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AND TERRITORIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

**JUST ANOTHER PICTURE ON THE WALL? THE SAGA OF THE GAÚCHO IN
THE FACE OF CHANGES IN THE BRAZILIAN PAMPA**

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The Brazilian Pampa Biome is a vast natural region rich in biodiversity, culture, and symbolic meaning. Beyond its ecological value, the Pampa hosts ways of life, knowledge, and territorial identities historically linked to family-based extensive livestock farming. For nearly four centuries, this interaction among people, cattle, and nature has shaped a distinctive sociocultural system. Yet Pampa has become a site of growing territorial conflict. Today, it is the most heavily devastated biome in Brazil relative to its size, with less than half of its original vegetation remaining and continuing to decline. This transformation is driven primarily by the advance of capital in rural areas, expressed through

monocultures, forestry plantations, and emerging mega-mining projects. Such processes redefine territorial dynamics and reorganize agrarian geography. This study examines the territorial impacts of monocultures and the sociocultural consequences of soyification—namely, the expansion of soybean crops—on the Gaúcho, a traditional figure of the Pampa. The research adopts a qualitative, exploratory, and descriptive approach, using semi-structured interviews and secondary data. The preliminary results highlight, in addition to the suppression of native fields converted into crops, the imminent threat of the disappearance of the gaucho—the centaur of the Pampas. At the current rate, with the severe conversion of fields into monocultures, natural pastures and environment for cattle are at risk, and consequently, there will be no space for the gaucho. What stands out here is that this social group is at risk of extinction and may, soon, survive only as a memory—present in family stories or just as another portrait on the wall. Despite this scenario, the Gaúcho of the Pampa persists in small enclaves, especially within family livestock systems. These pockets of resistance embody ongoing struggles to preserve territory, culture, and a way of life deeply rooted in the region.

Palavras-chave: family livestock farming; pampa biome; territories; transformations; resistance.