

Editorial / Editorial

This Thematic Issue articulates two central objectives. First, it seeks to foster academic, social, and political debate regarding contemporary processes of appropriation and expropriation of territories in the Global South, driven by the reconfiguration of capitalism in the 21st century and its impacts in deepening the climate and socio-environmental crisis. Second, it aims to present—drawing from the perspective of struggles undertaken by Indigenous peoples, agrarian social movements, and other socio-territorial movements—a socioecological critique and proposals for concrete processes to confront the climate emergency and defend territories, with particular attention to processes of agro-ecological transition.

We understand that capital accumulation is a socioecological process in which nature (human and non-human) is organized for maximum exploitation and appropriation, creating an antagonism between use value and exchange value in the relationships established with territory and nature. According to Bolívar Echeverría (2010), use value implies a relationship of interdependence between human beings and nature, in which everything produced is necessary for the reproduction of life. In an antagonistic bias, exchange value presupposes a monetary and economic valuation in the process of dominating nature, transforming it into a commodity in order to generate surplus value, that is, profit. For Echeverría, the notions of use value and exchange value reflect antagonistic civilizational processes, since the exchange value of goods is produced at the cost of sacrificing the use value established with nature.

Within the context of world-ecology, capitalism establishes its frontiers of appropriation through the definition of an internal space of capital-commodities, socially necessary labor time, and workers with lower social protection—and external spaces, that is,

cheap or free human and extra-human nature (Moore, 2020, 2021). The logic of capitalist appropriation is one of exhaustion of natural goods, where there is no concern for restoring the conditions that allow, on the one hand, the accumulation of capital and, on the other, the reproduction of life.

This process has triggered an unprecedented climate and socio-environmental crisis, which has been challenged by different Indigenous peoples, peasants, traditional communities, and other agrarian social movements. It is fundamental to recognize that social struggles—especially those led by Indigenous peoples and the peasantry—approach the climate and socio-environmental crisis as a result of the agrarian and territorial problems established during the colonial period and deepened in the constitution of capitalism.

Today, climate change and climate emergencies—driven by a model of capitalist development based on plunder—contribute drastically to global and local food crises and rising hunger, processes of desertification, and changes in natural phenomena, in addition to socio-environmental injustices. Despite this scenario, we can also identify a series of experiences articulated by Indigenous peoples and agrarian social movements that may provide important methodological, epistemological, ontological, and practical clues for confronting the multiple crises we face. As Nóbrega and Barbosa (2024) mention, this includes experiences related to the production and circulation of creole, life, or cultural seeds.

In this sense, we consider two important premises:

1. Agriculture depends on water, light, and soil, as well as temperature and a delicate balance of gases such as carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere. Thus, on the one hand, agriculture is strongly affected by climate change, and on the other hand it is responsible for many of these effects due to large-scale practices such as deforestation, monocropping, and the use of agrochemicals and pesticides, often embedded in long circuits of production and consumption.
2. Climate change and food security are intrinsically related, which requires a critical view of various analyses presented, for example, in IPCC reports or even in Agenda 2030

(Ramos; Barbosa, 2025). These analyses often discard or minimize the considerable contributions of food empires, as highlighted by Jan Douwe van der Ploeg (2008), to greenhouse gas emissions.

Most research focuses on the ecological resilience of agroecosystems, but little has been written about how to strengthen the social resilience of rural communities that manage those agroecosystems. To be resilient, rural societies and Indigenous peoples must strengthen their ties and knowledge through self-organization and collective action. Moreover, peasant and Indigenous agroecology is strengthened when it is articulated with local markets and food systems that value ecological peasant products.

In this process, agroecology is an important socio-productive alternative that respects social, cultural, and life rhythms through a social process of recovering, valuing, and building knowledge matrices linked to ancestral peasant and Indigenous science (Altieri & Rosset, 2023; Rosset, Barbosa, Val & McCune, 2020). In this context, women and their diverse practices of sustaining and valuing life are fundamental to biocultural memory as guardians of agroecology (Barbosa & Nóbrega, 2023).

From these reflections, this Thematic Issue deepens these problems through discussion of the agrarian and territorial question and its articulation with the climate and socio-environmental crisis on the one hand, and the pathways to confront it—especially those related to the territorialization of agroecology and food sovereignty—on the other.

By bringing together the fields of social sciences, environmental sciences, and health, this issue seeks, through interdisciplinary dialogue and the valorization of traditional knowledge, to connect original articles that contribute to understanding and intervening in the multiple crises we face, emphasizing the need to localize solutions rather than adopting a fatalistic understanding of climate and environmental crisis.

Within this framework, several guiding questions oriented this issue of *World Tensions*:

- How are the reconfigurations of capitalism by dispossession in the 21st century characterized, and what are their

impacts on the agrarian and territorial question in the Global South?

- What contributions can agroecology and the practices and knowledge of Indigenous peoples and peasant communities offer in thinking about solutions to the multiple crises (social, environmental, climatic, economic, food-related, etc.)?

In the collective dialogue around these and other questions emerging from the research and activism of the authors, readers will find thirteen articles, one interview, and two book reviews related to the central theme of the dossier.

