

# Data Centre Activism in Chile & Beyond

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# Data Centres

- Buildings hosting servers that store and process **vast** amounts of data
- **Centralisation** of data started in the fifties by the US intelligence agencies
- Initially operated by women. Now: **depopulated**
- **Secretive** architecture
- **Explosive** growth with AI
- **High concentration**. Amazon, Microsoft & Google = 63% (Synergy Research Group).

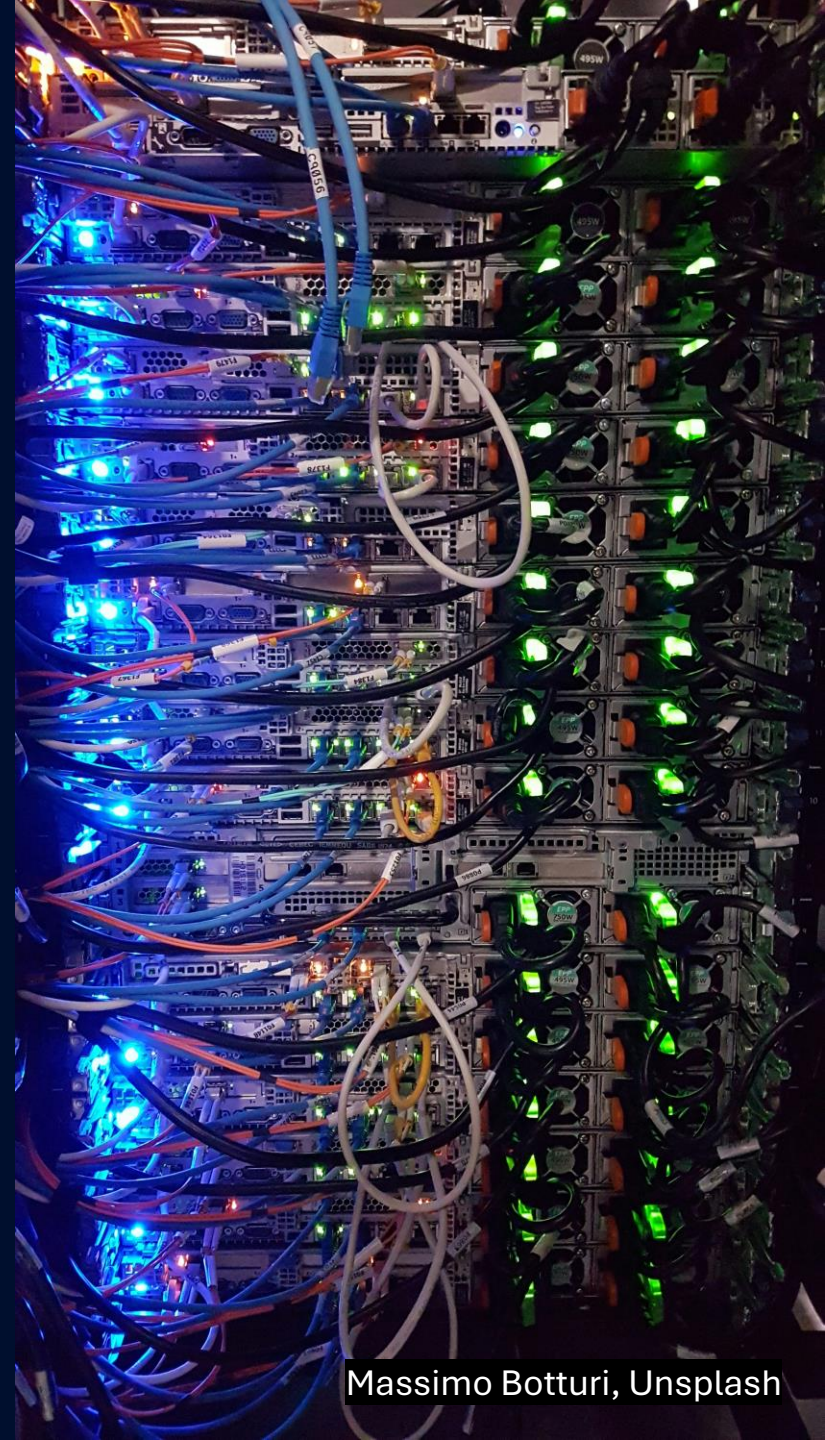


Data center in Coleraine. Geoffrey Moffett, Unsplash



# Data Centres: Environmental Impacts

- Cooling off: electricity and/or water
- Carbon emissions (depending on electricity grid)
- Water-stressed & drought areas
- Opacity: lack of transparency, inconsistency and carbon credits



