

# ELISABET RASCH

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*The topic of my research is activism against large-scale development projects that often involve the large-scale extraction of natural resources in Latin America (Guatemala), Southeast Asia (The Philippines) and Europe (The Netherlands and possibly England/Ireland in the future). Since the 1980s the number of transnational companies that have entered (often indigenous) locales with the intention of starting up large scale development projects, such as mining for gold, building hydroelectric dams and fracking for shale gas, has increased enormously. This development has everything to do with the globalization of markets and changed national legislation that makes it more attractive to companies to engage in processes of massive natural resource extraction in other countries than their own. In many cases governments have granted permits to foreign companies for exploration and/or exploitation without prior consultation of the local population. At the same time the recognition of indigenous peoples, as well as processes of decentralisation has created possibilities for (indigenous) citizens to organise themselves against such large scale development projects. My research is located at the crossroads of these developments where different actors – the state, mining companies, (indigenous) activists– engage in the struggle over development and the governance of natural resources.*

*I am also interested in activist/engaged anthropology, anthropology and social media, ethics of research and debates on blogging/open access – making academia and its research more accessible for our research participants.*

## **BSc: THEMES FOR THESES**

I like to supervise BSc theses on topics related mineral extraction, fracking/shale gas, gender relations and identity, democracy, activism, social movements, livelihoods and wellbeing, indigenous peoples, identity, citizenship, processes of in/exclusion and marginalisation, narratives of development.

### **Concrete examples:**

Gender identity and “third gender”, Sworn virgins in Albania, Women’s movement in Iran, microfinance and gender relations in Peru, stigmatisation of disabled children in Uganda,

## **MSc: THEMES FOR RESEARCH AND THESES**

I like to supervise BSc theses on topics related mineral extraction, fracking/shale gas, gender relations and identity, democracy, activism, social movements, livelihoods and wellbeing, indigenous peoples, identity, citizenship, processes of in/exclusion and marginalisation, narratives of development.

Trained as an anthropologist, I'm mostly interested in research that apply ethnographic methods.

**Concrete examples:** Wellbeing of elderly in Ireland, perceptions of wellbeing of women in Kazakhstan, indigenous citizenship in Bolivia, shale gas activism in Bostel, Women's land rights in Mozambique.

## **DEMAND FOR MSc RESEARCH**

At the moment I especially welcome the following MSc students:

- Students who are interested in studying activism against fracking anywhere in the world, but especially in the United Kingdom.
- Spanish-speaking students who would like to do research on livelihood strategies, social organisation and gender relations on the oil fields near Bucaramanga, Colombia.
- Spanish-speaking students who would like to do research on the criminalisation of anti-mining activism in Guatemala.