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Energy governance in Brazil: meeting the international agreements on climate change mitigation

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Propositions to accompany the PhD thesis

Energy Governance in Brazil:

Meeting the international agreements on climate change mitigation

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1. In a country like Brazil, where social inequality is enormous, clientelistic practices are very likely to occur. Due to clients' lack of resources, small gains in the short term are more valued than more significant results in the long run.
2. Considering the technological aspect, energy transition in Brazil is already possible. However, the lack of political will is a massive obstacle to overcome.
3. Brazil maintains a reputation as a green energy power. This status hinders the discussion on energy transition in the country since relevant stakeholders argue that Brazil's energy matrix is far cleaner than other similar economy.
4. The persistence of monopolistic and oligopolistic practices enabled by crony capitalism and rent-seeking dictates policy choices and imposes the use of established technologies, causing inertia in the Brazilian energy sector.
5. Power relations strategies practised by interest groups and policymakers' personal behaviour hinder Brazil's compliance with the international climate agreements.
6. Power relations arises in social interactions which in turn influence decision-making.
7. Power relations strategies are used by politicians, bureaucrats, oligarchies, businesspeople to defend their wealth and power through the perpetuation of the traditional economic development model which is based on unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.
8. It is estimated that approximately two-thirds of the world's billionaires' wealth originates not from hard work and innovation but rather from crony capitalism, monopolism, and inheritance. These phenomena are directly linked with the increase in inequality around the world.
9. State capture is a strategy of wealth defence. Oligarchic elites use their fortune to capture policymaking and assure their interests are preserved when politicians engage in policy choices.
10. Even though people can benefit from ignoring inconvenient truths, in most cases, information avoidance leads to negative long-term consequences.
11. People's behaviour is conditioned by long-lasting inclinations (cognitive and behavioural) derived from historical pressure and tends to reproduce the existing conditions, that is, maintain the status-quo.

12. The Dunning-Kruger effect suggests that low skilled people are overconfident about their cognitive ability to perform well, whereas highly skilled individuals are more careful when estimating their own capabilities.