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**LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GLOBAL COMMODITY RUSHES:  
METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW**

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A recent commodity boom and bust has exposed the role of law in facilitating transitions towards more commodified natural resource relations. This is not only because legal technique is instrumental to converting natural resources into commercial assets. Contexts are extremely diverse, but recurring features of national and international law – from the ways legislation allocates control over natural resources, to the protections investment treaties provide to resource rights associated with foreign investment – mobilise the coercive powers of the state to transfer natural resources to businesses, while also constraining the ability of states to regulate against business interests. Several initiatives to mitigate the resulting land dispossession have developed guidance for businesses to address resource governance issues in their operations and supply chains. While this can fill gaps in the law, advancing a bottom-up perspective to the governance of resources and investments requires more systemic reconfigurations from local to global levels. In turn, this systemic agenda raises methodological questions that challenge conventional disciplinary boundaries – for example, between national and international lawyers, and between lawyers and political economists – and alter the traditional contours of international economic law as a field of study. This paper reflects on these issues, exploring transdisciplinary action-research to interrogate the interplay of national and international law in sensitive socio-political contexts, and new forms of collaboration between research and activism in different geographic and policy spaces.