



**Territorialization of Mining and Environmental Effects in the Areas of the Cerrado**

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**Introduction:** This research centres on an analysis of the process of appropriation of territory for mining in the Cerrado, its environmental effects and the *stocks* built up by peasant workers in the Triângulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba regions in Minas Gerais. This proposition is based on an integrated view of the Cerrado, " ... while the territory is seen as a product of history, appropriated and disputed by social agents who do so from their individual economic, cultural, political, from the standpoints of their information, strategic capacity and strength" (Castilho; Chaveiro, 2010, p.45). The intention is to demonstrate that introducing national and international flows in the Cerrado for the accumulation of capital (mining, agribusiness, hydro-electric power, etc) is altering not only the natural wealth of the region but also the work and culture of the people of the Cerrado (Mendonça, 2004). It is understood that this process brings *stocks* together " ... as a permanent process, modified by political action establishing socio-cultural elements. [ ... ] the *stocks* are actions constructed as part of the struggle for life in the territory." (Pelá; Mendonça, 2010, p.54). **Methodology:** The methodology uses qualitative and quantitative research using such methodological procedures as documentary survey, statistical data, field research and field journal. **Final consideration:** Based on preliminary reading for the development of the doctoral research, and data from surveys, it was perceived that there is a geopolitical issue in the planned occupation of the Cerrado by large mining companies, brought about by the appropriation of the underground and expansion of mining activity, associated with the growing demand for minerals, export of commodities and the all-pervasive process of building capital and exploiting nature and labour. The underground becomes a disputed area and its extensive exploration impacts on power and has environmental effects in the (re-)organization of work and different forms of workers' struggles (associations, trade unions, social organizations, etc), and peasant communities in the Cerrado region. This research is a contribution to placing the role of mining and underground exploration in the Cerrado, revealing contradictions of appropriation of minerals and new territorial dynamics without losing sight of the effects on the men and women who continue to live their lives in these territories.

**Key Words:** Cerrado; territory; mining; environmental effects.