



The 6th International Conference of the
BRICS Initiative for Critical Agrarian Studies (BICAS)

Development and Agrarian Transformations: BRICS, Competition and Cooperation in the Global South

University of Brasilia (UnB), Brazil

12- 14 November 2018

CALL FOR PAPERS and PANELS

Over the past two decades, agrarian economies and food systems have been undergoing a profound restructuring in the wake of large-scale agribusiness and farmland investments, marked also by increasing financialisation and resurgent authoritarian populism. These have reinforced old and created new forms and sites of capital accumulation by local and foreign elites, advancing and transforming forms of extractivism (new extractivism and agroextractivism). This restructuring has contributed to the unsettling of global geopolitics, most notably with the emergence of the BRICS countries and the so-called Middle Income Countries (MICs). The BRICS Initiative for Critical Agrarian Studies (BICAS) emerged in 2013 to examine these transformations – you can read more about BICAS in our founding document [here](#).

Critical theoretical and empirical questions about the origins, character and significance of complex changes underway need to be investigated more systematically, which is the main goal of the 6th BICAS International Conference on ‘*Development and agrarian transformations: BRICS, competition and cooperation in the Global South*’ to be held from **12 to 14 of November 2018** at the University of Brasilia, Brazil.

This conference will explore social, political, economic, ecological, and other transformations associated with agrarian dynamics involving the BRICS and MICs. Our approaches are based on critical and engaged scholarship, in alliance with social movements and popular leaders’ struggles and point of views. Interdisciplinary perspectives are welcome, including those drawing from political economy, development sociology, human geography, political ecology, and other social and human sciences that reflect critically about themes like:

- *Regional influences and development: BRICS trade and investments across the Global South;*
- *South-South Cooperation: policy transfer and state influences among BRICS and MICs;*
- *New state-market relations emerging from BRICS and MICs;*
- *Environmental crisis and agro-ecology in Latin America and the Global South;*
- *Resurgent authoritarianism and populism in contemporary political and agrarian transitions;*
- *Agrarian transformations and socio-territorial movements: land, environment and food sovereignty.*

Explorations and reflections related to these themes will be rooted in engaged and rigorous research and practice, and in friendly but critical debates amongst colleagues and comrades.

We invite not only academic papers for presentation and discussion in standard parallel sessions, but also more creative proposals for entire parallel sessions with alternative formats that may be more inclusive of civil society organizations and more diverse scholar-activists. These could include discussion panels, ‘world café’-style forms of knowledge sharing, multi-media presentations, and other forms of self-organized academic and civil society panels. Thus, the number, theme, and format of parallel sessions will be determined considering the academic papers and other forms of panel proposals submitted and selected for the conference.

Instructions for submission

Academic papers:

- Full contact details: names, emails, mailing addresses, cell-phones, institutional affiliations
- Title and abstract with 300-500 words
- Short bio with no more than 100 words for each co-author
- Include all this information in a single Word file, with the last name of the first author and ‘BICAS 2018’ as the name of the file (e.g. Silva et al BICAS 2018.docx)

Parallel session / panel proposals:

- Full contact details: names, emails, mailing addresses, cell-phones, institutional affiliations
- Title and short description of the session / panel with 500-750 words
- Short bio with no more than 100 words for each key organizer
- Include all this information in a single Word file, with the last name of the first organizer and ‘BICAS 2018’ as the name of the file (e.g. Silva et al BICAS 2018.docx)

Dates/deadlines

- Abstracts and panel proposals must be submitted by **14 May 2018**
- Evaluation/selection of abstracts and panel proposals by **30 June 2018**
- Full paper drafts must be submitted by **30 September 2018**

Please submit abstracts and panel proposals to the BICAS Secretariat at bricsagrarianstudies@gmail.com with “abstract submission” as the subject line.

All papers will be published online as a BICAS Working Paper Series on the conference website. Journal special issues will be organized with select papers after the conference.

Travel grants

Unfortunately, we do not have funds to guarantee travel grants for applicants yet. So, at the moment, we are not able to provide any financial support for participants, but we are searching for resources to sponsor all conference activities, including translation services. Along the year, we will provide information about the conference (venue, accommodation, meals, and possible grants, if so).

The BRICS Initiative for Critical Agrarian Studies is rooted in the following institutions:

Brazil

University of Brasilia (UnB) – www.fup.unb.br

Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) – www.ufrgs.br

São Paulo State University (UNESP) Pres. Prudente – www.fct.unesp.br/#!/departamentos/geografia

Russia

Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA), Agrarian Research Center – www.ranepa.ru

China

China Agricultural University, College of Humanities and Development Studies (COHD)
cohd.cau.edu.cn

South Africa

University of the Western Cape, Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS)
www.plaas.org.za

In collaboration with:

International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) – www.iss.nl

Transnational Institute (TNI) – www.tni.org

Future Agricultures Consortium – www.future-agricultures.org

Terra de Direitos – www.terradedireitos.org.br

BICAS websites:

www.iss.nl/bicas

www.plaas.org.za/bicas

<https://bicasbrasil.wordpress.com/>

<http://cohd.cau.edu.cn/bicas/>

<http://dgp.cnpq.br/dgp/espelhogrupo/1891972268311529>