The opening article, written by Lia Pinheiro Barbosa and titled *Territory-Body-Land-Water and the Political Ontology of Life*, analyzes the concept of territory-body-land-water as a conceptual and political praxis unit for the defense of territory and life. The author presents the ontological and epistemic matrices underlying this concept and situates them within an ecological critique built by movements of Indigenous women and women from rural, river, and forest communities.

Next, Pablo Saravia Ramos, in *The Agroecological Struggle in the Context of the Civilizational Crisis*, analyzes global food problems resulting from systematic processes of privatization of the commons. He argues that an agroecological horizon must begin with an ecological critique that places the reproduction of life at its center, understood as the unconditional defense of water, land, and seeds.

Territorial disputes are a central feature of the agrarian question in the Global South, marked by diverse socio-territorial conflicts derived from ongoing processes of expropriation and exploitation. In this context, Kelly Maria Gomes Menezes, Maria de Nazaré Moraes Soares, and Maria Inês Escobar da Costa, in *Environmental Governance and Critical Territorial Disputes*, critically analyze environmental governance in Latin America, highlighting its appropriation by technocratic rationality and the coloniality of planning.

The article *Agroecology: Resisting and Overcoming the Unacceptable*, by Daniel Lemos Jeziorny and Marcos Abrahão Cardoso, presents the climate crisis as an ongoing ecological and civilizational crisis and proposes agroecology as a pathway

for transitions grounded in alternative epistemic and ontological matrices.

A second block of articles presents concrete experiences related to the defense of land, territory, popular agrarian reform, and food sovereignty.

Mônica Dias Martins, in *Peasant Rebellion in Brazil: Agrarian Reform and Agroecology*, examines four emblematic experiences of peasant organization and resistance.

Ana Lúcia de Jesus Almeida and Maria Eduarda Grecco Bejarano Suenaga, in *Agroecology and Health: Collective Actions of Agrarian Socioterritorial Movements*, analyze collective actions of agrarian movements addressing the right to health using data from the Brazilian research network REDE DATALUTA.

Saulo de Azevedo Freire and Peter Michael Rosset, in *Knowledge and Training in Agricultural Education and Rural Education*, examine how agricultural modernization has influenced educational pathways in Brazil and the tensions between hegemonic agricultural education and critical proposals emerging from social movements.

Further contributions analyze resistance to neo-extractivism, the geography of quilombola territories, agroecological networks in Mexico, and agrarian movements in Southern Africa.

The final article, by Sofonias Lopes Jó and Policarpo Gomes Caomique, examines oil exploitation in the Niger Delta, highlighting its impacts on ecosystems and communities and proposing a broader perspective that recognizes multiple actors and forms of extractivism in the region.

The thematic issue concludes with:

- an interview with Indigenous Anacé women, recounting the struggle for territorial rights in Ceará, Brazil;
- a review of Maria Luisa Mendonça's book *The Political Economy of Agribusiness*;
- and a review of Maria da Glória Gohn's book on activism and social movements in Brazil.

As readers will see, this issue on Climate Change, Agroecology, and Food Sovereignty in the Global South brings together a collection of writings that illuminate contemporary theoretical, political,

and social debates about the climate crisis and the pathways of resilience, resistance, and everyday construction of experiences defending land, water, and territory.

We wish you an excellent reading.

Lia Pinheiro Barbosa
Luciana Nogueira Nóbrega
Peter Michael Rosset

REFERENCES

ALTIERI, M.; ROSSET, P.M. **Agroecologia**: ciência e política. São Paulo: Expressão Popular, 2023.

BARBOSA, L. P.; NÓBREGA, L. N. A luta das mulheres indígenas na América Latina e a crise ambiental. **SER Social**, Brasília, v. 25, n. 52, 2023. DOI: 10.26512/ser_social.v25i52.45426.

ECHEVERRÍA, B. **Valor de uso y utopía**. México: Siglo XXI Editores, 2010.

NÓBREGA, L. N.; BARBOSA, L. P. Semillas que sostienen la vida: experiencias de construcción biopolíticas insurgentes en la defensa de los territorios y de los comunes. **Revista Espirales**, 8(1), 152–175, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.29327/2282886.8.1-8>.

MOORE, J. **El capitalismo en la trama de la vida**. Ecología y acumulación de capital. Madrid: Traficantes de Sueños, 2020.

MOORE, J. Del gran abaratamiento a la gran implosión. Clase, clima ya la Gran Frontera. **Relaciones Internacionales**, [S. l.], n. 47, p. 11-52, 2021.

PLOEG, J. D. Van Der. **Camponeses e Impérios alimentares**: lutas por autonomia e sustentabilidade na era da globalização. Porto Alegre: Ed. UFRGS, 2008.

RAMOS, P. S.; BARBOSA, L.P. An agenda of failures: a critical look at the 2030 Agenda from the perspective of social movements. In: MANZANERA-RUÍZ, R.; TUDELA-VÁZQUEZ, M. P.; ÁLVAREZ LUCENA, N. (Eds.). **Universities and the Sustainable Development Goals**: critical case studies and contexts to advance Agenda 2030. Reino Unido: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2025, p. 10-25.

ROSSET, P.M.; BARBOSA, L.P.; VAL, V.; MCCUNE, N. Pensamiento Latinoamericano Agroecológico: the emergence of a critical Latin American agroecology? **Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems**, v. 45, p. 01-23, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2020.1789908>