



Faculty of Legal Sciences

School of International Studies

**WOMEN'S RESISTANCE TO EXTRACTIVISM IN
SOUTHERN ECUADOR: ANALYSIS OF THEIR
ALIGNMENT WITH ECOFEMINIST.
QUIMSACocha CASE**

Project prior to obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in International
Studies

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To those who fight without applause, I dedicate this
work to all the brave women who with firmness and
dignity defend their lives in spite of diversity. Their
resistance is what moves the world.

“The scary news is you’re on your own now. But the
cool news is you’re on your own now”

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To my family, Mami, Papi, Micky, and Mocca, for your unconditional love, patience, and trust in every step I have taken. Thank you for being my refuge and one of the main pillars in my life. Your presence gave me peace and strength to continue.

To those who came into my life just at the right time, with calm and light. Thank you for your unconditional love and support.

Finally, to myself, thank you for the strength, for believing, and not letting go. I am so proud of you, and I know you will go far <3.

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Women's resistance to extractivism in southern Ecuador: Analysis of its alignment with ecofeminism. The Quimsacocha case.

ABSTRACT

This paper analyzes women's resistance to extractivism in Quimsacocha, southern Ecuador, and its alignment with the principles of ecofeminism. The objective was to identify how the practices led by women respond to a logic of territorial defense. From an ecofeminist theoretical perspective, the relationship between the extractivist model and forms of political exclusion rooted in patriarchy is examined. The methodology employed a qualitative, exploratory-descriptive approach, utilizing triangulation between a literature review case study, and in-depth interviews. Among the main findings, three pillars that configure a local Andean ecofeminism were identified: community knowledge, territorial memory, and collective action. These elements allow us to understand resistance as a daily practice of the Quimsacocha community. It also analyzes the role of international cooperation tools that have made the conflict visible, highlighting the potential for accessing international aid if resistance is articulated in conjunction with technical training processes in the communities. This study concludes that the resistance of the women of Quimsacocha constitutes a local ecofeminist expression that questions the extractive models and proposes alternatives based on the care of nature, life, and environmental justice.

Key words

Ecofeminism, extractivism, territorial resistance, community knowledge, environmental justice

La resistencia de las mujeres frente al extractivismo en el sur del Ecuador: Análisis de su alineación con el ecofeminismo. Caso Quimsacocha

RESUMEN

Este trabajo analiza la resistencia de las mujeres frente al extractivismo en Quimsacocha, al sur del Ecuador, y su alineación con los principios del ecofeminismo. El objetivo fue identificar cómo las prácticas lideradas por mujeres responden a una lógica de defensa territorial. Desde una perspectiva teórica ecofeminista, se examina la relación entre el modelo extractivismo y las formas de exclusión políticas arraigadas al patriarcado. La metodología fue cualitativa, con enfoque exploratorio-descriptivo, aplicando la triangulación entre revisión de literatura, caso de estudio y entrevistas a profundidad. Entre los hallazgos principales se identifican tres pilares que configuran un ecofeminismo andino local: conocimiento comunitario, memoria territorial y acción colectiva. Estos elementos permiten comprender la resistencia como una práctica cotidiana de la comunidad de Quimsacocha. También, se analiza el papel de las herramientas de cooperación internacional que han logrado visibilizar el conflicto, destacando el potencial para acceder a ayuda internacional si la resistencia se articula en conjunto con procesos de formación técnica en las comunidades. Se concluye que la resistencia de las mujeres de Quimsacocha constituye una expresión ecofeminista local, que cuestiona los modelos extractivos y plantea alternativas sustentadas en el cuidado de la naturaleza, vida y justicia ambiental importantes.

Palabras clave

Ecofeminismo, extractivismo, resistencia territorial, saberes comunitarios, justicia ambiental