

Research Article

Environmental Injustice and Multilateral Financing: Conflicts Between International Financial Institutions and Communities in Latin America

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Abstract

In the context of the crisis of multilateralism following the 2008 financial crisis, projects financed by multilateral organizations have exacerbated socio-environmental conflicts in the Global South, particularly in Latin America. The conflict mediation processes conducted by Accountability Mechanisms are expected to result in socio-environmental reparations, a claim that has been disputed by affected communities. This article analyzes the conflicts surrounding International Financial Institution (IFI) Financing in development projects for cities and regions in the Global South. The question is: how have Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs) addressed environmental injustices resulting from projects financed by International Financial Institutions? To understand this issue, the objective of the research is to understand the accountability strategies of the Independent Mechanisms and the sustainability discourse of Multilateral Organizations. The research focus was defined based on the activities of Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs), which organized several virtual meetings with civil society during 2020 and 2021. The methodology employed participant observation, with findings documented in a field notebook. The theoretical framework draws on the concept of environmental justice, both in its American version, as articulated by Dr. Robert Bullard, and its Latin American counterpart, often referred to as the 'environmentalism of the poor,' by Joan Martínez Alier. The results revealed the limitations of IAMs in mediating and investigating violations of social and environmental safeguards. Socio-environmental reparations for communities affected by projects funded by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) fall outside the scope of IAMs' activities. Additionally, the IFIs have not established socio-environmental reparation funds for these affected communities. The data collected through participant observation and recorded in the field notebook were interpreted and analyzed within this theoretical framework. These findings can provide valuable insights to improve decision-making processes, promoting greater equity and sustainability in the relationships between IFIs and communities impacted by large-scale projects in Latin America.

Keywords

Environmental Justice, Neoliberalism, Accountability, Social Movements, Multilateral Organizations

1. Introduction

This research aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the actions of Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs) in

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addressing environmental injustices caused by projects funded by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in the Global South. The central focus is to examine how these mechanisms have responded to the complaints of communities affected by IFI-financed projects, as well as to identify the strategies adopted by social movements to confront the environmental inequalities resulting from these initiatives. Additionally, the research seeks to understand the accountability strategies employed by IAMs and the sustainability discourse promoted by Multilateral Organizations.

The question is: how have Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs) addressed environmental injustices resulting from projects financed by International Financial Institutions? Based on the hypothesis that there exists complicity between the IAMs and the IFIs in the conduct of financing for cities and regions of the Global South, this research seeks to investigate the role played by these mechanisms in the production of environmental inequalities. Indeed, communities affected by IFIs suffer the consequences of unequal environmental protection and unequal appropriation of environmental resources in their territories and surroundings, which has led to the need for mobilization and the formation of an international network in favor of environmental justice.

According to Acsehrad, environmental inequality can manifest in two ways: (i) Unequal protection occurs when the implementation or omission of environmental policies generates disproportionate environmental risks—whether intentional or unintentional—for the poorest populations; (ii) Unequal access to environmental resources manifests both in the sphere of production, concerning territorial resources, and in the sphere of consumption. It is also evident in the destruction of non-capitalist forms of nature appropriation, such as extractivism, artisanal fishing, and small-scale agricultural production [1].

According to Alier, the environmental justice movement is characterized by the struggle against the disproportionate distribution of toxic waste and the exposure to various forms of environmental risk in areas predominantly inhabited by Black, Latino, and Indigenous populations [2].

Within this research, five independent mechanisms that form the IAMNet: Network of Independent Accountability Mechanisms were analyzed in a detailed and comparative manner, namely: the IPN: Inspection Panel, the MICI: Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism, the IRM: Independent Redress Mechanism, the SECU: Social and Environmental Compliance Unit, and the CAO: Compliance Advisor Ombudsman. The main objective of this research is to understand how the Independent Mechanisms have responded to the complaints of communities affected by the financing of International Financial Institutions to cities and regions of the Global South.

Thus, this research plays a fundamental role in contributing to the understanding of the strategies of dialogue and investigation adopted by independent offices, offering relevant

insights for the promotion of environmental justice. By investigating the actions of the IAMs and how they respond to the demands of the affected communities, this study seeks to provide inputs for the improvement of these accountability mechanisms, promoting greater transparency, accountability, and environmental equity in projects financed by IFIs in the Global South.

