

Notes on names

This book is about emblematic court cases of human rights violations on the one hand and about social conflicts over transnational mining projects on the other. Both are processes that take place in the public space and that are often under the scrutiny of the media and the general public. The actors involved in these processes are thus heavily exposed; they either express themselves in public in order to make their own voices heard or are pushed by others into the spotlight without having wished to do so.

This also applies to the human rights lawyers, plaintiffs, and activists who have been involved in the mining conflicts and the resulting legal proceedings in Peru. For me as a researcher writing about the perceptions and positions of these actors, this means that in many cases it was not possible to anonymize my interlocutors. Many of them have become public figures as a result of the legal proceedings and social conflicts. In many cases, the names of the individuals concerned are only a Google search away, although some of them have made considerable efforts to keep a deep profile over the years.

Most of my interlocutors are aware of their public role and have therefore agreed that I may refer to them by name in this work. However, as I explain in detail in the text, both the social conflicts and the involvement in court cases pose a risk for the actors involved of being defamed, harassed, or publicly attacked. For security reasons and to protect their identities, I therefore also use pseudonyms for some of my interlocutors, especially for many ordinary members of the grassroots movements in the provinces.

