

Is the Wine Made of Plantain?: Analysis of Prosocial Action in Chile's Participation in the Paris Climate Agreement

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How well do sustainable development efforts support social justice and civil rights issues at international and subnational scales?

To what extent does Chile's participation in the Paris Climate Accords recognize, provide support against, or exacerbate social justice issues in Chile?

Background and Theory

- ❖ **Anthropocene** scholarship claims that the natural and the social can no longer be separated (Kotze 2014, Latour 2013).
- ❖ Sustainable development efforts fall under the **neoliberal** system (Redclift 2005), and have to take into account historical and social dynamics (Chakrabarty 2009 & Shannon May 2011).
- ❖ **Vulnerability** theory claims that hazards are not evenly distributed, rather this is determined by dynamic pressures.
- ❖ **Post-colonial** theorists argue that developing nations must find alternate trajectories to modernity apart from western ideas of development (Fanon 1961).
- ❖ World People's Conference on Climate Change
 - "No al cambio climático, si al **cambio sistémico!**"

Word	Appearances
Development/Growth	36
Carbon/CO2	37
Greenhouse Gas	22
Vulnerable	9
Equity related terms	0



Chile and COP21

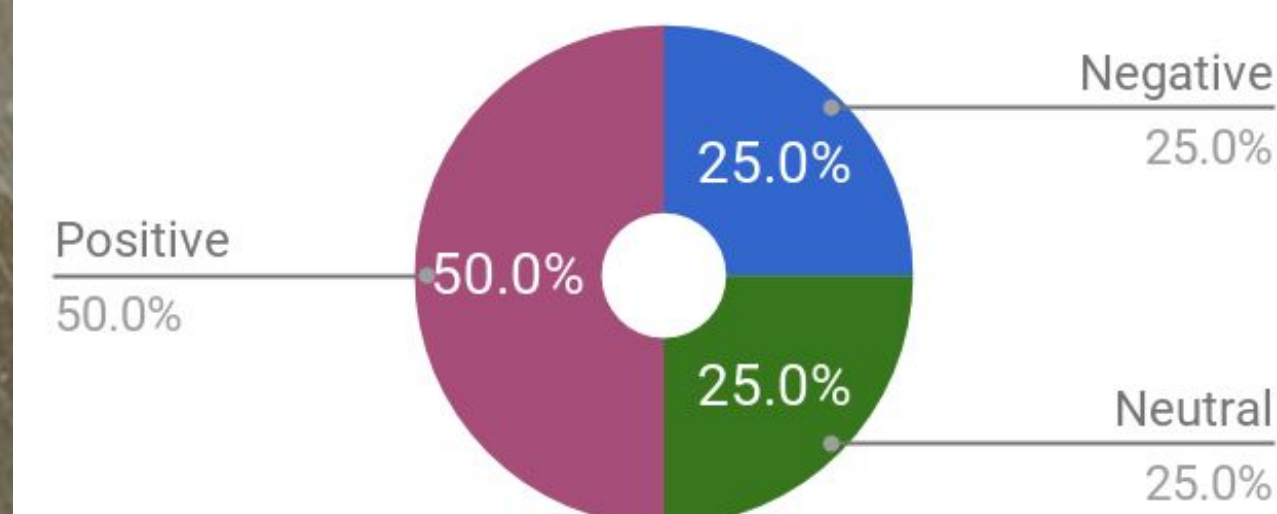
- ❖ Natural resource based, **semi-peripheral** economy, **vulnerable** to climate change as it is all coastline. Very natural disaster prone.
- ❖ Makes up .25% global emissions, 4.7% Regional emissions
- ❖ Government has been accused by local pueblos, the UN and AI for **racist laws against the Mapuche** people.
- ❖ While equity now figures into international climate debates, it has to be pursued more seriously, including consideration of Loss and Damage and Adaptation (Morgan and Waskow 2014).
- ❖ Major players at the COP21 (read: the US) achieved majority of their goals and secrecy and persuasion played a large role (Dimitrov 2016).

