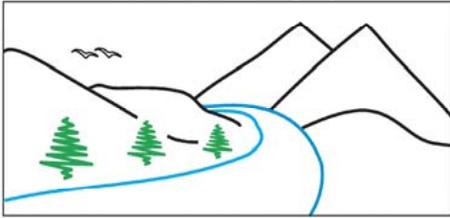


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Comitancillo no se vende / Comitancillo is not for sale: **Bare life & the violent development of Canadian mining in Guatemala**

Neoliberal development schemes of mining, oil extraction, and hydroelectric projects, are embraced by post-conflict Guatemala. At the same time, the Canadian government's pro-business, pro-mining stance, through its Embassy's activities in the country, is shaping the very nature of the so-called "development model". In this presentation, based on fieldwork in the summer months of 2004, 2006 and 2008, I focus on the ways in which the development projects pursued by Vancouver-based mining companies Goldcorp and Skye Resources, among others, and facilitated by the Guatemalan state, are predicated on the reduction of indigenous and rural populations to 'bare life' (Agamben 1995; 1998). The contemporary neoliberal moment functions on the continued 'legal abandonment' of the Guatemalan people and reduces the indigenous population and human rights activists to 'bare life'. The people of Comitancillo, and other mining-affected communities, though, are resisting their exclusion and demanding a recognition that their communities are not for sale.