Displacement and Reactions from below: Migration, Resistance and Adaption
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Abstract:
In the last decade, the conjunction of multiple crises provoked an escalating global rush for land in the global south and fueled the expansion of industrialized agriculture at the expense of smallholders. Due to the far-reaching transformation of local economies and social structures, a large part of the rural population is compelled to seek alternative modes of survival – either staying in place and trying to adapt or resist or striving for a better future elsewhere. The PhD project develops an innovative analytical approach to scrutinize how peasants react to the loss of land and livelihoods by integrating the study of migration and apparently immobile strategies. A multi sited field research will (1) analyze the social transformations at the place of origin and the coping strategies of people who remain in place and (2) explore the migration trajectories of displaced people and their translocal lifeworlds that stretch out between places of origin, transit and destination. Tracing the flows of money, ideas, and practices will reveal how alternative coping strategies intersect, restrict and enable each other.