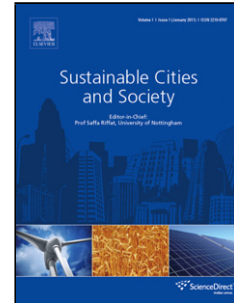


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Enclosing the Urban Commons: Crises for the Commons and Commoners

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Highlights

- For Garrett Hardin and new institutional economists inspired by his work or variations of it, marketising the commons is the surest way to manage it to prevent environmental crisis.
- This ‘governance by the market’, advocates argue, has a popular basis.
- However, using original field data from Abidjan in Cote d’Ivoire, West Africa, this paper reaches radically different conclusions from Hardin’s.
- The neo-colonial marketisation of the water commons has led to a plastic waste environmental crisis.
- State-led solutions have turned to disillusion
- The reason for the failures is not just neoliberalism but also neo-colonialism and especially neoliberal neo-colonialism.
- This neoliberal neo-colonialism is best described as the monopolisation of the common water of the Ivoirian people by their former coloniser

Abstract

For Garrett Hardin and new institutional economists inspired by his work or variations of it, marketising the commons is the surest way to manage it to prevent environmental crisis. This ‘governance by the market’, advocates argue, has a popular basis. Using original field data from Abidjan in Cote d’Ivoire, West Africa, this paper reaches radically different conclusions from Hardin’s. The neo-colonial marketisation of the water commons has led to a plastic

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