

POLICY NETWORKS AND TOURISM IN SAN MIGUEL ALMAYA

Promoting or Limiting Local Development?

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This paper deals from the policy networks approach, with the relations between 1999 and 2009 among the different actors linked to the tourism activity in the district of San Miguel Almaya, Capulhuac in the State of Mexico. The purpose is to establish how those policy networks promote or limit local development in that Otomi district. In order to that, it has made an analysis of its natural, cultural, socioeconomic and policy features (Serrano, 2006) and at the same time of the decision-making process which has been gestating for the last decade. The adopted decisions in tourism matters have an origin in the politic actions took by the actors in function of their objectives, interests, resources, dependence and cooperation among them all, proper variables of the networks of policies approach, which has been barely used in the Mexican context for the policy analysis, and even less in local and tourism spaces. San Miguel Almaya is remarkable for its rooted communitarian organization which privileges to its local authorities in opposition to those of the superior scopes, product of a marked influence of uses and customs and non-defined territories. At the same time, it counts on an important natural and cultural patrimony as well as practices for joint work; factors which, interrelated, may motivate the opportunities of local development, a modality which, nonetheless, must attend the non-normative aspects which may place it under risk.

KEY WORDS: *tourism, policy networks, local development, actors.*