

Review of: "Redefining borders in the contested territory between San Pedro and San Andres Cholula"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an interesting article that analyses how borders are linked to various social, land use, and governance problems in two municipalities in the Mexican state of Puebla, which are part of the Puebla-Tlaxcala metropolitan area. The author finds that borders between the two municipalities coincide with social problems linked to lack of cooperation, while borders with other municipalities coincide with conflicts regarding privatization of lands and resources. The overlap between these problems and the borders is explained partly by the lack of clarity regarding where the boundaries between municipalities are located. The author concludes the article by highlighting the importance of borders and boundaries for the work of urban planners.

My main recommendation for the author is to include in the literature discussion some ideas of Elinor Ostrom regarding the governance of the commons. Ostrom's design principles seem particularly important, as one of her principles is specifically about clearly defined boundaries as being key to successful governance.

Another recommendation for the author is to ask someone to help him with English proof reading.

Other comments:

- 1) Figures 2 and 3 seem to be exactly the same
- 2) I do not really understand Figures 2 and 3. What are the red polygons in all six maps? What are the red hachured polygons in the first map? What are the dark black polygons in the second, fourth, fifth and sixth maps? What do the light gray and dark gray polygons represent? Please explain this in the legend.
- 3) I would recommend putting footnote 5 in the main text.