., Diss., 2016

Copyright Shaker Verlag 2017

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers.

Printed in Germany.

ISBN 978-3-8440-5437-8

ISSN 1617-4828

Shaker Verlag GmbH • P.O. BOX 101818 • D-52018 Aachen

Phone: 0049/2407/9596-0 • Telefax: 0049/2407/9596-9

Internet: www.shaker.de • e-mail: info@shaker.de

Aim and Scope of the Series

„Nothing endures but change“. Heraclitus the Ephesian (ca. 535–475 BC)

Institutions, defined as “the rules of the game”, are a key factor to the sustainable development of societies. They structure not only the multitude of human-human interactions of modern societies, but also most of the human-nature interactions. Poverty, famine, civil war, degradation of natural resources and even the collapse of ecosystems and societies often have institutional causes, likewise social and economic prosperity, sustainable use of resources and the resilience of socio-ecological systems. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries are those human activities where the interdependencies between human-human and human-nature interactions are perhaps most pronounced, and diverse institutions have been developed in history to govern them.

Social and ecological conditions are, however, ever changing, which continuously challenge the existing institutional structure at a given point in time. Those changes may be long-term, like population growth or climate change, medium-term, such as new technologies or changing price relations, or short-term, like floods or bankruptcies, but all of them pose the question whether the rules of the game need to be adapted. Failures to adapt timely and effectively may come at a high social cost. Institutional change, however, face a principal dilemma: on the one hand, institutions need to be stable to structure expectations and effectively influence human behaviors; on the other hand, they need to be adaptive to respond to the ever changing circumstance mentioned above. Understanding stability and change as well as developing adaptive institutions and effective, efficient and fair mechanisms of change are, therefore, of central importance for societies and an ongoing research challenge for social scientists.

If we want to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and adaptability of institutions, it stands to reason that we have to develop a good understanding of the causes, effects, processes and mechanism of stability and change. This is the aim of the series “Institutional Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources,” which attempts to answer the questions “How do processes and mechanism of institutional change actually work? What and who are the main determinants and actors driving, governing and influencing these processes? What are the economic, political, social and ecological consequences? How can adaptive institutions be designed and developed, and what governance structures are required to make them effective?” These are the questions at the heart of the series. The works published in this series seek to provide answers to these questions in different economic, social, political and historical contexts.

Volker Beckmann and Konrad Hagedorn

Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald und Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Konrad Hagedorn. This work was conducted under his supervision at the Division of Resource Economics of Humboldt University at Berlin. I also owe gratitude to Prof. Dr. Volker Beckmann, who during my undergraduate studies awoke my interest in institutional and environmental economics, from which I derived and further pursued their applicability to environmental social conflicts. I am also very grateful to Prof. em. Dr. oec. publ. Manfred Nitsch, who kindly accepted the task of evaluating earlier versions of this manuscript.

In the first phase of the research, I benefited from the questions and comments of my fellow Ph.D students, during the weekly research colloquia organized at the Division. Special acknowledgment needs to be given to Dr. Christian Schleyer and Dr. Jes Weigelt, who took time to read and comment on my initial research proposals. The overall process was also enormously aided by the logistic proficiency and kindness of Mrs. Sigrid Heilmann and Mrs. Ines Jeworsky.

During my stay in Colombia, I was supported by the community leader Luz Marina Palacios. She, along with many other community leaders in all the Colombian regions I visited for the purpose of data collection, and whose names I cannot mention on grounds of requested anonymity, were not only a source of empirical data, but most significantly, a source of personal inspiration. Their work is mostly silent, little recognized, and sometimes even misjudged. Yet, these people, performing invaluable services to their communities, are the micro-pillars of social cohesion in Colombia.

I also have to recognize the assistance of environmental lawyers Edison Diosa and Mayda del Pilar Vanin. They are public servants of the environmental agency in the Cauca Valley, who in spite of their crowded agendas, were kind enough as to patiently introduce me into the intricacies of Colombian environmental law and its applicability. Many other public servants helped me in granting access to the public records of the cases. To them I also owe gratitude.

The writing process was enormously aided by my two years of work as a fellow researcher at the Institute of the Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam.

Personally, I would like to thank my mother Maria and sister Jennifer, for the encouraging words they always found for me when difficult moments appeared, delaying my work. To my friends Shigeo Watanabe, Mario Araújo, and José Hernandez Rivera, for they were not only a source of ideas about institutions and Grounded Theory methodology, but also joy. Sarah Balzat is also

acknowledged here for her support in so many aspects during the years 2012 and 2014. These years without her inspiring personality are simply unimaginable.

Finally, the financial support of the first three and half years of research granted by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is gratefully acknowledged.

Berlin, January 2017

Alexander Perez Carmona

Contents

Contents	ix
List of Figures	xiii
List of Tables	xv
List of Abbreviations	xvii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 The Problem	1
1.2 Questions, Purposes and Methods	2
1.3 Structure of the Monograph	4
2 Waste and Economics	7
2.1 Some Problems in Defining Waste	7
2.2 Environmental Economics	11
2.3 Ecological Economics	20
2.4 Summary	27
3 Social Conflict and Economics	29
3.1 Classical Conflict and Neo-Classical Peace	29
3.2 New Institutional Economics	32
3.3 New Political Economy	39
3.4 Summary	49
4 NIMBY as a Micro-Political Economic Social Conflict	53
4.1 The Rationality and the Self-Interest Hypotheses	55
4.2 The Irrational Risk-Aversion Hypothesis	59
4.3 The Distrust Hypothesis.....	63
4.4 The Ideological Hypothesis: Inequity and Democracy.....	66
4.5 Summary	69
5 Methodology	71
5.1 Analytical Framework.....	71

5.2	Case Studies	77
5.3	Data Collection: Semi-Structured Interviews and Documents	81
5.4	Data Analysis: Grounded Theory	85
6	The Case of Landfills in Colombia.....	91
6.1	On Waste, Institutions and Landfill Techniques	91
6.1.1	The Waste Crisis	91
6.1.2	Policy Responses.....	92
6.1.3	Institutional Framework for the Siting of Landfills.....	94
6.1.4	An Overview of the Landfill Technique.....	98
6.2	Landfill Siting Stories	101
6.2.1	Case Study 1: Presidente (2005-2007).....	101
6.2.2	Case Study 2: Pasacaballos (2001-2005).....	105
6.2.3	Case Study 3: Buena Vista (2004-2007).....	113
6.2.4	Case Study 4: Yumbo (2000-2008)	115
6.2.5	Case Study 5: Florida (2004-2007).....	119
6.3	Summary	124
7	Inductive NIMBY Theory	127
7.1	Soft Reasons.....	127
7.1.1	Distrust	129
7.1.2	Negative Landfill Perceptions.....	132
7.1.3	Inequity	135
7.1.4	Summary	138
7.2	Hard Reasons	139
7.2.1	Overcoming Ignorance.....	139
7.2.2	Not-Following Regulations and Non-Suitable Location	144
7.2.3	Summary and Questions	149
7.3	A NIMBY Model: Strategies and Outcomes	151
7.3.1	Tools of Dissent	151
7.3.2	Phases of the NIMBY Model.....	155
8	Integrating Inductive and Deductive NIMBY Theory.....	175
8.1	Externality and Social Conflict	175

8.2	The NIMBY Avant-Garde	181
8.3	Attributes of Landfills	185
8.4	An Enhanced NIMBY Model: Strategies and Outcomes	189
9	Conclusions	197
9.1	Synthesis	197
9.2	Main Insights.....	199
9.3	Caveats and Suggestions for Future Research	200
	References	203
	List of Annex	221