



**Territorialization of Agribusiness:
Sugarcane Plantations and work Developments in Pontal do Paranapanema**
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Introduction: Pontal do Paranapanema, to the west of the state of São Paulo, was historically noted for violent disputes concerning land ownership. The first sugar cane crops were raised in the 1970s when Pró-álcool began in Brazil. However, it was from 2005 that the sugarcane plantations became significant, as new agro-processing units were set up, connected to large national and international corporate groups. Consequently, this research had as its main aim the analysis of strategies for which capital is used to territorialize sugarcane plantations in the region, and the consequences for workers of this process. **Methodology and Development:** We seek to set out the theoretical framework, using secondary source data and interviews carried out with people involved in the sugarcane industry, public municipal representatives, plantation workers (local and migrant), and others. We note that, against the background of debate on the weakness of employment in the region, the sugarcane agribusiness has grown and is at all times looking towards the monopolization of the land to ensure production of raw materials and capital reproduction, bypassing the historical legal problems of farmlands in the region. Areas that ought to be directed to the Agrarian Reform, are gradually being dominated by the sugarcane monoculture under State guarantee acting to legitimize land-grabbing financiers in the sugarcane agro-industrial industry. The results of this process work directly against the interests of workers, regional or migrant, who are obliged to sell their labour to the sugarcane industry. **Final thoughts:** When we concentrated on the repercussions that the sugarcane monoculture caused in the region, we found a work environment that mixed *old and new* forms of capital production. Flexibility, outsourcing, bringing new machines into the production process, bring a new appearance to the work. However, non-compliance with labour rules and laws show its essence: the logic of capital production on the basis of exploitation and degradation of labour.

Key words: Sugarcane industry; work; territory; Pontal do Paranapanema.