2. Materials and Methods

To achieve this objective, the research methodology adopted involves participant observation in all virtual events organized by the Independent Mechanisms during the years 2020 and 2021, with detailed recording in a field diary. The field report was analyzed and interpreted through the theoretical framework. This approach captured the dynamics of interaction between the involved actors and understand the practices of dialogue and investigation adopted by independent offices in response to civil society's demands for environmental justice.

3. Discussion

3.1. Neoliberalism as a Global Governance System and Its Political Contradictions Manifested in the Global South

With neoliberal globalization, the frontiers of financial capital expanded, coming into conflict with the poorest populations and ethnic groups devoid of power. According to Svampa, the 1990s marked the beginning of a cycle of struggles against neoliberal globalization with its new arrangement of the unequal division of labor. In Latin America, different social movements united around the defense of elements of the earth and territory [3]. Indeed, under the leadership of the World Bank, Multilateral Organizations prepared a response to lessen social tension [4].

According to Laval, neoliberal capitalism possesses an adaptive capacity to social tensions and environmental crises. Crises are constitutive of the system, which sustains and strengthens itself through them. The identity agendas of social movements have been appropriated by sectors of the business community and the financial market. Before the arrival of Donald Trump to the presidency of the United States, "progressive" neoliberalism managed to gather in the same block both the new social movements and the advanced sectors of the business community [5].

However, Svampa recognizes that the hegemony of the neoliberal model elicits contradictory hostilities. The experiences of social movements in Latin America have shaped the strategies of social movements, for example, the occasional meetings of Latin American leaders at the World Social Forum.

With neoliberal globalization, the borders of capital have

expanded to the territories inhabited by oppressed groups, triggering and intensifying conflicts that cause environmental injustice towards the poorest and powerless ethnic groups. Environmental justice, as an environmentalist current that is antagonistic to the dominant currents of environmentalism, has represented a turning point in the dichotomy - preservation vs. sustainability - overcoming the impasse by including the poorest and powerless ethnic groups in the struggle for a safe, healthy and productive environment for all. The dominant environmentalist aspects, such as the cult of wildlife and ecological modernization, a doctrine incorporated by the World Bank and disseminated in other Multilateral Organizations, both share the conflicting space of environmentalism in the face of the critical vision of the environmental justice movement [2].

Since the struggles of the civil rights movement in the United States, the environmental justice movement has enriched the debate in global environmentalism by denouncing a symbiotic relationship between the geographic location of African-American communities and other ethnic groups next to or close to sources of environmental contamination, such as toxic and/or nuclear waste deposits, untreated sewage and dangerous facilities [6]. In 1982, the struggles in Afton, Warren County, brought environmental justice to the forefront of the environmentalist debate in the USA. Through Dr. Robert Bullard's research on the spatial distribution of pollution according to race and income criteria, it was revealed that racial composition is the most apt variable to explain the presence or absence of hazardous waste deposits in an area [7].

In Brazil, as pointed out by Acselrad, exchanges of experiences with the North American movement, led by faculty from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and Dr. Robert Bullard, enabled the creation of the Brazilian Network of Environmental Justice. This network's struggles combine the defense of the rights of traditional communities, the advocacy for equitable environmental protection, and equal access to environmental resources. Generally, Alier considers that the environmental justice movements in the Third World, classified as the environmentalism of the poor, fit into a strand associated with the rural universe of peasant struggles and traditional communities, while simultaneously contesting the geographical displacement of resource sources from the South to the North and the disposal of waste from the North to the South. The environmentalism of the poor contrasts with the American strand of environmental justice focused on urban conflicts between minority groups and against environmental racism.

There are various convergences between the American urban notion of environmental justice and the Third World rural notion of the environmentalism of the poor. For Alier, both can be understood as part of a single current – environmental justice [2]. In this sense, the concept of internal colonialism developed by Dr. Robert Bullard points to the unequal relations between white communities and minority groups –

African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asians, and Pacific Islanders – who represent the Global South communities within the United States [8].

Early in the movement, Dr. Robert Bullard recognized the potential of the environmental justice movement to extend beyond minority populations in the United States and reach poor and marginalized communities globally. Environmental justice is a multifaceted, multiracial, and multiregional movement that connects struggles for civil rights, land rights and sovereignty, cultural survival, and racial and social justice [2].

