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PROPOSITIONS

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Accessing Indigenous Land Rights through Claims in Taroko Area, Eastern Taiwan

1 The indigenous Taroko area experienced a change: from a stage of 'state of nature' to a 'state of the nature'. This was typical of colonial rule in the 19th century among colonial countries. (This thesis)

2 The Taroko area was considered to be a *terra nullius* where the Taroko people insisted on their 'natural sovereignty', which originated from their connections to the land that they lived on. (This thesis)

3 Traditional Taroko rules (*gaya*) have been established and are institutions that the Taroko people abide by, no matter whether they have been removed from the area, mixed with other tribes or remain in situ. (This thesis)

4 Law-individualism is emerging through the phenomenon of national land laws that support the deconstruction of the collectivity that *gaya* is based on. (This thesis)

5 Indigenous peoples are losing their reservation lands; lands that were originally designed for agriculture, not for economic capitalism.

6 Based on personal and collective impressions, the idea of natural sovereignty emerged among indigenous peoples. Consequently, they consider themselves to be equal to nations that, until now, have never given up their sovereignty in respect of natural resources.

7 Indigenous people are promoting alternative property regimes based on their idea of natural sovereignty in an effort to reconstruct the governance of the relations between human and natural resources.
8 Counter-mapping is a multi-faceted instrument that is also widely used by Taiwan indigenous people to express their ideas of land and human relationships.

9 Co-management arrangements for natural resources are contingent and vulnerable with vague property regimes that do not define rights and responsibilities clearly.

10 Indigenous land rights will be achieved through transitional justice that settler societies are always hesitant to offer.

11 Social science is always ahead of common knowledge but behind in terms of social practice.

12 It is part of human nature to hesitate to apologise.