Endogenous Participation

strengthening prior consultation in extractive economies

By Tulia G. Falleti and Thea N. Riofrancos

Why and how do institutions strengthen? This article offers an explanation of institutional strength based on the study of participatory institutions. Combining the insights of historical institutionalism and participatory democracy literatures, the authors propose an endogenous theory of participation and argue that the strength of participatory institutions depends on the historic process of their creation and the subsequent political incorporation of the mobilized groups that bring them about. The authors comparatively study prior consultation in Bolivia and Ecuador since its inception in the 1990s. This institution is highly relevant in Latin America, particularly as countries in the region intensify the extraction of nonrenewable resources. The article shows that different paths of political incorporation of the groups mobilized for institutional adoption were consequential to the resulting institutional strength. The findings shed light on the tensions between participatory democracy and resource extraction in Latin America and have important implications for the study of participatory and political institutions worldwide.

Contributor Information

Tulia G. Falletiis an associate professor of political science at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Decentralization and Subnational Politics in Latin America* (2010) and coeditor, with Orfeo Fioretos and Adam Sheingate, of *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism* (2016), and with Emilio Parrado, of *Latin America Since the Left Turn* (2017). Her articles on decentralization, federalism, authoritarianism, and qualitative methods have been widely published. Falleti was the *World Politics* visiting fellow in 2013–14. She can be reached at falleti@sas.upenn.edu.

Thea N. Riofrancos is an assistant professor of political science at Providence College. Her research focuses on the politics of resource extraction, social movements, and radical democracy in Latin America. She is currently working on a book manuscript entitled “Resource Radicals: From Petro-Nationalism to Post-Extractivism in Ecuador.” She can be reached at triofran@providence.edu.