In summary, neoliberal capitalism is shaped as a new rationality, highly adaptable to social crises and reinforced by guidelines and directives from Multilateral Organizations. Resistance to the advance of capital positions the territories of the poorest as the last frontier for capital expansion.

Unequal exposure to risk results from a logic that bases wealth accumulation on the environmental penalization of the most disadvantaged. Conversely, environmental justice implies the right to a safe, healthy, and productive environment for all, where the environment is understood in its entirety, encompassing its ecological, social, political, aesthetic, and economic dimensions [1].

During the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict mediation in territories marked by unequal exposure to environmental risks took place in virtual spaces, due to limitations on the movement of people and crowds. The virtual events of the Accountability Mechanisms Network represent a thermometer for understanding the contemporary scenario.

3.2. Accountability Strategies of the Network of Independent Mechanisms in Latin America

The conclusion section should precisely articulate the main findings of the article, emphasizing its significance and relevance. In the conclusion, it is highly recommended that authors avoid referencing figures or tables. Instead, these should be appropriately referenced within the body of the paper.

As stated by Laval, the greatest potentiality of capitalism is its adaptability to economic, political, and social crises. In the contemporary scenario of environmental and climate crisis, the World Bank Group, born post-World War II in response to the increase of social conflicts during the economic crisis at the end of the century, formulated a series of OP: operational policies from the 1990s onwards with the goal of providing greater investment security [9].

The creation of operational policies by Multilateral Organizations was greatly influenced by heated debates during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development - the ECO-92 or Earth Summit. The Multilateral Organizations participating in the event incorporated and updated their operational policies based on the international treaties signed at the Earth Summit. Among them, the concept of ecological modernization was incorporated into the doctrine of the World Bank and subsequently followed by re-

gional banks and Multilateral Organizations. The discourse of ecological modernization denies the detrimental effects of the unequal distribution of environmental risks, arguing that the sustainable technological development will benefit the poorest populations [6].

However, the creation of operational policies was not considered sufficient to balance the conflicts between civil society and financial institutions. Therefore, during ECO-92, the establishment of audit offices was envisioned, which would be an integral part of the governance structures of the banks and responsible for dialogue with civil society [10]. These were the IAM: Independent Accountability Mechanisms, true audit bodies that, as pointed out by Shore (2009), act as channels to disseminate governance rules (good order) related to the corporate management of participatory spaces involving the necessary colonization by financial audit techniques (accountancy) [11].

In 1993, the World Bank led the way with the creation of the IPN: Inspection Panel, the first Independent Mechanism, setting the model to be followed by regional banks. The following year, the IDB: Inter-American Development Bank created the MICI: Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism [12]. At the turn of the 2000s, the Multilateral Organizations and their Independent Mechanisms promoted the creation of a network called the IAMNet: Network of Independent Accountability Mechanisms.

IAMNet can be framed within the strand of neoliberalism termed "eco-social" as defined by Laval, in contrast to the strand of "reactionary neoliberalism" endorsed with the victory of Donald Trump in 2016, which combined a free market vision, nationalism, and religious fundamentalism. The strand of eco-social neoliberalism emerged as a response to the environmental and social crisis, representing a form of neoliberal ecology based on the actions of private actors to mitigate investors' risks, with French President Emmanuel Macron being its major proponente [5].

The environmental crisis presents social implications that are reflected in Multilateral Financings and communities located in the areas influenced by the projects. According to the Inspection Panel, there was an exponential increase in the number of complaints received by the office starting from 2008, the year of the global financial crisis. This upward trend persisted until 2020 when the volume of complaints reached its peak. In 2020, the IPN recorded a total of 13 complaints, followed by 5 complaints in 2021, and subsequently, in 2022, only 6 complaints were registered [13].

In turn, the Covid-19 pandemic intensified the inherent contradictions of multilateral financings in the Global South, resulting in the formation of an international network of Latin American social movements initially called "Network of Communities Impacted by the IDB". This network sent a statement to the Board of the Inter-American Development Bank requesting the conduct of a virtual public dialogue process in which they could openly express the damages caused by the Bank's investments. The objective of this pro-

posal was to seek direct reparation for the socio-environmental impacts aggravated by IDB investments during the pandemic [15]. The declaration was signed by three Latin American social movements: Asociación Asopesca Tocopilla (Chile), Associação de Favelas de São José dos Campos-SP (Brazil), and Movimiento Rios Vivos (Colombia) [15].

