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EVERYDAY WORLD-MAKING IN TIMES OF CRISIS

**SOLIDARY KITCHENS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS: COMMONING
PRACTICES OF CARE IN URBAN PERIPHERIES**

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This article looks into urban food commons by examining the emergence of initiatives of food cultivation and preparation in urban peripheries, including occupied and contested territories. Urban occupations and housing projects are classified by nutritional studies as food deserts or food swamps. Drawing on feminist political ecology, decolonial feminist perspectives on urban commons and care, and Black Food Geographies, our research attempts to see these environments not in what they lack, but as urban foodscapes in which relations of care and belonging between plants, people and place are enacted. The research focuses on community gardens and solidarity kitchens in the Brazilian metropolitan region of Belo Horizonte based on field work notes, interviews, and focus groups with members from a state-society network of food activists that

have shaped the alternative food system in Belo Horizonte in the last three decades (Trombini, Motta, 2025). Beyond the binary of “social fixes” for capitalist urbanization and localized prefigurative spaces of post-capitalist difference, we treat community gardens and kitchens as spaces for (re)organising social reproduction, reproducing a culture-nature arrangement, and providing care that can unlock transformative potentialities. Further, we claim that these urban food commons sparked renewed state commitment, transforming both the political ecology of food and the urban landscape in the peripheries of Belo Horizonte. Tensions remain, however, considering the relationships between autonomy in commoning practices and the state. The article is based on a qualitative methodology, combining focus group discussions with interviews conducted in the metropolitan area of Belo Horizonte. Our article thus further contributes to discussions on urban food commons by considering their relational dynamics with the state and urban food commons.

Palavras-chave: urban food commons; solidarity kitchens; community gardens; feminist political ecology; care infrastructures and social reproduction; state-commons; black food geographies.