

## PROPOSITIONS

attached to the thesis

### THE CONTEMPORARY LAND RUSH IN THE ALTILLANURA, COLOMBIA

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1. Given the interplay between land and social life, changes in land politics (that is, who gets what land, through which mechanisms, how much they get, for what purposes and with what implications) are likely to have impacts on key spheres of social life (labour, food, state-citizen relations) and vice versa. *This thesis.*
2. The broader implications of the contemporary land rush on social life are best understood by looking at the historical shifts in the political and the institutional terrains, which in turn are reflected in structural shifts. *This thesis.*
3. Access to land is not only central for productive labor, and for the reproduction of labour power, but it is also indispensable for the socio-cultural, socio-political and socio-ecological reproduction of different peoples. *This thesis.*
4. The pursuit of state's recognition of land rights should go hand in hand with struggles for the realization of other important political principles, namely restitution, redistribution, regeneration and representation. *This thesis.*
5. In Colombia, the contemporary land rush and associated land deals brought about serious transformations in the means of productive and reproductive labour of different rural communities, and greatly complicated their demands for land and territory before the state, with effects to these days. *This thesis.*
6. Issues around access and control over land and related resources are mediated by both economic and extra-economic factors, and the interconnections between the two are socially, historically and context-specific.
7. In a context of widespread land dispossession, struggles over land for production and social reproduction remain a key axis of mobilization today, which in turn make of scholar-activism an analytically crucial and politically empowering undertaking and method of work.
8. Projects of agrarian reform are now confronted with more unequal social relations around land and with different working people demanding speedy land (re)allocation in rural, as well as in peri-urban areas, to provide for their subsistence – in a way that highlights the rural-urban continuum, rather than the rural-urban divide.
9. The values attributed to land, and the discourses and ideologies underlying them, are key determinants of land (re)allocation to different users, and are thus an important locus of scholarly and political debates.
10. Analyses of land issues that attend to history, unequal power dynamics, social contestations and ideology – the intellectual project of agrarian political economy and of Critical Agrarian Studies – are useful lenses from which to advance deep social transformations.
11. A PhD journey might well be compared with the indigenous practice of turning the *yuca brava* (or bitter cassava) into appropriate food for human consumption. One has to squeeze the poison out in order to obtain the good nutrients!