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Abstract:

*Socio-spatial Governance of Port-City Relationship: A comparative conversation on Port Expansion Projects in Ilo (Peru) and Coquimbo (Chile)*

"Port-City Governance: A Comparative Conversation around Port Expansion Projects of Ilo (Peru) and Coquimbo (Chile)" addresses the territorialization of circulating ideas about "port-city governance" as an innovation in sustainable planning in the context of port expansion projects driven by phenomena such as the Belt and Road Initiative. Through the comparison of two cases, I pose the following questions: How do the geographies of port-city governance manifest in relation to their port expansion projects? and how do these two South American (and Global South) cases engage with and communicate their processes in response to the call to define 'port-city governance' through comparison? A "comparative conversation" (Teo, 2022) is proposed, analysing the shared coupling mechanisms that emerge in the governance processes of port cities with similar characteristics (medium-sized multipurpose ports under state administration) but different port expansion project trajectories (completed in Coquimbo and ongoing in Ilo). The study aims to expand the territorial concept of governance, question the creation and dissemination of port-city coordination spaces as "common agenda devices," and highlight the role of tensions in their dynamics.