

# 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.

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

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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](http://www.gea.mpg.de/2344736/mpi-gea-jena-map-2023.pdf)

## **Monday - November 27th**

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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

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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**

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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**

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13h - 17h  
V03 room

### **ENVISIONING & EXPANDING FOREST CITIES: cosmological alternatives and Amazonian culture**

**13h-13h25**

*Amazonian Indigenous Art in the Anthropocene*

**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**