



CALL FOR PAPERS

4th International Symposium

***Properties in Transformation –
Law, Politics and Ecology of Changes in Properties Regimes***

São Paulo

CEBRAP – Brazilian Center for Analysis and Planning

4-5 December, 2023

Co-Organizers:

Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (CEBRAP)

Faculdade de Direito da USP – Grupo Direito e Políticas Públicas (GDPP)

Universidade Federal de São Paulo (Unifesp)

University of Antwerp (EPICC Project)

Project History

The international research network '*Properties in Transformation*' (<http://propertiesintransformation.org>) invites the submission of paper proposals to be considered for its 3rd International Symposium on Properties in Transformation, to be held in Sao Paulo, at CEBRAP, on December 4 and 5, 2023. The event is the 4th international meeting since the creation of the project, and it aims at broadening the ongoing conversations with new themes, innovative approaches, and multidisciplinary regards.

The Properties in Transformation network emerged in 2016, when a first workshop on the dynamic nature of the property took place in São Paulo, thanks to the support of the ESRC IIA funds. Then, a multidisciplinary research agenda was built around collective and individual projects that shared the desire to investigate, clarify, and challenge how, through which mechanisms, and with what consequences the notions, practices, and dynamics of 'properties' have undergone and are undergoing transformations and redefinitions. It was then decided to decline 'properties' as plural to reject the idea of one concept of property, and we have found great intellectual opportunities in this choice.

The first results of these research projects were presented in December 2017, at the 1st International Seminar "Properties in Transformation: towards an interdisciplinary research agenda in contemporary Brazil", and later published in an edited collection entitled *Properties in Transformation: Multidisciplinary approaches to property in Brazil* (2018), available in free version on the internet [website of Blucher publisher](#). A new round of projects was brought together in the [second volume of the series, published in 2021, and a third one was published in 2022](#), resulting from a funded research project on *green finance in Brazil*. As an ongoing project, we are willing to expand our network and showcase cutting hedge and critical research from Latin America and beyond.

The 2023 symposium

Properties and property rights/duties are constitutive of economic, social and ecological relations, both locally and on a multi-scalar level. In particular, this is the case of the notion of property as exclusion that is adopted in most contemporary legal systems and that is the intellectual and historical rooted in Western legal traditions and the colonial endeavor.

According to this conception, property is often conceived and described as something stable, monolithic and not influenced by historical and contextual circumstances. Yet, throughout time and places there has been the emergence of multiple conceptions of what is and what is not property (including the absence of the concept of property in some languages and legal experiences), along with a series of challenges, attacks and attempts to redefine or reject the concept in favor of new conceptions. This is even more evident at the time of climate emergency and widespread socio-ecological inequalities, two circumstances that require a structural reconsideration of properties as the legal basis of society.

However, in the legal field property is rarely defined and is discussed predominantly in formal and static terms that tend to sacralize it, thus ignoring its genealogy, metamorphosis and plastic nature. Therefore, the changes and transformations of properties, along with the underlying processes and their effects, deserve the adoption and development of innovative and inter-disciplinary approaches that combine historical, political-economic, political ecology, institutional and related factors to public policies, as well as the roles played by institutions and legal processes.

For the 4th Symposium, we welcome with particular interest contributions that address the political economy and political ecology of property regimes' transformations from a legal perspective, i.e. papers that shed light on the roles of legal and non-legal processes in the creation and imagination of alternatives, or on the interconnections between property and the unfolding ecological crises, but are also sharing and promoting just and innovative forms of organizing the relationships between people and between people, society and the environment.

Although property is often associated with law and lawyers, the Symposium wants to create the space for multi-disciplinary conversations, so we welcome contributions representing a variety of methodological approaches. Despite the original focus on Brazil, we seek to broaden the network of researchers, engaged professionals and activists who study, work and engage with properties, society and environment. We thus welcome contributors from around the world, and will be particularly glad to receive contributions concerning experiences and cases in other regions of the Global South.

