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Workshop n°4, Session n°3b

Title:

Protests, knowledge and agroecological social movements of Argentina (2019-2023)

Abstract:

The objective of this contribution is to present the analysis of Argentine agroecological social movements from a decolonial perspective, focused on the study of the knowledge they use to resist and question the hegemony of the agroindustrial food system (Flórez Flórez, 2015; Flórez Flórez & Olarte Olarte, 2023, Soto Pimentel, 2023). To do this, I carried out a qualitative analysis of the claims and projects raised by these movements through protests in public spaces during the government of Alberto Fernández (2019-2023). I then looked at the meanings of this knowledge by analyzing press releases and documents produced by the organizations.

Among the claims I found: the request for expropriation of a cereal company, a Plurinational Walk against “Terricide”, the complaint of artisanal fishermen for the low purchase value of their products by exporting economic groups and the claim against the closure of an agroecological school. I also found in the protests proposals for bills designed by agroecological social movements to be presented in the National Congress: the Land Access Bill and the Artisanal Fishing Bill.

The main results show that a variety of knowledge is expressed in the protests, depending on the type of demands, such as agroecology, sovereignty and access to land. This knowledge is combined with another series of definitions that, although diverse, have in common the expression of “controversies” regarding agribusiness (Motta, 2016) and alternatives to build “life projects” (Giraldo, 2024). Finally, the knowledge that was identified in the protests has different levels of complexity (Soto Pimentel and Gradin, 2023; forthcoming) and has both symbolic and material meanings (Simmons, 2014).

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