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**EXAMINING HOW RACIAL CAPITALISM DEFINES RACIAL, LABOR, AND
ENVIRONMENTAL STRUGGLES IN BRAZILIAN AGRIBUSINESS**

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Racial capitalism has guided the formation and structure of Brazil's agribusiness sector, from colonialism to the present. In my recent book *The Business of Racism: Labor and Environment in Brazil's Racial Capitalism* (Duke University Press), I examine the expansion of progressive policies in agribusiness and the counter-movement by agribusiness elites to undo such protections. Based on this book's analysis, this presentation highlights the main dynamics of racial capitalism that permeate the agribusiness sector. I identify five inter-connected areas: (1) Businesses—profit-making organizations in which racism and racialization are enacted, lived, reproduced, and challenged; (2) Racialized class stratification—the ideas, practices, and systems that create differentiation between nonwhite workers and white employers; (3) Environmental transformation—the destabilization of ecosystems, such as land, forest, soil, and atmosphere, to suit the demands of capitalist growth and the racialized accumulation of profit; (4) Racial state—the laws, bureaucracies, policing, and

political procedures that shape and are shaped by businesses, workers, and civil society in racial capitalism; (5) Progress and backlash—the tension between egalitarian and reactionary forces that define directions in racial capitalism. The book is based on 18 months of fieldwork that involved interviews with 97 agribusiness elites and federal labor regulators and ethnographic observations at agribusiness worksites. I primarily collected data in the states of Pernambuco, Alagoas, and São Paulo, with a focus on the sugarcane industry.

Palavras-chave: racial capitalism; agribusiness; brazil; labor; environment.