Submission of proposals:

There is no thematic restriction, but we would be glad to receive papers on the following subjects, areas and approaches:

- (1) **Properties, people and the planet:** properties and non-properties and their connections with notions and practices of traditional, indigenous, formal/informal communities; property and recognition; new legal regimes for exploitation; property, ecology and the construction/definition of the planet/environment; properties and negative/positive externalities; intellectual property and natural/cultural heritage.
- (2) **Properties and property rights behind the 'technological revolution' and the 'gig-economy':** property of the network, property of the minerals that enable the existence of state-of-the-art technology, intellectual property over platforms, data and technologies, new forms of immaterial property, new legal challenges of ownership in the sharing economy.
- (3) **Property, concentration of economic power and democracy:** how the regulation of property relates to the concentration of economic power in the last decades; the relationship between property, concentration of economic power and crisis of democracy.

- (4) **Properties as politics:** occupations of land, buildings and schools; property, democracy and political mobilization, social function of property, usucapio, disputes of property, unemployment, dispossession, agrarian reform, public/private space, nationalization, privatization.
- (5) **Properties as/versus commons:** what is the relationship between commons, commoning and property?; are commons owned or against ownership?; property of maritime areas and maritime resources, sustainable and predatory exploitation, *tragedy of the commons*, forms and instruments of sharing, regulatory challenges, cooperative regimes, pasture funds.
- (6) **Properties of the State/the State as properties:** normative and regulatory regimes of property, property as political and economic asset, public goods, property and public policies, privatization, nationalization, historical patrimony, legal reforms of the property, *Eminent domain*.
- (7) **History and genealogies of contemporary notions of properties:** property in the history, property and institutional arrangements, forms and functions of property regimes.
- (8) **Property, capitalism and post-capitalist political economy:** property and financialization of society, *fintechs*, accumulation and (mis)distribution, property right and economic development, progressive taxation, property, interest, debt, indebtedness; what role for property rights in de-growth scenarios?
- (9) **Criminal law and property:** legality/lawlessness, criminalization, legal protection of property, creditor, social conflict and property, crimes against property.
- (10) **Digital platforms and property changes:** digital platforms and their economic and political powers, effects on property and regulatory regimes

(11) **Scholarship and methods in LPE:** property as a central category in law and political economy studies, methodological discussion on how to do research on law and political economy of property changes.

(12) **Property as logistic - logistic as property:** what can property theory tell us about the consolidation and expansion of logistic? Can we talk about logistic without talking about property? How is property changing or adapted to the needs of logistic, including via its financialization?

Requirements:

- 1) **Originality:** the document shared should not have already been published.
- 2) **Format:** we require the submission of an **expanded abstract**, with up to 1,000 words, in Portuguese, English or Spanish. The abstracts should contain the presentation of the central argument of the article, the methods employed, as well as the expected contribution of the article to the debate on the changes of property. Abstracts will have to be written according to the following rules: Times New Roman font, size 12; line spacing 1.5; justified alignment; margins of 2cm; footnotes and complete references at the end of the work.
- 3) **Deadline:** The submission of expanded abstracts should be carried out by **November, 10, 2023**, by electronic address propertiesintransformation@gmail.com, with the subject "Properties in Transformation 2023: expanded summary – YOUR SURNAME IN CAPITAL LETTERS".
- 4) **Authorship:** collective work is accepted and incentivized, especially if multi-disciplinary.

Selection Process:

The expanded abstracts will be analyzed by the organizing committee and a limited number of proposals will be selected for presentation at the *Symposium*, which will take place on the 4th and 5th of December, 2023, at the Cebrap (located at Rua Morgado de Mateus, 615, Vila Mariana, São Paulo).

A decision will be communicated to the selected authors by November 15th.

Unfortunately, the organizing institutions do not have the resources to cover travel, lodging and food expenses. Certificates of acceptance of the paper will be issued at the request of interested parties.

Organizing Committee:

Tomaso Ferrando (University of Antwerp - EPICC Project), Iagê Miola (Federal University of São Paulo/Cebrap), Gabriela de Oliveira Junqueira (University of São Paulo Faculty of Law), Flávio Prol (Cebrap) and Diogo R. Coutinho (University of São Paulo Faculty of Law).