Massimo Botturi, Unsplash

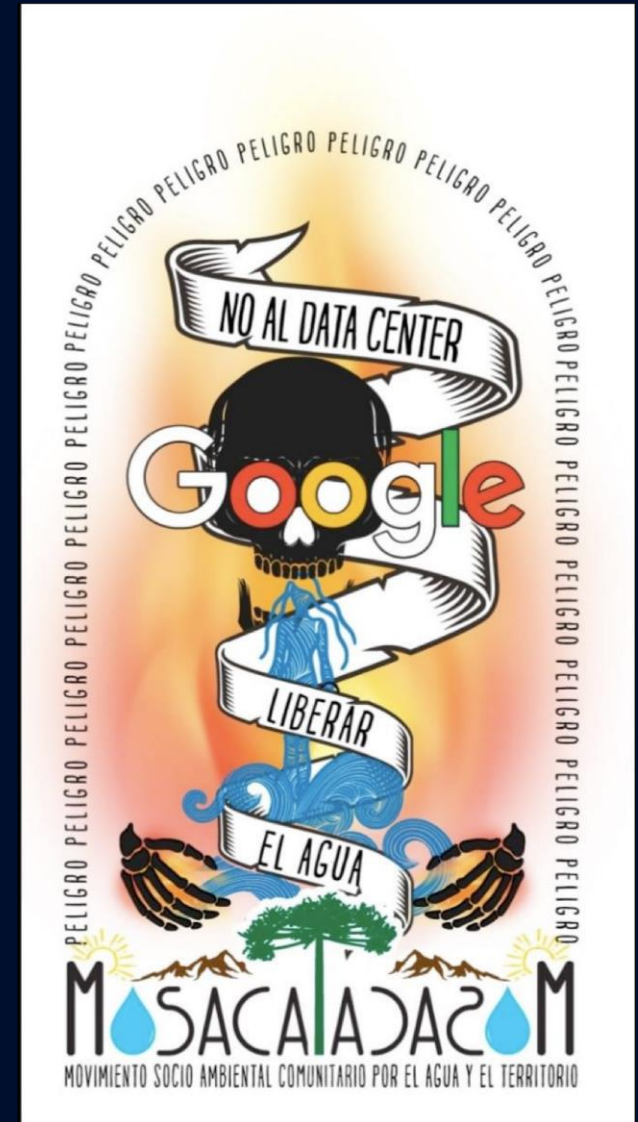
# The Case of Cerrillos

- Google's data centre project in Santiago, 2019
- Mega-drought area. One day = the whole Cerrillos in one year
- Rise of MOSACAT – challenges
- Referendum – raising awareness



# MOSACAT's material

- Skull eye sockets
- 'Danger'
- Water woman
- 'Free the water'
- One moment of MOSACAT activism



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Do you agree with the construction  
of the Google Data Centre  
in Cerrillos?

Yes

No

Do you agree with the construction  
of the Google Data Centre  
in Cerrillos?

