



*land*

an Open Access Journal by MDPI



## Does Commons Grabbing Lead to Resilience Grabbing? The Anti-Politics Machine of Neo-Liberal Development and Local Responses

Guest Editors:

**Prof. Dr. Tobias Haller**

Institute of Social Anthropology,  
University of Bern, Lerchenweg  
36, 3000 Bern 9, Switzerland

**Dr. Fabian Käser**

Institute of Social Anthropology,  
University of Bern, Bern,  
Switzerland

**Dr. Mariah Ngutu**

Institute of Anthropology, Gender  
& African Studies, University of  
Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**closed (31 August 2019)**

### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

This Special Issue focuses on land grabbing as commons grabbing and how state institutions (agrarian development reforms/compensations) and voluntary corporate social responsibility (CRS) initiatives enabled this process. It also looks at how institutions and CSR are labeled as development strategies to legitimate investments, but act as *Anti-Politics Machines* (Ferguson 1990, 2006), hiding privatization and loss of land and related commons (Haller 2012, 2016). Often it is not investment in “wastelands”, but in commonly owned and used land-related resources. We are also interested in the way this institutional change leads to institutional pluralism, and how companies and local elites pursue “institution shopping” to legitimate exclusion (Toulmin 2009, Haller 2016). This process, we argue, also leads to the undermining of local marginal actors resilience (resilience grabbing) because cash compensations or employment do not cover the losses. However, these changes also trigger local reactions, which might lead to more participatory development of institutions for reclaiming the commons (Haller, Acciaioli and Rist 2016).



[mdpi.com/si/13857](https://mdpi.com/si/13857)

# Special Issue

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

## Editor-in-Chief

### Prof. Dr. Christine Fürst

Institute for Geosciences and  
Geography, Department  
Sustainable Landscape  
Development, University of Halle,  
Von-Seckendorff-Platz 4, 06120  
Halle, Germany

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

*Land* is the only open access journal covering all aspects of land science, and it is a pioneering platform for publishing on land system science. Our editorial board is comprised of eminent scholars. We publish high quality research on societally relevant, emerging and innovative topics and results in land system research. It is now one of the top land journals with a significant impact factor, and has a goal to become the best journal in land in the coming years. I strongly recommend *Land* for your best research publications for a fast dissemination of your research.

## Author Benefits

**Open Access:** free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

**High Visibility:** indexed within Scopus, SSCI (Web of Science), PubAg, AGRIS, GeoRef, RePEc, and other databases.

**Journal Rank:** JCR - Q2 (*Environmental Studies*) / CiteScore - Q2 (*Nature and Landscape Conservation*)

## Contact Us

---

Land Editorial Office  
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
www.mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/land  
land@mdpi.com  
X@Land\_MDPI