

Abstract: This work aims to analyze the German-Brazilian cooperation in the studies on the Amazon rainforest between 1952 and 1992. These studies emphasized the entanglements between waterscapes, soils, and forests to understand the complex ecology of the Amazon. German limnologist Harald Sioli (1910-2004) played a key role in establishing this network, beginning his research on the physical, chemical, and biological properties of the Amazon's rivers in the early 1940s. In the late 1960s, he formalized the close dialogue between German and Brazilian researchers through cooperation agreements between the National Research Institute of the Amazon (INPA – Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia), established in 1952, and the Max Planck Institute for Limnology, located in Plön, North Germany. The German-Brazilian cooperation on tropical ecology was part of a broader effort of transnational epistemic networks that transformed the Amazon into a subject of global interest and concern. Since the post-World War II era, but particularly since the 1970s, these networks played a crucial role in advancing ecosystem research and conservation biology. They contributed to a significant epistemic shift in the perception of the tropical rainforest. Previously seen as a regional landscape to be subjected to development imperatives, the Amazon began to be understood as a crucial area for global biodiversity conservation and climate regulation, despite the persistence of developmentalist discourses and practices with damaging ecological consequences. Researchers within this German-Brazilian network not only studied the Amazon but also actively raised awareness about the alarming deforestation rates and unprecedented ecological changes caused by large-scale infrastructure projects and colonization initiatives under the Brazilian military dictatorship (1964-1985). Especially after the 1970s, the Amazon emerged as a prominent symbol in the global environmental debate, embodying various dimensions of ecological crises and potential solutions to them. The analysis of the epistemic and activist engagement of the actors involved in this network between German and Brazilian institutions unveils how the Amazon functioned as an Anthropocene microcosm. Serving as a crossroad of multiple connections, the Amazon contributes to understanding the Anthropocene in the making, encompassing both its material and epistemic dimensions.