

“Tropical ForeSTS: metrics, technics, power, money”

A strategic carbon sinks and stocks, biodiversity hotspots and iconic objects of global environmental stewardship, tropical forests have become crucial sites of intense technoscientific investment and experimentation in recent decades. Today, as new methods are devised to monitor and curb deforestation, measure carbon stocks, and finance biodiversity conservation, tropical forests increasingly concentrate financial, technological, and intellectual resources. Yet, paradoxically, these efforts unfold amid intensifying threats – infrastructural development, agricultural expansion, land speculation, organized crime, mining, violence, and changing climate conditions – that continue to endanger their very survival.

This workshop brings together a diverse group of STS scholars working on the politics and knowledge practices associated with tropical forests in various regions of the world. Our goal is to share our perspectives, research questions and theoretical commitments in order to examine to what extent the idea of “tropical forest” emerges as a global signifier agglomerating distinctive modes of governance, statecraft and knowledge-making. In such a way, we aim to explore the commonalities and differences that articulate tropical forests as a distinctive kind of technopolitical object today.

THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2026 — SEMINAR

Amphithéâtre Bachelard, La Sorbonne

17 Rue de la Sorbonne 75005 Paris

16h Keynote lecture by Eduardo Romero Dianderas, McGill University

18h00 *Apéro dînatoire*

FRIDAY, 22 MAY 2026 — PRESENTATIONS

Jardin d'agronomie tropicale de Paris

45 Avenue de la Belle Gabrielle 75012 Paris

9h - 9h15 **Introduction**

9h15 - 10h45 **Session 1 – Tropical Forest : Sciences**

- The Amazon as a Microcosm of the Anthropocene: Transnational Science and the Making of a Global Rainforest – *André Felipe Cândido da Silva (Fiocruz, Brazil)*
- A New Atmosphere for the Amazon “Climate-Forest” (1970-2000) – *André Bailão (Fiocruz, Brazil)*

- The Pantropical Gaze – *Véra Ehrenstein (CNRS-UMR CEMS, EHESS, France), Georges Macaire Eyenga (UMR CEMS, EHESS, France) & Alexandre Gaudin (AgroParisTech, UMR SENS, France)*

10h45 - 11h *Coffee Break*

11h -12h **Session 2 – Tropical Forests: Protective Policies**

- Counting the Rainforest: Numbers, Cuambas Monkeys, and Extinction in an Amazonian quilombo – *Barbara Abrahão (School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford, UK)*
- Mapping Understandings of Success in Mangrove Restoration – *Maud Borie (IRD, UMR SENS, France)*

12h - 14h *Garden Tour & Lunch*

14h00 - 15h30 **Session 3 – Tropical Forests: Extractive Practices**

- Contested Forests in the Cambodian Upland Frontier: Deforestation, Dispossession, and Indebtedness – *Phasy Res (University of Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne, France)*
- Composite Ecology: Engineered Heterogeneity in Sustainable Tropical Forestry – *Aida Arosoaie (Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, US)*
- Understanding Contemporary Issues in Gabonese Forestry through Ethnography, between Government, Governance, and Governmentality – *Etienne Bourel (Leiden University, The Netherlands)*

15h30 - 15h45 *Coffee Break*

15h45 - 17h15 **Session 4 – Tropical Forests: Futures**

- Governing the Futures of the Brazilian Amazon? Sciences, Institutions and (the Lack of) Epistemic Plurality - *Taís Sonetti-González & Marko Monteiro, (Science and Technology Policy Dept., University of Campinas, Brazil)*
- A Vernacular Technology: Making Global Instruments Local – *Cindy Lin, (School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Tech, US)*
- Digital Platforms & Land Grabbing Practices in the Brazilian Amazon: Tentative Hypothesis of an Abandoned Research Project - *Pierre-Louis Choquet (IRD, UMR PRODIG, France)*

17h30 -18h **Closing words and general discussion**