



Unravelling the detention of child migrants at the southern Mexican border
Raquel Salinas Peixoto

The southern Mexican border has been increasingly militarized under the Plan Frontera Sur since 2014 and is the scenario of the majority of the detention of child migrants in Mexico and in Latin America. Mexican legal texts adopt a human rights approach to migratory control, as Mexican Migration Law states the principle of respect for the human rights of migrants and that 'in no way, the irregular migratory situation will be considered a criminal offense'. Children are mentioned in the Migration Law as special subjects of protection under Article 29. However, local and international NGOs reported that child migrants suffered from a punitive confinement in migratory detention. The aim of this research is to analyze the discourses and practices of legality, justice, and violence among relevant actors at the Southern Mexican border region regarding migration-related detention of children. This research is designed to combine ethnographic and legal empirical methods for data collection, in order to enable a border-localized understanding of the subject matter. By doing so, it will enable an anthropological study of child migrant's and rights in the case of migratory detention from a local instance. From a broader perspective, this analysis will try to contribute to studies on the spatialization of (in)justice, legal consciousness, crimmigration and violence in Latin America, particularly considering the most vulnerable.



Intersections of Gender, Ethnicity and Class in Bolivia
Indigenous Women in the TIPNIS conflict
Floor van der Hout

This research project explores how gender, ethnicity and class are intertwined in conflicts around development and natural resource use in Latin America. It does so through an in-depth case study focusing on the role of indigenous women in the so-called TIPNIS controversy: the contested construction of the Villa Tunari-San Ignacio de Moxos highway through the indigenous territory and national park of TIPNIS, Bolivia. In Latin America, indigenous women are at the forefront of activism against large-scale development projects that endanger their livelihoods. However, academic attention for these women has been remarkably absent and their struggles largely invisible. The intersections of ethnicity, gender and class put these women in underprivileged positions, both inciting their struggle for social change and limiting their room for maneuver. This research project aims at understanding how these intersections shape the women's activism. Reciprocity and responsibility towards the research participants occupy a central place in the project and as part of the ethnographic design collaborative and participatory research methods will be employed.

Floor van der Hout is a graduate in cultural anthropology (Utrecht University, 2017). She conducted fieldwork in The Philippines, Peru, and Bolivia, focusing on political anthropology, indigenous struggles, development and gender.