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## Agroecofeminism Within the Existing Circular Mode of Food Production in Latin America

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### Abstract

Circular modes of production in agriculture are not a new pattern of food production in Latin America and represent an important answer for peoples' food sovereignty. The present paper argues, based on results from a PhD research, that peasant agriculture functions under efficient metabolic patterns to achieve food sovereignty, departing from a Feminist Political Ecology standpoint. Two main factors, work and land, composing agroecosystem. units were central to analyse efficiency in agriculture taking Agroecology pillars as indicators. The case study in a social-environmental conflict situation in Brazil, the Minas-Rio mining megaproject implementation, resulted in the conception that those two factors are core to understand peasant agriculture as re-existing livelihoods under historical pressures from a dominant mode of production. Besides, the paper argues that peasant agriculture appears as an effective answer for society to get broader agency over food systems. This conception relies on the Social Reproduction theory which explains the binarity productive-reproductive work what is the basis of capitalist modes of production. Even though the last are hegemonic in contemporary societies, indigenous and peasant communities present distinct modes of food production that answer quickly and permanently to local food constraints, through circularity of resources and work. Looking at the mentioned social-environmental stress context, based on situated epistemology and reflexive methodology, the case study had brought results that place peasant farming in Latin America as a non-capitalist mode of production, in the sense that they tend to a circular dynamic not dependent on nor producing commodities. The result further discussed in the present paper relies on labour and the binarity productive-reproductive work, concepts which are dissolved within peasant/indigenous circular farming systems through the idea called by the author *Agroecofeminism*.

**Keywords:** Agroecology, circular mode of production, Feminist Political Ecology, peasant agriculture, Social Reproduction