

Name: Samadhi Lipari

University of Leeds

WINS Seminar 13.06.2018,

IRI THESys, Friedrichstraße 191, 10117 Berlin, Room 4088

Title of the presentation: Land grabbing from within Germany and Italy

Abstract

The presentation will show the preliminary results of a case study fieldwork conducted in Italy, as part of a comparative research project investigating land concentration and accumulation, in the context of the European capitalism 'green turn'. The discussion will frame the expansion of industrial-scale wind farms in south Italy within the literature around the category of 'green grabbing'. It will show how the interplaying of juridical and institutional settings and a deep restructuring of rural socio-economic fabrics have set in motion a market horizons' expansion process incorporating peripheral areas into energy global value chains, this entailing –among others- bottom-up redistributive dynamics. Through a preliminary analysis combining qualitative outcomes from interviews with stakeholders and quantitative data, the presentation will offer a general picture including actors and power relations of a green grabbing next-door case.

Short bio

Samadhi Lipari is a PhD researcher at the School of Geography of the University of Leeds. He obtained his master degree in 2009 in International Relations at the LUISS University of Rome and a Bachelor in Sociology at the Carlo Bo University of Urbino. He gained expertise in land access and tenure issues while working as a research consultant at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a UN agency and international financial institution based in Rome. Samadhi is now visiting at IRI Thesys and at the BMBF Junior Research Group "Bioeconomy and Inequalities" at the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität of Jena. He is currently conducting a study on the relations between the 'green turn' in energy production within the context of contemporary capitalism and land regime restructuring, in terms of land access, property concentration and impact on existing socio-economic fabrics. The study focuses on Europe and develops a multiscale geographical approach within a mixed-method analytical approach. This involves conducting two case studies on different national capitalisms and energy sources: wind energy in south Italy and biofuel/biogas in eastern Germany. As a major outcome, the study will advance the debate on the role of contemporary capitalism's 'greening' in the stabilisation of a new production regime, clarifying how it opens new investment horizons while meeting the overarching and long-term goal of protecting the system from social turbulences potentially caused by environmental degradation. As a secondary outcome, it will make intelligible the underway transformation process –including impacts on pre-existing socio-economic fabrics and local communities.