

**Title:** “That was their idea, to exterminate us”: Usos y costumbres guiding re-existencia in Mixteco Geographies after the Nochixtlán Massacre of 2016

**Abstract:** This article draws out a critical observation of the ways mobilizations for defense of life and territory reorganize place through re-existencia, or re-existence. For this paper, I use ethnographic interviews conducted in 2018 and 2021 of participants involved in the Nochixtlán Blockade and witnesses of the Nochixtlán Massacre of 2016 in the Mixteca Alta region of Oaxaca, Mexico. I argue that guided by Indigenous governance structure of La Ley del pueblo (usos y costumbres), Mixteco municipalities and their allies of Sección 22 constructed tactics of organizing against political violence and extraction, which brought with it new ways of giving meaning to life in their territories. I move beyond the geographies of “resistance” and instead consider how re- re-existencia, brings another mediation of existing as Indigenous peoples in the Mixteca Oaxaqueña of Mexico. Particularly by providing a case study on the Nochixtlán Blockade, and the aftermath of the Nochixtlán Massacre, I explain how alliances between Mixtecos and Sección 22 forged new relationships through the Indigenous governance system La Ley del pueblo (usos y costumbres) to defend life in moments of extreme state sanctioned violence. This paper aims to contribute to the growing field of Critical Indigenous geographies and political ecologies to understand how in the Mixteca region of Oaxaca, Mexico, the defense of resources and territory are interwoven for the defense of life and Indigenous sovereignty.