

PROPOSITIONS
attached to the thesis

**The Political Ecology of Conservation at a Violent Frontier
Constellation in South Kivu, Eastern Democratic Republic of
Congo**

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1. Community conservation areas and artisanal and semi-industrial scales of mining represent territorial adaptations enabling commodity frontiers to co-exist where strict conservation and industrial mining would likely exclude one another. *This thesis.*
2. The coincidence of conservation and mining frontiers is likely to pluralise the constitution of wider political and territorial authority in conflict-afflicted regions. *This thesis.*
3. Fortress or militarised conservation areas frequently generate different forms of violence and resistance by displacing the people living in and around their boundaries. *This thesis.*
4. The aggregate impacts of militarised conservation on security at violent frontiers are probably ambivalent: at once creating a staging ground for wider conflicts to play out and providing a degree of law and order at the edge of protected areas. *This thesis.*
5. Conservation contracts left unfulfilled are likely to produce unintended consequences, by encouraging communities to look to other frontier actors as a source of development and predictability, such as the extractive industries. *This thesis.*
6. Countries and peripheral regions where the state is weak are often still sites of intense global connection, characterised by collaboration and contestation across multiple scales.
7. War and violence are not the product of some primitive or barbaric impulse, but rather, in the words of Carl von Clausewitz, a form of politics 'with other means'.
8. Political ecologists would do well to introduce a modicum of pragmatism alongside a worldview grounded in critical realism, thus combining long- and short-term perspectives.
9. To be an effective ethnographer at a violent frontier, it is imperative to become accustomed to working within the shadows, where politics and power *really* take place.
10. A PhD shouldn't just influence how people view a subject; it should engender a reflexive shift in the way the researcher views their place in the world.
11. The best thing about doing a PhD is you get to do what you love. The worst thing about doing a PhD is you get to do what you love.