Methods

- ❖ Analysis of **Production** versus **Consumption** of the agreement to get a rounded sense of the issue.
 - People are the authorities on their own experiences
- ❖ Media has dual function of reflecting opinions as well as shaping them.
- ❖ Interview with US Delegate to COP21

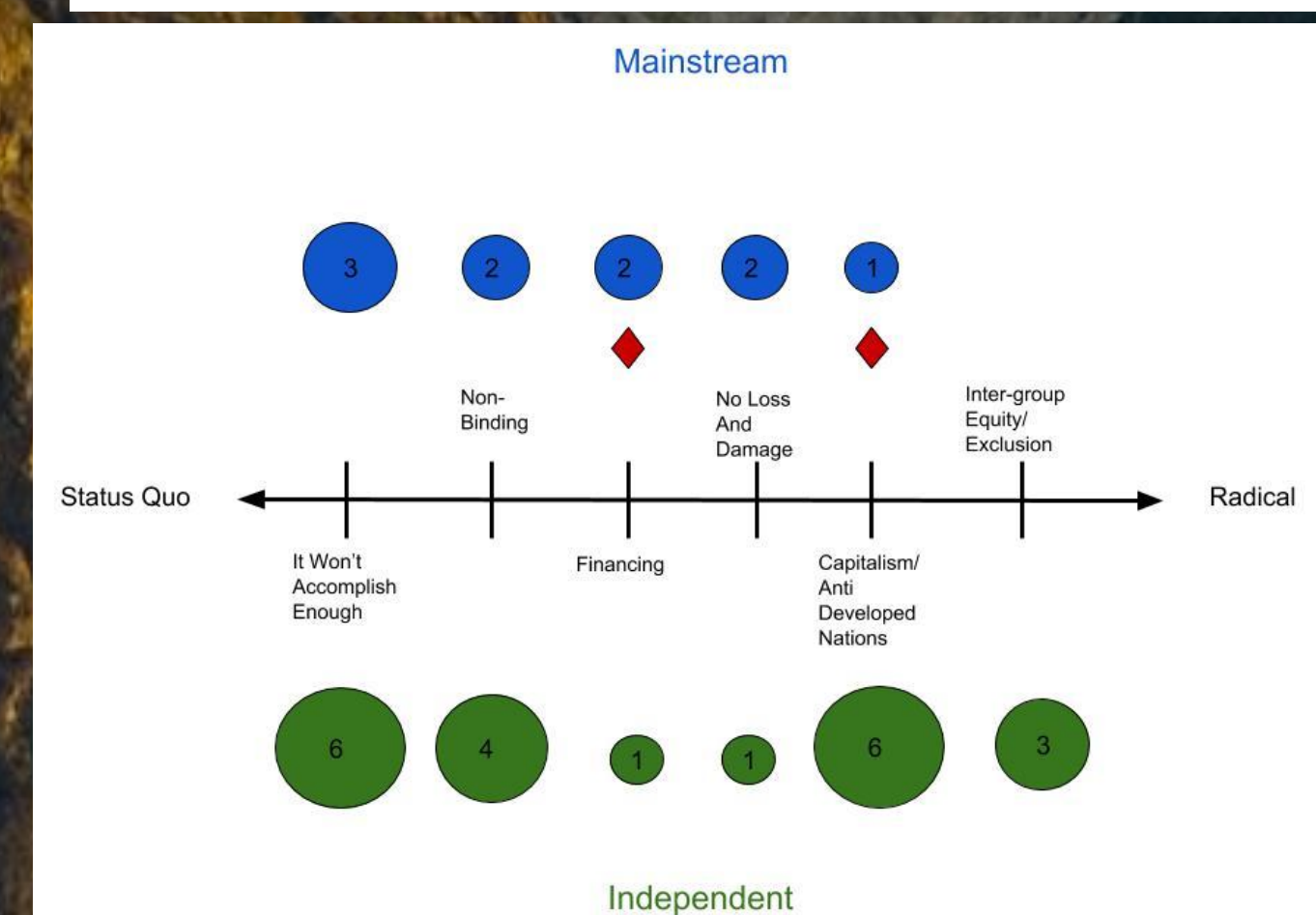
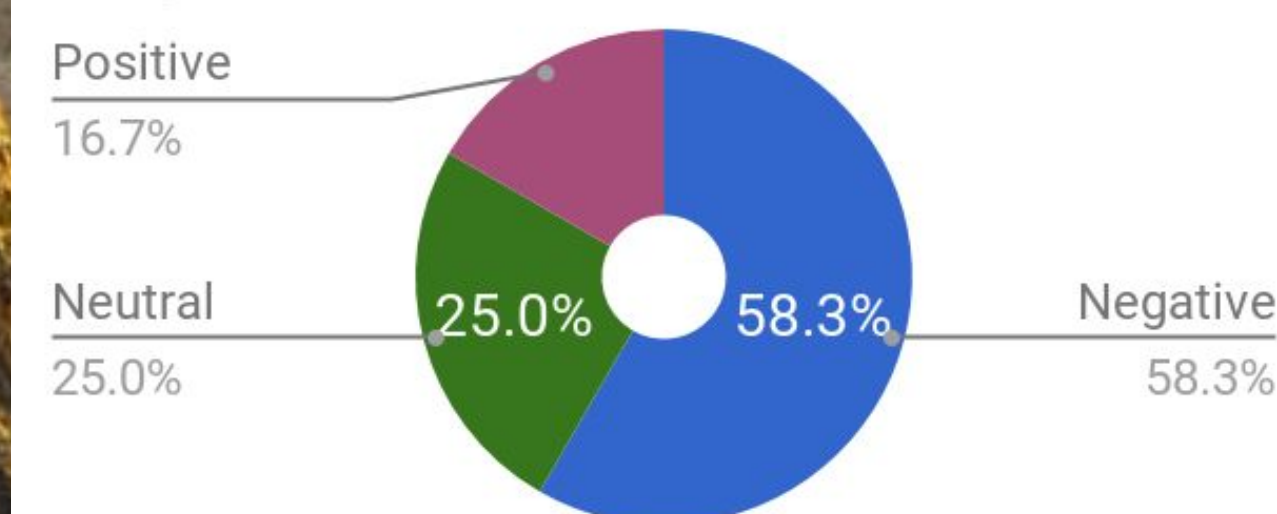
Perceptions of COP21

