

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN THE WAKE OF ECOCIDE: RESISTANCE AND DOCUMENTATION IN BRAZIL'S "GREEN" TRANSITION

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Context

Latin America's social and environmental realities have been profoundly shaped by **colonial and extractive regimes** that established enduring structures of **ecological and social violence**. These dynamics continue to manifest through **state policies and development agendas**. In **Brazil**, the **military dictatorship (1964-1985)** was marked not only by unaddressed **systemic human rights violations** but also by **ecocidal development projects** in the Amazon. **Indigenous peoples** and local communities have long **documented** these intertwined histories of violence, which today reemerge under the **guise of "green"** energy initiatives. Their documentation call for innovative forms of **recognition, accountability, and socio-environmental justice**.

My Starting Point

Informed by **more-than-human rights**, this research recognizes the **absence of transitional justice (TJ) processes** in Brazil for the continuous **socio-environmental harms** rooted in coloniality. These include **colonial extractivism**, the **authoritarian developmentalism** of the military dictatorship, and the **ongoing reproduction of socio-ecological injustices**. By tracing these continuities, the project explores how **mechanisms of TJ** can also offer **conceptual and practical tools to confront the legacies of socio-ecological harm**. The aim is to expand the meaning of **justice in energy transitions** by linking **historical accountability** with current struggles for **climate justice**.

Research Question

How can historical and contemporary documentation of socio-ecological harms support transitional justice mechanisms in addressing the legacies of extractivism and informing the energy transition in Brazil?

GROUND OC Project

This case contributes to the **GROUND OC project's** goal of **reimagining TJ processes** from the **ground up** in **aparadigmatic** settings. In **Brazil**, where formal TJ mechanisms addressing **socio-environmental harms** are largely absent, this case **expands the scope of TJ** beyond **human-centered violence**, explicitly addressing **coloniality** and engaging with **climate justice** goals that currently lack frameworks for a **just energy transition**.



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