



COMMODITY
FRONTIERS

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Livestock Frontiers

The Journal of the Commodity Frontiers Initiative

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Commodity Frontiers

Capitalism, Contestation, and the Transformation of the Global Countryside
The Journal of the Commodity Frontiers Initiative



Image: Llamas grazing behind the old signboard of the “Cuprita” copper mine, Bolivia. Source: Hanne Cottyn, 2018.

Mission Statement

Commodity Frontiers is the Journal of the Commodity Frontiers Initiative (CFI). Edited by a group of scholars and researchers from various disciplines and organizations in the CFI Network, the Journal explores the history and present of capitalism, contestation, and ecological transformation in the global countryside. The point of departure is the commodity frontier concept, which describes sites and processes of the incorporation of “resources” into the expanding capitalist world economy; resources like land, raw materials, knowledge, and labor. In the past 600 years, commodity frontier expansion has been characterized by ecological and distributional conflicts; the displacement and dispossession of Indigenous peoples and other groups; racialization and othering across colonial, settler colonial, and postcolonial geographies; and the production of class, gender, race, and other inequalities.

Each themed issue of *Commodity Frontiers* includes articles about theorizing, studying, and teaching with commodity frontiers. The Journal features reflections and reviews on the uneven and often violent dynamics of capitalist expansion, social change, and ecological transformation on global as well as local scales, in the past and at the present. Contributors include historians, social scientists, (political) ecologists, artists, and activists who work on global commodity production and circulation, rural societies, labor history, the history of capitalism, colonial histories, social metabolism, and conflicts and counternarratives in the countryside. *Commodity Frontiers* endeavors to carry out one of the central goals of the CFI: to provide long historical perspectives on problems that are often assumed to be modern, and to link historical and contemporary research to critically recast our thinking about sustainability, resilience, and crisis.

Commodity Frontiers is a biannual open-access publication housed at commodityfrontiers.com, through [Commodity Frontiers](http://CommodityFrontiers) in the Open Journal System at Wageningen University, and distributed through email subscriptions. Its editorial collective is committed to inclusive, anti-racist, anti-sexist, decolonial scholarship and politics.

Objectives

Commodity Frontiers aims to provide accessible content from multiple perspectives on the past, present, and future of commodity frontier expansion and dynamics. We feature research and educational activities undertaken by academics, artists, activists, and other civil society actors. By inviting short contributions from our multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral networks, and distributing the open-access Journal through our website and the Open Journal System, we aim to reach a broader audience than typical academic publishing allows. We strive for “real-time” reports and reflections on contemporary issues, and contributions that link past and present.

Editorial Process

The articles in *Commodity Frontiers* are not double-blind peer reviewed. Rather, Section Editors purposely invite contributions related to the theme of each issue from experts in respective fields. All articles are reviewed by Section Editors and at least one Editor-in-Chief.

Contributions

Articles that appear in *Commodity Frontiers* are invited contributions. We do not accept uninvited manuscripts. If you would like to contribute to *Commodity Frontiers* or the CFI, there are four routes.

Article contributions: If you would like to contribute an article to one of the sections of the *Commodity Frontiers* journal, please send a short note with your contact information and your area of expertise to the section editors (contact information is on the website) and to Mindi Schneider (mindi.schneider@wur.nl).

Journal theme proposals: If you have an idea for a themed issue of the journal, please send inquiries to Mindi Schneider.

Lexicon entries: We are building a *Commodity Frontiers Lexicon* that will be housed at the CFI website. If you would like to contribute an entry to the Lexicon, or if you would like to write a response to an entry that's been published, please contact Eric Vanhaute (eric.vanhaute@ugent.be), Hanne Cottyn (hanne.cottyn@york.ac.uk), and Claudia Bernardi (clod.zeta@gmail.com), the Lexicon editors.

Round Tables: We will occasionally host virtual round tables on the website and social media to debate concepts, approaches, and politics surrounding commodity frontiers. If you would like to contribute a round table proposal, please email Mindi Schneider.



Acknowledgements: Mindi Schneider does the design and production work for *Commodity Frontiers*, and manages the Open Journal System and the CFI website. Special thanks to Marjolijn Dijkman for our logo and cover design, and for invaluable design advice. Thanks to Rachel Steely for her essential work as our social media manager. Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue for sharing their work and insights.

Cover image: Whaling ship, 20th Century, USA. Source: [New Bedford Whaling Museum](http://www.newbedfordwhalingmuseum.org).