

Title: The Anchor of Transition: Itaipu as a forerunner of the territorial Green New Deal

In the face of the intensifying multidimensional crisis, there is an intense debate on the need to apply deeper system level solutions (socio-ecological transformations). The incessant rhetorical references to Roosevelt's New Deal do not translate into an in-depth political analysis of the relevance of the experience of that era in the context of the current "Green New Deal" (GND) proposals. In theoretical terms, the problem and sector-oriented ("mission-oriented") approach within the "green entrepreneurial state", and the local-bioregional ("place-based") approach in territorial management, are treated separately. In operational terms, the proposed strategies remain at a high level of abstraction ("moonshot"). Illustrative examples of the proposed "mission-oriented organizations" (NASA, Google, Apple) are detached from the territorial reality of most peripheral areas and reduce the potential reach of GND initiatives to the eco-innovation enclaves.

This study deals with the problem of translating the GND macro-discourse into specific cross-sectoral actions within specific territories initiated by local actors of the "entrepreneurial state". The adequacy of the "mission-oriented" territorial policy of the Great Depression in relation to the currently proposed solutions is also analyzed. The starting point is the theoretical model, the so-called "anchor organization", that combines the assumptions of the aforementioned sectoral and territorial approaches. (Transition) Anchor would therefore dynamize and give a coherent character to the process of implementing GND-related programs within its sphere of influence. The study verifies the possibility of implementing such solutions in the context of the energy sector, which is perceived by some observers as a brake ("veto incumbent"), and by others as a potential vanguard of the GND.

The "mission-oriented anchoring organization" model will be tested through the case studies of 3 state-owned utilities: Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Roosevelt's most emblematic New Deal initiative (1933-1944); Itaipu Binacional, which adapts the TVA model to the context of the contemporary development agenda (2003-2016); and the Costa Rican ICE. Within each of the 3 cases, the so-called "CMO configuration" (context-mechanism-result) is analyzed. Configurations are examined using the Extended Case Method (ECM) based on the ethnographic approach.

Field studies include conducting participant observation, interviews, focus groups, as well as the realization of an audiovisual essay. "CMO configurations" from a central case (Itaipu) are compared counterfactually (alternative scenarios within the same case); retrospectively (for the TVA) and prospectively (for the ICE). The expected result of the research consists of a new empirically grounded model of "mission-oriented transition anchor" (theory reconstruction).

The project is mainly based on the Principal Investigator's many years of professional experience, supplemented by a dialogue with key international theorists and practitioners in the field of socio-ecological transformation. It was designed to develop a broader international research program with the participation of European, American and Latin American scientists.