37.68%  
Yes

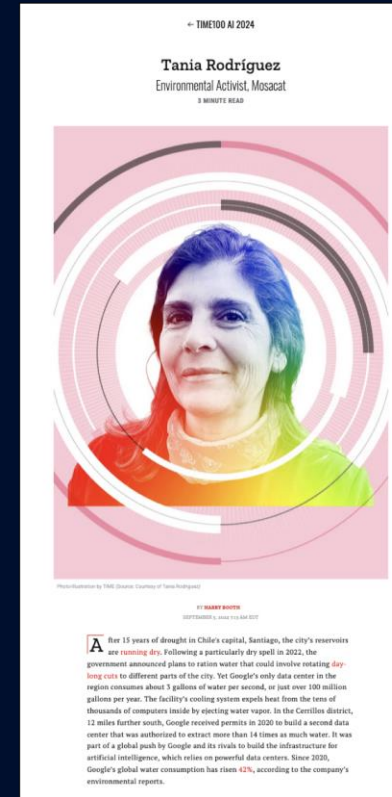
49.21%  
No

# Environmental Court Ruling



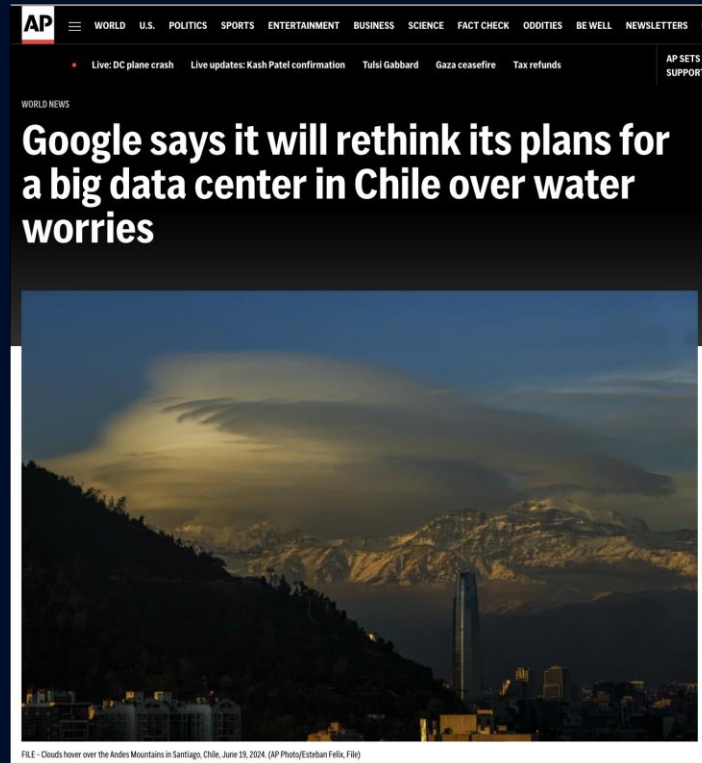
February 2024





MOSACAT activist  
one of 2024 Time 100 voices in AI

# Status of the Project

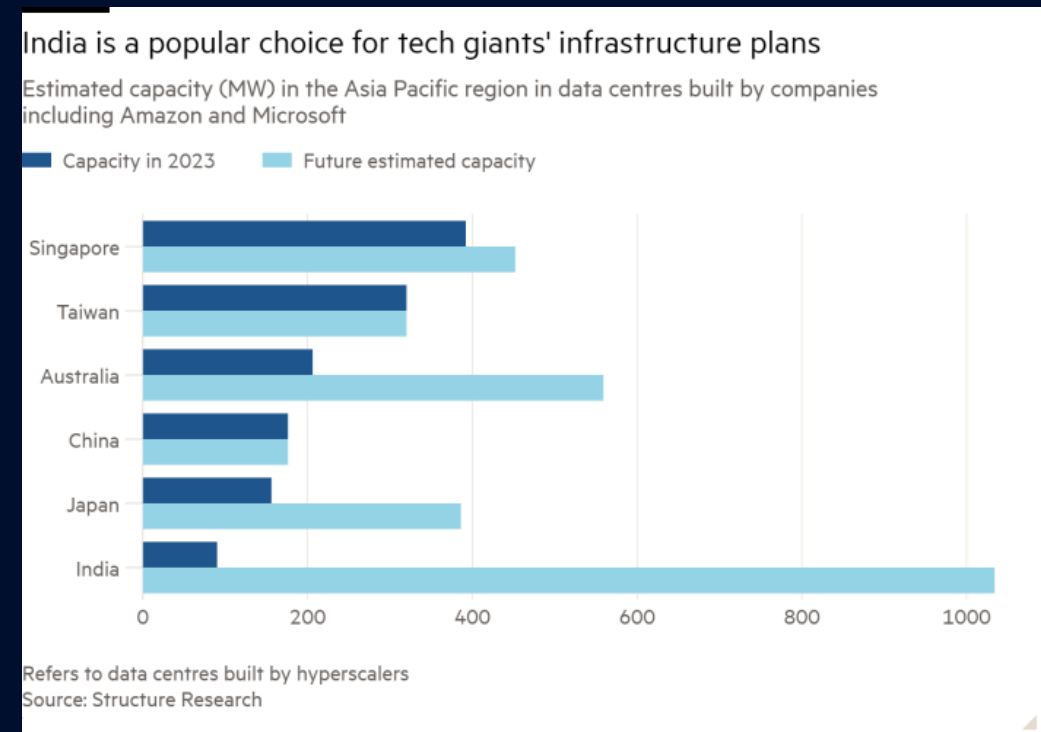


September 2024

# In the Global South



Timid emergence of activism in the Global South



Ambitions plans – 660 megawatts in India

# Takeaways

- Big **power disparities** – beyond lack of transparency
- **Innovation**: no viable alternatives & centred in the Global North
- Water is concrete but what about **other environmental impacts**?
- Policies and regulations should:
  - Bottom-up: **empower** communities
  - Top-down: develop **criteria** (degrowth)



# Ideas for Policy

- **Support** for communities (ombudsperson?) prior, during and post **funded by technology companies**
- Promote communication **between communities**
- Encourage involvement of **civil society** (environmental and digital rights NGOs)



**Thanks!**