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Resistance and interruptions in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area's tourism activities in northern Tanzania

The problem

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) in northern Tanzania is one of the country's most attractive destinations for international tourism and generates the highest foreign-exchange earnings in the sector. Yet its integration into global processes has repeatedly been met with resistance and interruptions. Historical sources show that, across different periods, Indigenous pastoralists have resisted government policies aimed at evicting them from the area. This project examines these forms of resistance and interruption as part of the NCA's history of globalisation and dis:connectivity, from its establishment in the 1930s to 2020.

Core interest

The study traces historical patterns of resistance and interruption in the NCA's tourism activities. It asks what role they have played in the interplay between globalisation and dis:connectivity in the area, and how they have shaped its global entanglements over time.

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Throughout its history, globalisation has brought both opportunities and challenges for the management of the NCA and for the development of its residents. Resistance and interruptions show how connections and disconnections emerged in different ways, depending on these opportunities and challenges. The project thus demonstrates that the NCA's global interactions were not a purely integrative process but were equally shaped by resistance and interruption.

Preliminary results

The NCA has experienced globalisation through a range of international and transnational processes, including global conservation efforts, worldwide tourism and cultural exchange. While the area is renowned for its exceptional diversity of plant and animal life, these processes have created both opportunities and difficulties for its management and for the people who live there.