

FOREST CITIES: MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO URBANISM IN THE AMAZON

Hybrid Format

27-28 November 2023

Max-Planck Institute of Geoanthropology

Jena - Germany

Research on urbanism in tropical forests has played a pivotal role in challenging the enduring envision of pristine nature. On the other hand, the term evokes a specific definition that constantly requires attention to avoid anachronistic approaches. In light of this, we intend to promote a critical analysis of urbanism in the Amazon on long-term (centuries to millennia) and short-term (decades to years) timescales.

During a two-day international Workshop, we will welcome at the Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology researchers, professors, and young scholars from different backgrounds based in the United States, Brazil, England, Portugal, Switzerland, and Germany. The program includes multiple presentation formats from lectures to book and paper talks.

The program includes multiple presentation formats from lectures to book and paper talks. We will start on Monday 27 morning with the panel **“INTRODUCING & CORRELATING FOREST CITIES: concepts, frameworks, approaches”** paying attention to different theoretical and disciplinary perspectives on forest cities in the Anthropocene. The first panel will be followed by the launch of the Gerda Henkel three-year project “RESILIENT: forest cities, utopia and development in Modern Amazon” hosted at MPI-GEA within the IsoTROPIC research group in cooperation with the University of Geneva and the University of Coimbra.

The following panel **“ESTABLISHING & COMPARING FOREST CITIES: Amazonian industrial and Indigenous urbanism”** will then focus on a series of case studies which underline crucial differences on what urbanism means culturally, economically, politically and environmentally across space and time. We will close the first day with broader discussions on human history in the Amazon.

The workshop continues on Tuesday morning. The panel **“EXPANDING & CONSERVING FOREST CITIES: Indigenous Resistance and Biodiversity Protection”** compiles emerging topics relating to the future protection of the Amazon rainforest and its populations along with a discussion about genetic resources, indigenous knowledge, and climate change.

Finally, we close the Workshop with the panel **“CHALLENGING & ENVISION FOREST CITIES: cosmological alternatives and Amazonian culture”** which brings together experts from different fields to discuss the role of the imaginaries in the promotion of extractivism projects in the rainforest and to shed light on more than human (‘multi-species’) relationships involved in the making of multiple Amazonian forest cities.



GERDA HENKEL STIFTUNG



ATTENDANCE IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY

If you are keen to **participate online only**, here is the **Zoom link**.

You are welcome to join spontaneously at your convenience:

<https://eu02web.zoom-x.de/j/65940986112>

Meeting ID: 659 4098 6112

If you are planning **to come to MPI Gea in person**, you should fill out the form below.

We are offering a limited number of slots to join us for lunch on both days.

<https://forms.gle/WLPDQDSFE8vLjxrE8>

Location/Venue:

V014 + V03 seminar rooms in *Villa*

Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology

<https://www.gea.mpg.de/en>

Directions:

Kahlaische Str. 10,

07745

Jena

Germany

Jena's city plan:

www.gea.mpg.de/2344736/mpi-gea-jena-map-2023.pdf

Monday - November 27th

9h - 12h30
V014 room

INTRODUCING & CORRELATING FOREST CITIES: concepts, frameworks, approaches

09h - 9h10

Welcoming & Introducing

Danielle Viegas and Patrick Roberts

9h15 - 9h45

Tropical urbanism and land use – past and present

Patrick Roberts (MPI GEA)

9h50 - 10h20

Writing History in the Anthropocene

Antoine Acker (Geneva University)

10h30-10h45: questions & comments

10h45m-11h: Coffee-break

11h - 12h15

Project launch

RESILIENT: forest cities, development and utopia in Modern Amazon

Danielle Viegas (MPI GEA)

PhDs candidates project's presentation:

Henrique Gasperin (Geneva Graduate Institute)

Julia de Medeiros (MPI GEA)

12h15-12h30m: questions & comments

12h30-13h30: lunch-break offered at MPI Library Area

Monday - November 27th

13h30 - 17h30

V014 room

ESTABLISHING & COMPARING FOREST CITIES: Amazonian industrial and Indigenous urbanism

13h30-13h55m

Jungle Cities: The Urbanization of Amazonia (Peru and Brazil)

Adrián Lerner (University of Cambridge)

14h-14h25

Amazonian natural rubber and the making of plantationocene

Tiago Muniz (Federal University of Goiás, Brazil, via Zoom)

14h30 -14h55m

Agropastoral landscapes in the 'yungas' of NW Argentina during the first millenia A.D: center-peripheries debates in the southernmost Amazonian dominion of South America

Verónica Zuccarelli (MPI Gea, via Zoom)

15h-15h30: questions & comments

15h30-15h45m: Coffee-Break

15h50 - 16h30

Paper talk

More than 10,000 Pre-Columbian earthworks are still hidden throughout Amazonia

Vinícius Peripato (National Institute of Space Research, Brazil, via Zoom)

Yoshi Maezumi (MPI GEA)

16h30-17h10

Book talk

Volkswagen in the Amazon: The Tragedy of Global Development in Modern Brazil

Antoine Acker (Geneva University)

17h15 -17h30: Final comments & closing

Tuesday - November 28th

10h - 12h
V03 room

CHALLENGING & CONSERVING FOREST CITIES: indigenous resistance and biodiversity protection

10h-10h25m

The long-term effects of Indigenous resistance on deforestation in the Amazon
Freg Stokes (MPI GEA, via Zoom)

10h30-10h55h

Global biodiversity agreements and possible futures for Amazonian forest cities

Eduardo Relly (Friedrich Schiller University, Jena)

11h-11h25m

Contemporary Amazonian Cities: Urban Drainage and Environmental Design
Juliano Pamplona (Federal University of Pará, Brazil, via Zoom)

11h30-12h: questions & comments

12h-13h: lunch-break offered at MPI Library Area

Tuesday - November 28th

13h - 17h
V03 room

ENVISIONING & EXPANDING FOREST CITIES: cosmological alternatives and Amazonian culture

13h-13h25

Zoophytography: Plants and Animals in Amazonian Culture

Patrícia Vieira (Coimbra)

13h30-13h55m

Visualizing and Narrativizing Hydropower: The Case of Belo Monte

Vitória Saramago (Chicago University)

14h-14h25m

Imagining Amazonian Cities: from El Dorado to The Falling Sky

Charlotte Rogers (Virginia University, via Zoom)

14h30m-15h: questions and comments

15h-15h15: Coffee-break

15h15-15h45

Making and Unmaking the Earth: from Anthropogenic Forests to Lost Cities

Fernando Silva e Silva (Association for Research and Practice in Humanities, via Zoom)

Final talk

15h45- 16h: Final comments & workshop closing

16h-17h

Internal meeting of the project's group members: brainstorm and future events