The high number of complaints sent to the Inspection Panel in the year 2020 allows us to consider that the COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated the existing contradictions in the IFI-funded projects and conflicts with civil society. Any scientific research in environmental justice needs to consider the pre-existing vulnerabilities in the territories of the poorest populations and minority groups. As Dr. Robert Bullard points out, people were geographically, economically, and socially vulnerable before the pandemic. In the words of Dr. Robert Bullard:

"So, in a sense, COVID-19 is like a heat-seeking missile that is targeting the most vulnerable populations, and the bull's-eye is actually the environmental justice communities, the communities that are the poorest, that are the most polluted, that are sickest when it comes to comorbidity, and the result of this heat-seeking missile called COVID-19 is a death bomb, and you can see that in the elevated hospitalization and the elevated deaths among African Americans particular, but people of color in general" [16].

The struggle of environmental justice movements against environmental externalities equates to the guarantee of environmental health for their inhabitants in healthy environments. In Brazil, environmental justice movements share the defense of their traditional ways of life, such as extractivism, artisanal fishing, small-scale agriculture, among others. These movements face the advance of capital over non-capitalist forms of nature appropriation. The inequality in access to environmental resources, along with the destruction of traditional ways of life, are consequences of environmental inequality [1].

In general, the dialogue proposed by the communities ended up becoming an exposition about the mandate and functioning of the IAMs, resulting in the nullification and emptying of the political construction of the affected communities in relation to any proposal for reparation. It is important to highlight that the event was restricted to communities in Brazil, without the participation of representatives from Chile and Colombia.

On the first day (09/03/2020) the representatives of the Mechanisms (Table 1) presented a historical context of the IAMs and described their objectives, among which is citizen participation in sustainable development to give voice to the affected communities (Figure 1). These initiatives are aligned with the vision presented by Maranhão in which social participation is recognized as the main instrument for articulating between development strategies and the resolution of local problems. In this context, the poor are seen as partners in development strategies, no longer being just passive beneficiaries.

Table 1. Organizing entities of the event "Virtual Seminars on Socio-Environmental Accountability and Multilateral Organizations.

IFI	IAM	Civil Society Organizations and Universities
World Bank Group (WBG)	Inspection Panel (IPN)	Conectas Human Rights, Inter-American Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism (MICI)	Socio-Environmental Institute (ISA), Institute of Socioeconomic Studies (INESC)
Green Climate Fund (GCF)	Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM)	International Accountability Project (IAP), Kanindé Ethno-Environmental Defense Association
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU)	Brazilian Network for the Integration of Peoples (REBRIP), International Rivers (IRN)
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO)	Public Defender's Office Observatory of the State of São Paulo, Center for Population Studies (NEPO/UNICAMP)

Compiled by the author based on the initial results of the research resulting from participation in the Virtual Seminars.

**Figure 1.** Screenshot of the event "Virtual Seminars on Social and Environmental Accountability and Multilateral Organizations".

The representative of the MICI described the IAMs' policy of tolerance towards retaliations suffered by the affected communities. Although there is a zero-tolerance policy towards these retaliations, the IAMs are limited in their capacity to provide physical protection to complainants.

Indeed, the representatives of the communities expressed their profound dissatisfaction with the event, where the purpose of the seminars was questioned since the claims for socio-environmental reparation were not addressed at any time [17]. This scenario can be understood in light of Maranhão's approach, which highlights the limits of the World Bank's participatory development strategies, which are strictly consensual as long as they contribute to the dissemination of liberalizing measures [4].

Analyzing the first day of the Virtual Seminars, it is observed that IAMNet conducted a listening and dialogue process with the affected communities based on the principles of business management of participatory spaces. According to Shore, processes of neoliberalization include the dissemination of audit as a way to organize standards of living in society. Audit culture can be described as "a condition shaped by the use of techniques and principles of modern financial audit" [11].

On the second day (09/10), the event was conducted by partnering NGOs with presentations on relevant themes. A more critical stance was adopted towards the actions of the IFIs and their independent offices, both by the NGO representatives and by the consultants of the IAMs themselves. It

became clear that despite the independent nature of the IAMs, the offices are subjected to the governance structure of the IFIs, being expressly prohibited from investigating companies, governments, protecting complainants from reprisals, and promoting financial reparation for damages caused by environmental inequality.

