

Extractive industries and structural transformation

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Propositions accompanying the dissertation
Extractive Industries and Structural Transformation

By Beatriz Calzada Olvera

1. In a business-as-usual scenario, extractive sectors will continue to operate as an enclave despite the opportunities that the new technological paradigm has opened up for domestic suppliers (Chapters 2).
2. In recent decades, increments in commodity prices have not shown any empirical relationship with long-run growth – neither positive nor negative. Nonetheless, they have had strong negative effects on the development of mining supplier linkages (Chapter 3).
3. Mining supplier linkages on their own are not associated to long-run growth, suggesting that the technological/innovative nature of such linkages is probably more important than the integration of suppliers into the mining value chain alone (Chapter 3).
4. High commodity prices have heightened export dependency on extractive commodities. Yet, contrary to Dutch disease forecasts, this dependency is not statistically associated with real exchange movements (Chapter 4)
5. Path dependence in non-extractive products is relatively weaker than in extractive products, and thus producing something ‘new’ outside the extractive sector requires bolder entrepreneurial efforts. At the same time, commodity price increments weaken the incentives to produce something ‘new’, making diversification in resource-rich countries particularly hard to attain (Chapter 4).
6. Employment expansion in the mining sector does not crowd out employment in manufacturing (Chapter 5)
7. In contexts where manufacturing output is relatively low, mining sector employment reduces agricultural employment and leads to the expansion of services (Chapter 5).
8. While the mechanisms hypothesized by the Dutch disease are no longer systematically observed, the effects linked to the expansion of commodity prices suggest negative effects on the development of productive capacities in both the short- and long-term.
9. “When reason fails, the devil helps!” - F. Dostoyevsky
10. “An answer is always the stretch of road that's behind you. Only a question can point the way forward.” – J. Gaarder