

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue on Camp Governance: Orders – Power – Actors

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The special issue on CAMP GOVERNANCE addresses a well-established political instrument of the modern world: the camp institution. The focus lies on contemporary camp governance and governing orders and draws on diverse cases of the phenomenon - (re)education camps, (re)integration camps, demobilization camps, refugee/migration camps, labor camps, detention/prison camps, evacuation camps (acknowledging that some camps can have multiple functions at once). Our aim is to uncover the latest trends in camp governance and to produce cutting-edge scholarship on the topic. The special issue aims to gather theoretically and empirically informed studies from different academic disciplines that broadly address the research question of 'How, by whom and for what purposes are camps governed today?'

There are already some first steps made in the direction of comparing camps, such as the important contributions by Turner & Jensen (2019) and Katz, Martin & Minca (2018). Nonetheless, these edited collections tend not to focus on specific topics and phenomena. The topic of camp governance is key and yet has not been sufficiently explored from a comparative perspective. Hence this special issue aims to fill the gap and encourage a theoretical and empirical exploration of emergent camp governance orders.

The special issue does not presume there is *one* camp governance system or *one* camp governance order. But while manifestations of power and order always represent an idiosyncrasy in their respective contexts, a look at the empirical evidence shows that, despite the fundamental heterogeneity of individual camp types, common themes and issues emerge. Scholars of camp systems of very different disciplinary persuasions gravitate towards similar questions and topics such as the relationship between regulated and unregulated space, formal and informal orders, or the question of the constitution/social construction of governance and the subject and her agency or power in the institution (Bochmann & von Weikersthal 2022). Thus, despite different functions and experiences of power relations, domination, hierarchy and violence, these analogies allow us to draw conclusions about the institution of the camp in terms of its significance and position within society.

Below are some of our analytical starting points but contributors are welcome to interrogate and push these:

- (1) There are different levels and scopes of governance (global-state-regional-local). What is specifically relevant depends on the particular camp system. Thus, the intersection of governance and the camp can be understood at many different levels: the camp as a form of technology of power and its wider governance implication for the state, region or the global world; the governance of the space of the camp itself – the micro-politics of governance and governmentalities. Hence it is important to define and delimit scope here. But this is a question which can be answered differently via the empirical informed articles in the issue.
- (2) Camp governance does not only comprise an institutionalized system that includes rules and norms established by state and non-state actors. Camp residents and other local participants "on the ground" are seen as active participants in the process of camp governance formation and transformation. Thus, multiple actors (including non-state actors) (co-)work on the camp governance order.
- (3) This perspective makes it possible to relate the order of camps back to the everyday negotiation practices of the participants "on the ground" and not only to legal and/or institutionally formed framework conditions. We conceive a critical concept of camp

governance, which must explicitly encompass the political microstructures, as a space of order permeated by multiple processes, contradictory practices and social as well as political struggles (Bochmann 2021). Camp governance is subject to tensions and normative contestation and is to be understood as a result of conflicts. Therefore, it includes temporarily enforced orders that are subject to permanent transformations.

- (4) This perspective takes us away from Agamben's (1995) approach, which understands the enforcement of the norm and its exception in the state of exception (the camp) exclusively as a state practice. Still, our concept of camp governance does not ignore the power of the state and the global order of things (Malkki 1996).

Interested contributions should empirically focus on a specific camp case of the contemporary world (such as - (re)education camps, (re)integration camps, demobilization camps, refugee/migration camps, labor/working camps, detention/prison camps, logging camps) and address the following questions or a subset of these questions:

- How, by whom and to what effect are camps governed?
- How do we conceptualise the form of governance that distinct camps represent?
- What are the different levels and actors of camp governance and how are they interrelated?
- Which (non-)state actors are there and to what extent do they shape camp governance?
- Why and how are camps instituted? What are the functions and impacts of these forms of governance?

In the broadest sense, articles should deal with the topics of GOVERNANCE – POWER – ACTORS. The contributions will form part of a journal special issue. Our first choice of outlet would be International Political Sociology, a highly-ranked and peer-reviewed journal, with an inter-disciplinary scope.

We welcome contribution proposals of no more than 6,000 characters (including spaces) no later than April 15, 2022. The final contribution for the special issue should be approximately 15 to 20 pages and should be submitted by early August. Please email your outline (and/or questions about the call) to both editors:

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