The principle of citizen participation as a fundamental principle of the IFIs and their independent offices remains devoid of meaning. For Maranhão, poverty alleviation policies are intrinsically linked to the business management of social participation ideologically promoted by multilateral organizations based on the Washington Consensus. This approach reduces communities to the condition of "local partners" whose voices echoed in participatory spaces do not change the existing structures.



Figure 2. Logo of the Network of Communities Impacted by IFIs" [19].

The frustration of the affected communities resulted in the launch of the Network of Communities Impacted by IFIs. The event occurred on December 10, 2020, where an Open Letter was published presenting the Network and its objectives, which demanded reparation for the damages caused by the IDB to each of the present communities, expressing the desire to return to live in their territories and regain control over them [18]. Recently, the movement changed its name from "Network of Communities Impacted by the IDB" to "Communities Impacted by IFIs," indicating an expansion of its activities in the global scope" (Figure 2) [19].

In 2021, MICI organized a virtual event aimed exclusively at communities assisted by the Bank. As with the Virtual Seminars, the event entitled "Conversation with Civil Society Organizations 2021" aimed to describe MICI's purposes and activities. The first day of the event (April 27) was conducted exclusively in Spanish, which displeased Brazilian activists [20]. In response, a second day (May 25) was held entirely in Portuguese as a form of reparation. In general, the movements demanded reparations for the damage caused by the IDB to the livelihoods of Latin American communities. In turn, MICI publicly sought to exempt itself from responsibility, arguing that, as an independent office, its jurisdiction is limited to

conflict resolution [21].

In summary, the 2021 MICI event followed the same approach adopted in the 2020 Virtual Seminars, that is, it aimed to present the complaints channel available to communities affected by IFIs. However, the participating communities felt that their demands were muffled, since the event followed a script that did not allow for progress in socio-environmental reparations. Under the logic of business management, the presence of the communities at the event served as a way to ensure that the social participation criterion was met by MICI-IDB.

An unintentional alignment of the Communities Impacted by IFIs with the principle of environmental justice is observed. Beyond the reparation of damages, there is a pursuit to regain control of traditional territories, which can be understood as an effort for equitable environmental protection and equal access to environmental resources [1]. Svampa reinforces the need for articulation of struggles, which depends not only on common themes but also on the political-ideological ties present in the political field.

The socio-environmental accountability so desired by the Network of Communities Impacted by IFIs is understood within the framework of the concept of environmental justice, which seeks to identify the logic of wealth accumulation as responsible for imposing disproportionate environmental impacts on the poorest communities, proposing an equitable distribution of environmental resources [7].

Martínez Alier understands environmental justice from the perspective of distributive ecological conflicts on a global scale. To combat injustice, one of the strategies aims to strengthen the relationship between academic knowledge and popular wisdom in a promotion of a dialogue of knowledge that facilitates the elaboration of their own knowledge [2].

Socio-environmental reparation, how do communities impacted by IFIs claim, refers to mitigating the harmful effects of unequal environmental protection and the unequal appropriation of natural resources [2]. Dr. Robert Bullard clarifies that environmental degradation and poverty are interconnected issues. Environmental racism plays a key role in planning and decision-making by public agents and private sectors [8].

4. Results

International Financial Institutions use terms such as "sustainability" and "fighting poverty" in a generalized way, although contradictorily development projects have made most of the banks' resources available for large infrastructure projects.

The investigation into NGO: Non-Governmental Organizations revealed the auxiliary role played by NGOs in the accountability process. In virtual and in-person accountability events with civil society, NGOs assist Independent Mechanisms in organizing accountability events.

On the other hand, NGOs and Independent Mechanisms create tension in the field of dispute between International Financial Institutions, governments, companies and communities. The investigative role of NGOs in monitoring projects that may have harmed communities has been fundamental in strengthening the struggles of social movements.

Finally, the articulation of different Latin American social movements around a network of communities affected by development projects represents a global phenomenon of expanding political struggles for socio-environmental accountability, with the capacity to bring together peoples and communities affected by IFIs from across the Global South.

