

Governance | Individual communication

PP - (20872) - CRITICAL REALIST GOVERNANCE ANALYSIS OF GHANA'S COCOA SECTOR

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Background and objectives

My "Critical Realist Governance Analysis of Ghana's cocoa sector" is part of the University of Osnabrück's CoVaCoa research project. Supported by the German "Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and funded by the "Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt" (DBU) and Weinrich Schokolade, our inter-disciplinary research project studies the relation between Ghana's cocoa sector and European consumer markets as to the effect of shifts in consumer preference.

The objective of our research is to explore how European cocoa processors and the confectionary industry can contribute to the reduction of negative externalities along the domestic and trans-national cocoa value chain.

Within this inter-disciplinary research project my governance analysis examines the effect of recent public initiatives on the regulatory and economic situation of private sector stakeholders and the governance structure itself. Each of these are studied in regards to the trade-off between different policy objectives such as yield maximization, climate risk mitigation, crop diversification, anti-deforestation and child labor prevention. Herein, I focus on the identification and investigation of cultural, regulatory and material circumstance which may have contributed to the occurrence of morphogenesis or morphostasis within the sector and along the value chain.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

After extensive desk research, I have identified several issue areas and governance objectives for further investigation via semi-structure interviews during field research in Ghana in early 2022.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

Research in progress. No preliminary results, so far.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

As my research seeks to apply and evolve Critical Realism as a theoretical framework for governance analysis, the interview guides I developed are paradigmatically rooted in Margaret Archer's *Morphogenetic Approach* (1995) while my methodology is based on Andrew Sayer's (2001) *Cultural Political Economy* approach. Finally, the formulation of the interview questions followed the recommendations of Andreas Brönnimann (2021), in that they are intend to identify real causal relations by moving from the empirical to the actual level of phenomena.

Palavras-chave : Cocoa, Critical Realism, International Political Economy