

Making soil in the Plantationocene

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ABSTRACT ORIGINAL

Based on 14 months of ethnographic research, this paper analyzes soil management within the plantation model of farming in order to understand the extent to which life on large-scale monocultural farms can be controlled and directed toward extractive production. Transnational soy farmers in Western Bahia Brazil 'correct' soils in the region to make them productive and marshal this agronomic work to claim that they have added value to the land by 'building it up'. Still, the permeability of the plantation keeps transnational farmers from achieving their dreams of control. © 2023 Informa UK Limited, trading as Taylor & Francis Group.