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AND TERRITORIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

**AGRICULTURAL FRONTIER AND RESISTANCES IN THE PAMPA:
CONFLICTS, TERRITORY, AND SUSTAINABILITY**

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The expansion of the agricultural frontier in the Pampa Biome, driven by soybean monocultures and the financialization of land, has intensified socio-environmental conflicts and territorial inequalities in Rio Grande do Sul. The conversion of native grasslands and the growing pressure on water and ecosystem resources are reshaping historical land uses and weakening traditional systems, especially family-based livestock farming, which has long structured regional occupation and cultural identity.

These dynamics reflect disputes over the unequal appropriation of nature, as discussed by Acseirad (2004) and Porto-Gonçalves (2006). In the Pampa, the advance of commodities exacerbates soil degradation, biodiversity loss, and the destabilization of grassland ecosystems, as shown in local studies such as Santos (2018). Territorial injustices become especially visible in areas where family livestock systems historically contributed to the conservation of native fields.

Building on Milton Santos (1996), Raffestin (1993), and Mançano Fernandes (2008), the territory is understood as a field of dispute shaped by simultaneous processes of deterritorialization and reterritorialization. In this context, local sustainable management practices, grassland restoration initiatives, and regenerative livestock systems represent forms of resistance to the hegemonic model of land occupation and use. Braun (2021) and Rech (2020) highlight the relevance of such practices as territorially embedded alternatives to the socio-environmental impacts of monocultures.

Drawing on Martínez-Alier's (2007) ecological distribution theory and Leff's (2016) environmental rationality, this study argues that the expansion of the agricultural frontier in the Pampa is not only a productive process but a socioterritorial conflict involving disputes over power, resources, and future possibilities. Regenerative practices and strategies grounded in local autonomy emerge as key pathways to environmental justice, grassland conservation, and the strengthening of rural communities—issues central to the debates within GT 38.

Palavras-chave: pampa; agricultural frontier; environmental conflicts; territorial injustices; regenerative livestock.