

## Work packages

### WP1. Testing Hypothesis 1: The empirical and normative inadequacy of current NTTs and cosmopolitan theories (PI and MA Student 1). 2021

Here we will engage in an exhaustive documentation of the limitations of the most prominent NTTs and cosmopolitan theories available, looking both at their conceptualizations of territorial agency and territory, and at their tacit and explicit empirical and normative assumptions. Because they are more clearly connected to the forefathers of the Western philosophical canon and their inheritors, we will focus in particular on Anna Stilz's account of territorial sovereignty (which explicitly draws from Grotius and Kant; John Simmons's Lockean individualist theory and Cara Nine's Lockean collectivist theory. Regarding cosmopolitan theories, we will pay special attention to Mathias Risse's Grotian, minimalistic account of global justice applied to territorial issues, and to Chris Armstrong's attempt at squaring global egalitarianism with special attachments to natural resources. The PI's previous work on territory will serve as a foundation upon which to answer the following questions:

- **TT1\*:** Are current NTT's with their ideas of fixed borders and relatively fixed political communities appropriate to deal with the increasing flux of borders and people across them? Should we retain the *local/migrant* dichotomy, or stop categorizing people along those lines? Is the current bias towards persons with "located life plans and projects" over persons with more "fluid" or dynamic life plans sustainable if the goal is social justice at the global level?
- **TT2 and TT3:** Are strong property rights over land and natural resources, as assumed by current NTTs and cosmopolitan theories, an advancement or a hindrance on the way to ensuring a fairer distribution of land and resource use, and of guaranteeing the maintenance of GSRs at the global level?

Connecting with **TT2** and **TT3**, the MA student will examine the Lockean conception of property rights over land and natural resources and the adequacy/inadequacy of the proviso of "leaving enough and as good" for others in the face of ongoing processes like land-grabbing.

### WP2. Testing Hypothesis 2: Bringing the insights of environmental studies into building a normative framework for *dynamic territory* and *dynamic territorial agency* (PI and Postdoc 1). 2022-2024

Here the PI will analyze *ecosystem-based approaches* and *place-based management of ecosystems* (Young et al. 2007) and examine their measure of success in governing Global Systemic Resources. The Convention on the Conservation of Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) will be a key case-study to ask whether its model—where scientists have a key advisory role and where the territorial object is defined ecosystemically and therefore dynamically rather than by fixed coordinates—may be used in other GSRs beyond national jurisdiction to avoid their over-use.

Postdoc 1, who will have a background in environmental studies, will examine how the ecosystem-based approach may be applied to protect GSRs within and between national jurisdictions—particularly rainforests and peatlands. If traditional territorial state sovereignty has proved clearly deficient in protecting these GSRs around the world, would an ecosystem-based territorial agent be better suited to secure the maintenance and flourishing of these endangered sites? And what would the implications be for the movement of people across them, and for the way in which they are currently allocated?

**\*Deliverables: 6 peer-reviewed articles (2 by PI and 4 by Postdoc1).**

### WP3. Testing Hypothesis 2: Bringing in the insights of geography into building a normative framework for *dynamic territory* and *dynamic territorial agency* (PI and Postdoc 2). 2022-2024

Here the PI will assess the literature within the subfield of critical border studies in geography, which has been determinant in thinking of territory as a process, and in revealing the strategies and operations of power involved in reaffirming it, together with the strategies of resistance seeking to reconfigure or

destabilize it. The concepts of *deterritorialization* and *reterritorialization* as used in geography (Popescu 2010) will be critically examined. These concepts have their provenance in the philosophical work of Deleuze and Guattari, but they have been totally ignored by NTTs and cosmopolitan theories interested in territory, which is surprising, given the deep influence they have had not just in geography, but also in other disciplines concerned with space and places, like ecological science, architecture and urban planning.

Postdoc 2, whose disciplinary background will be in geography and who will focus on the dynamics of territorial occupation and territorial displacement in peasant and indigenous communities affected by drought and crop failure. The TTs will be examined along the following lines:

- **TT1:** People in flux across peasant and indigenous territories, and peasant and indigenous peoples in flux due to changed climatic patterns.
- **TT2:** Rethinking land and resource distribution in former agricultural territories now under permanent drought, through the concept of *territorial strategies*.
- **TT3:** Are local communities effective or detrimental in the governance of GSR's? While territorial states have done a poor job in managing these resources, the majority of the world's still healthy ecosystems are in traditional indigenous territories. This will serve as a starting point for evaluating the ways in which the current "regime mismatch" of current governance systems for GSRs could be overcome.

**\*Deliverables: 6 peer-reviewed articles (2 by PI and 4 by Postdoc 2).**

#### **WP4. Testing Hypothesis 2: Bringing in the insights of international law into building a normative framework for *dynamic territory* and *dynamic territorial agency* (PhD student). 2022-2025**

The PhD student will spell out the normative criteria behind the development of the international law of the sea under conditions of sea level rise. Specific attention will be paid to the effects of sea level rise for:

- **TT1:** The movement and reallocation of people and/or peoples whose current land will be partially or completely lost due to sea level rise. Here a key question will be how to think of political self-determination for the people in countries that might lose their territories entirely, and for countries that will be seriously affected both in their geographies and productive activities.
- **TT2:** The status of Exclusive Economic Zones and of the rights of states over continental shelves in a scenario where the baselines wherefrom to measure them will shift dramatically.
- **TT3:** How international law is reconfiguring the regulation of marine GSRs for their successful maintenance (for example, of oceans as the largest carbon sinks in the planet).

**\*Deliverables: 1 PhD dissertation.**

#### **WP5. Testing Hypothesis 3: Building the normative concepts of *dynamic territorial agency* and *dynamic territory* (PI and MA Student 2, assisted by the other members of the team). 2024-2025**

Here we take on the findings from WP1 to WP4 to build a viable replacement for the current, fixed accounts of territory and territorial agency. The PI will develop a concept of dynamic territorial agency whereby there is no one monolithic factor for being a member of a territorial order (like place of birth or citizenship or "located life plans" but multiple factors like *presence*, *specific attachments*, and so on. This will have an effect on how the movement of people should be theorized (**TT1**) and on how the distribution of land and resource use should be conceived (**TT2**): much more flexibly and dynamically, incorporating the concepts of ecosystem-based governance and deterritorialization and reterritorialization, which have so far been left out by NTTs and cosmopolitan theories. The criteria for making comparative judgements regarding different territorial arrangements will also be developed at this stage. Among the principles that will be considered are: *connection* to a place, *capacity* to govern a place, *need* for a place, *equal rights* to a place, and *knowledge* of a place (scientific and/or traditional)—where places are understood as relational rather than geographic, and therefore as dynamic. I will also draw from the work that the other members of the team will have done at this stage, bearing in mind that this might take the project in a direction yet

unforeseen and unexpected. The MA student will investigate how the All-Affected and All-Subjected principles in democratic theory may be used to justify dynamic territorial agency for GSRs (**TT3**).

**\*Deliverables: A book-length study (PI) and an edited special issue (PI and postdoctoral fellows).**

**\*TT1: People in flux, TT2: Distributing land and resource use, and TT3: Governance of GSRs.**