5. Conclusions

It is important to emphasize that the IAM: Independent Accountability Mechanisms are not effectively empowering the claims of the affected communities. Their participation is limited to complaint channels, resulting in insufficient dialogue and reparation processes. The socio-environmental accountability of IFI: International Financial Institutions and private companies is not adequately addressed by IAMNet, which focuses primarily on conflict resolution, leaving aside the responsibility of companies for socio-environmental impacts.

Another relevant aspect is the observation that NGO, acting as assistants in the IAMs audit process, play an ambiguous

role. During the virtual events, it was observed that the collaboration between IAMs and NGOs ended up reducing the scope of these events to mere channels for complaints and relief of social tensions. For NGOs to play a more effective role, it is essential to rethink their participation and promote a more comprehensive approach that goes beyond the mere registration of complaints, encouraging the active participation of communities and engagement in the management of socio-environmental issues.

It is encouraging to highlight the growing articulation of different Latin American social movements around a network of affected communities. This mobilization represents an important step in the construction of political struggles for environmental justice at a global level. By uniting peoples and communities affected by IFIs on all continents, this network demonstrates a capacity to promote significant changes and challenge existing power structures.

In short, it is essential to improve IAMs, expanding their activities beyond the complaint channels, so that they can truly empower communities' demands. In addition, it is necessary to ensure the socio-environmental accountability of IFIs and private companies, addressing their practices and impacts. NGOs should play a broader and more active role in auditing processes, and the articulation between social movements strengthens the fight for environmental justice globally.

Abbreviations

IAM	Independent Accountability Mechanisms
IAMNet	Network of Independent Accountability Mechanisms
IPN	Inspection Panel
MICI	Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism
IRM	Independent Redress Mechanism
SECU	Social and Environmental Compliance Unit
CAO	Compliance Advisor Ombudsman
ECO-92	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
IFI	Internacional Financial Institutions
WBG	World Bank Group
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
GCF	Green Climate Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IFC	International Finance Corporation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
AIDA	Inter-American Association for Environmental Defense
ISA	Socio-Environmental Institute
INESC	Institute of Socioeconomic Studies
IAP	International Accountability Project
REBRIP	Brazilian Network for the Integration of Peoples
IRN	International Rivers
NEPO-UNICAMP	Center for Population Studies, University of Campinas

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Author Contributions

Douglas de Almeida Silva: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Writing - original draft

Marcel Fantin: Visualization, Supervision, Validation, Writing – review and editing

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Data Availability Statement

Through this cover letter, we request acceptance of this article for peer review. We clarify that the manuscript was developed based on the results of a post-doctoral project, developed at the Institute of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of São Paulo, with co-participation from the University of Vale do Paraíba, and financed by the FAPESP: São Paulo State Research Support Foundation (Grant No. 2023/10435-6).

The results were obtained through ethnographic research using a field notebook.

Conflicts of Interest

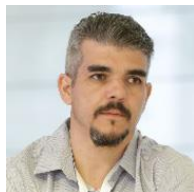
The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Biography



Douglas de Almeida Silva is Historian and professor graduated in History from UNIVAP: Universidade do Vale do Paraíba, in 2012. He was the first Direct Doctoral Student of the PPG-PLUR/UNIVAP: Postgraduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning, concluding in 2020. He completed his junior postdoctoral studies at IAU-USP: Institute of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of São Paulo, with funding from CNPq: National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq Call 25/2021). He is a postdoctoral fellow from FAPESP: São Paulo State Research Support Foundation, currently at IAU-USP. Develops research on socio-environmental conflicts, International Financial Institutions and Latin American social movements.



Marcel Fantin CNPQ PQ-2 Productivity Scholarship. PhD Professor at the Institute of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of São Paulo: IAU-USP. He holds a degree in Law from the University of Vale do Paraíba (2002), a specialization in Environmental Law from the University of São Paulo (2003), a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Vale do Paraíba (2005) and a PhD in Geosciences (sub-area of Natural Resources Policy and Management) from the State University of Campinas (2011) with a Sandwich PhD from the Département de génie des mines et de la métallurgie da Université Laval (2010). Visiting Professor, in 2022, at the National Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Argentina, through the PRINT CAPES USP 2022 program.

Research Fields

Douglas de Almeida Silva: Urban History, Fundamentals of Urban and Regional Planning, Contemporary History, Latin American History, Oral History.

Marcel Fantin: Urban and Regional Planning, Mineral, urban and environmental law and policy, Registration and Mapping, Geotechnologies