Mainstream News



Perceptions of COP1

Independent News Media



Analysis

Production

- ❖ Climate Agreement
 - Mentions equity frequently, but avoids making substantive commitments (i.e. phrases like "we acknowledge that...")
 - Allows national autonomy, providing cause to examine actions of individual countries and allowing pursuit of individual interest.

INDC

- Almost no attention given to national social issues especially compared to issues of development.
- No mention of specific vulnerable populations

Propaganda

- Makes clear development means to benefit wealthy, white population
- Individualist message

Consumption

Media Sources

- Majority of independent sources indicate displeasure with the agreement.
 - They offer few, but some, rationales that break from status quo
- Substantial divide between top-down narratives of the event and those held by the people
 - Suggests need for cross-scale interaction in policy making

Interview

- ❖ "Is this really the responsibility of the UNFCCC?"

Conclusions and Implications

The displeasure of subaltern groups and common people in Chile demonstrates that the agreement fails to achieve its *stated* goals of improving equity. This indicates a need for a more comprehensive definition of equity within the sustainable development regime that integrates **scalar issues** (ie. international, national, subnational) and **decouples from the liberal economic system** and **teleological approach to modernity**. Within Chile, substantial sustainable development actions are being pursued without **consideration of indigenous populations**. Integrative policy making at all levels could help prevent these issues.

Further Research

- Similar analysis should be replicated in other nations
- The agreement comes into force in 2020, we must gauge opinions then.

Resources:

- Carruthers, David, and Patricia Rodriguez. 2009. "Mapuche Protest, Environmental Conflict and Social Movement Linkage in Chile." *Third World Quarterly* 30 (4):743-60.
- Kotzé, Louis. 2014. "Rethinking Global Environmental Law and Governance in the Anthropocene." *Journal of Energy and Natural Resource Law* 32 (2).
- Redclift, Michael. 2005. "Sustainable Development (1987-2005): An Oxymoron Comes of Age." *Sustainable Development* 13 (4):212-27. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.281>.