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SOUTHERN AND INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON INNOVATIONS AND
TECHNOLOGIES

**INTERFACES OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF
THE “GOOD” CAMELID LIVESTOCK KEEPER: COMMUNITIES OF
PRACTICE, LOCAL OFFICIALS, AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE**

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This work aims to problematise the relationship between knowledge and rural enterprises focused on camelid livestock in pastoral areas inhabited by Indigenous peoples in the Chilean highlands. In doing so, it examines the tensions that unfold between Western and Indigenous knowledge by highlighting trajectories of recognition of Indigenous knowledge within Chile's rural development portfolio. Accordingly, it draws on two illustrative cases that reveal such tensions between worlds, namely: the creation of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) for camelid livestock systems, and the management plan for the shearing of vicuñas. Both cases are documented through semi-structured interviews with local officials, analysis of secondary documents, participant observation, and informal conversations with camelid herders. These cases point out the relationship between institutional action and

Indigenous worlds. Along these veins, they provide entry points to reflect on the circulation of knowledge and on how Indigenous perspectives may be inserted into institutional planning processes addressing rural development. Furthermore, by teasing out both cases, I examine the values underpinning the figure of a “good” camelid livestock keeper and how these values contribute to the advancement of Indigenous demands.

Palavras-chave: pastoralism; public servants; indigenous knowledge; circulation of knowledge; expertise.