



## **The Amazon Rainforest and Socioecological Alternatives in Latin America**

*A Special Issue for Latin American Perspectives*

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### **Abstract:**

The Amazon rainforest is permanently at the centre of global debates on environmental issues. However, the Amazonian space is way more than a crucial piece in the complicated global puzzle to prevent the looming environmental catastrophe. It is also a thriving and incredibly complex Latin American region, shared by hundreds of very diverse native communities and nine nation-states, where millions of people live. Ahead of COP 30, which will take place in the Amazonian city of Belém at the end of 2025, it is time to build a holistic and critical view of the Amazon beyond stereotypes. This proposed Special Issue of Latin American Perspectives will do exactly that. Engaging researchers, policy practitioners, and activists, the Special Issue will provide a powerful platform for critical debates ahead and during COP 30.

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of this special issue are: (1) to contribute to and advance the production of the international body of critical knowledge on the Amazon; (2) to promote the international exchange and collaboration between scholars, policy practitioners and intellectual activists in and from the Pan-Amazon region, and (3) to generate a platform of engagement to influence the global perception of the Amazon ahead of COP 30.

**Scope and Focus:** Mainstream Global North representations of the Amazon rainforest portray it as a global common good or, alternatively, as a Brazilian national responsibility. Because of this limited gaze, most international “socioenvironmental fixes” to protect the Amazon from shrinking and disappearing – such as carbon markets, private forest conservation, or the bioeconomy – bring little more than new green colonialism to the diverse peoples that live in the forest. These accounts omit the ongoing extractivism that drives socioenvironmental destruction and ignore local ancestral knowledge, practices, and forms of social organization. At the same time, spanning nine countries — Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela — the Amazon is of major importance to Latin American regional dialogue and integration in seeking socio-ecological and economic alternatives based on local priorities. The Presidents of Amazonian countries



met in 2023 in the Colombian city of Letícia, reaffirming their commitment to regional integration. A huge gap remains, however, between well-intended diplomatic initiatives led by left leaning presidents such as Lula da Silva and Gustavo Petro and the daily political struggle of very diverse indigenous, quilombola, and traditional rural and urban social movements in the Amazon. The latter have developed their own political fora, such as the 2021 Pan-Amazon Social Forum, aiming at forcing their inclusion into decision making processes that exclude them by default. During the two-year process leading to the COP 30 to be hosted in the Amazon city of Belém, in Brazil, it is urgent to build a more complete picture of the urgent challenges Amazonic peoples face — from the protection of indigenous and traditional populations' rights, cultures, and territories; to urbanization and favelization, and the fight against the crimes of international and local corporations, engaged in mining, deforestation, and destructive commodity export logistics.

**Themes, Issues, Questions and Cases:** We seek theoretically informed empirical studies, policy papers, and political interventions by scholars, policymakers, and intellectual activists. This will be a consciously transdisciplinary issue. We welcome contributions from economists, sociologists, historians, political scientists, international analysts, public administrators, and diplomats, not to mention activists and political leaders who do not belong to any academic field. We also welcome manuscripts that include photos (at least 300 dpi) of illustrative art, people, and events.

Manuscripts that address one or more of the following themes, issues, and questions that relate to the Amazon region will be prioritised. The list of topics is suggestive and not exclusive:

- Indigenous, Quilombola, and Native Peoples and Cultures
- Native Knowledges and Alternatives to Capitalist Development
- Territorial Conflicts
- Labour, Production, and Food Security
- Social, racial, and gender inequalities in the Amazon
- Energy and Infrastructure Megaprojects
- Green Grabbing and Green Extractivism
- The Amazon Resource Frontier
- Conservation and Conservationism
- Social Movements in the Amazon
- Organized Crime in the Amazon
- The Amazon and Climate Change
- International Companies, Geopolitical Interests, and Environmental Crimes
- Urbanization and Favelization in the Amazon
- Amazonic diplomacy
- Latin American regionalism and the Amazon
- Post-extractivism and the Amazon



### **Manuscript submission**

To avoid duplication of content, please get in touch with the editors of the special issue, letting us know the proposed topic. We stimulate submission as early as possible, but preferably before 01 June 2024. Manuscripts submitted after that may not be taken into account.

Manuscripts should be no longer than 7000 words, including notes and references, and must be double-spaced, written with font size 12 and 1-inch margins, following the LAP Style Guidelines, available at [www.latinamericanperspectives.com](http://www.latinamericanperspectives.com), “Submit” section. Manuscripts must be aligned with the LAP Mission Statement, available on the “About” section of the website.

Manuscripts can be submitted in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. If you don’t write in English with near-native fluency, please submit it in your native language. LAP will translate accepted manuscripts written in languages other than English. If you don’t submit in English, please indicate whether you can read reviews or emails from the LAP office in English.

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