

Princeton University  
**BECOMING BRAZIL**

*A PIIRS/Brazil LAB Global Seminar*

*June 17 to July 26, 2019  
Instituto Moreira Salles | IMS | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

Instructors: João Biehl & Pedro Meira Monteiro  
Language Instructor: Andréa Melloni | Teaching Fellow: Miqueias Mugge



*Populares by Thomas Farkas, Instituto Moreira Salles*

Time after time, Brazil has been hailed the ‘land of the future’. Capturing the world’s attention for over five centuries of colonialism and modernization, Brazil has offered rich natural resources for extraction and diverse social and political realities for the imagination of travelers and the work of scientists, academics and artists alike. Drawing from history, anthropology, literature and the arts, this Global Seminar explores how Brazil’s becomings have been represented nationally and internationally and the ways in which its peoples have evolved within or escaped and recast the frames of this imagined country.

Working with multiple media, we will discuss the making of a ‘Brazilian culture’ via music, sports, modernist art and architecture as well as the engineering of ‘economic miracles’ and the articulation of insurgent forms of citizenship. *Becoming Brazil* will conclude with ethnographic reflections on how peoples are confronting today’s widespread precarity and how radical ideas of futurity are being articulated in the country’s peripheries.

The Seminar is a Brazil LAB (Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies) initiative and will include a select group of Brazilian students. We will be based at the Instituto Moreira Salles (IMS) in Rio de Janeiro. Students will visit cultural and historical sites, and engage with local intellectuals, artists, and activists. During field trips to the megacity of São Paulo and to the colonial town of Paraty and the Atlantic Forest, students will be introduced to new forms of mobilization and environmental politics.

The Seminar will include classes of Portuguese at various levels and students will engage various research archival and fieldwork methodologies and produce critical and artistic projects. The success of the seminar depends on the students' commitment to complete all required readings, to reflect critically on texts and audiovisual materials, to participate actively in discussions and field excursions, and to creatively bring these insights in the various assignments, which will culminate in the presentation of individual travelogues.

Grading will be based on:

- Seminar attendance and participation | 20%
- Portuguese language class | 20%
- Assignments | 40%
- Final portfolio presentation | 20%



## Week 1 | Becoming Brazil: Histories and Imaginations of Colonialism & Slavery

**June 16** | Welcoming dinner and introductions (6:00-8:00 pm) at *Fazendola* (Praça General Osório) | Discussion of logistics with Lorena Figueiredo and Raul Melo

**June 17** | IMS tour; seminar overview and initial discussion

### Readings:

- Anonymous. "A Description of the Tupinambá." In *The Brazil Reader*, edited by Robert Levine and John Crocitti, pp.25-32. Durham: Duke University Press, 1999.
- "The Letter of Pero Vaz de Caminha." [1500] In *A Documentary History of Brazil*, edited by E. Bradford Burns, pp.20-27. New York: Knopf, 1966.

Assignment: Reflection on a Brazilian image (IMS database)

Afternoon: Excursion to the *Sugar Loaf*

**June 18**

### Reading:

- Lilia Schwarcz and Heloisa Starling. "Introduction." *Brazil: A Biography*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2018, pp. xvii-xxvii.

Guest Speaker: Arminio Fraga (Economist and Princeton University Trustee)

After lunch: Introduction to Portuguese in Brazil

**June 19**

### Readings:

- Gilberto Freyre. "Preface to the Second English-Language Edition." *The Masters & the Slaves: A Study in the Development of Brazilian Civilization*. Transl. Samuel Putnam. New York: Knopf, 1956 [1933], xviii-lxx.
- Michael Wilson. "Visual Culture: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis." In *The Nineteenth-Century Visual Culture Reader*, edited by Vanessa Schwartz and Jeannene Przyblyski, 26-33. New York: Routledge, 2004.
- Film: *Brazil: A Racial Paradise?* by Henry Louis Gates Jr. (2011).  
<https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/brazil>

Guest speaker: Lilia M. Schwarcz (USP/Princeton)

After lunch: Visit to Instituto Moreira Salles' photographic archives.

## June 20

### Readings:

- Lília M. Schwarcz and Heloisa Starling. "Chapter 3." *Brazil: A Biography*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018.

Guest speaker: Lília M. Schwarcz (USP/Princeton)

Assignment: Work with IMS's digital photographic archives.

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

## June 21

### Readings:

- Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis. "The Mirror." In *The Collected Histories of Machado de Assis*. Transl. Margaret Jull Costa and Robin Patterson. New York: Liverlight Publishing Corporation, 2018, pp. 444-452.
- Flora Thomson-DeVeaux. "A Note on the Calabouço." *Piauí* 140 (May 2018).
- Please visit website: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1548>

### Optional reading:

- Rogério Pacheco Jordão. "Machado's Valongo in Rio de Janeiro's cartography: urban slavery in motion." *Machado de Assis em Linha* 8, no. 16 (2016): 99-113.

Guest speaker: Flora Thomson-DeVeaux

Afternoon field excursion to *Cais do Valongo* and *Instituto de Pesquisa e Memória Pretos Novos* (downtown Rio).

## Weekend suggested visit: Jardim Botânico

### Optional Classic Writings & Films:

- Joaquim Nabuco. [1883] *Abolitionism: The Brazilian Antislavery Struggle*. Transl. Robert Conrad. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1977. (Portuguese edition: *O abolicionismo*, available online at <http://www2.senado.leg.br/bdsf/bitstream/handle/id/1078/667747.pdf?sequence=4>).
- Sidney Chalhoub. "The Precariousness of Freedom in a Slave Society (Brazil in the Nineteenth Century)." *IRSH* 56, 1 (2011): 405-439.
- Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis. [1881] *Epitaph of a Small Winner: A Novel*. Transl. William Grossman. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. (Portuguese edition: *Memórias póstumas de Brás Cubas*, available at [http://www.machadodeassis.net/hiperTx\\_romances/obras/brascubas.htm](http://www.machadodeassis.net/hiperTx_romances/obras/brascubas.htm)).
- Alfredo Bosi. [1992] *Colony, Cult and Culture*. Transl. Robert P. Newcomb. Dartmouth: University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, 2008. Available online at

<http://www.laabst.net/laabst1/index.htm>. (Portuguese edition: “Colônia, culto e cultura” in *Dialética da colonização*. São Paulo: Companhia das Letras, 1992.)

- Film: *How Tasty Was My Little French Man* by Nelson Pereira dos Santos (1971).
- Film: *Quilombo* by Cacá Diegues (1984).
- Film: *Vazante* by Daniela Thomas (2017).

## Week 2 | Re-peopling Brazilian History

### **June 24**

#### Readings:

- Manuela Carneiro da Cunha et al. “Indigenous peoples boxed in by Brazil’s political crisis.” *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, 7 (2), p. 403–426, 2017.
- Claude Lévi-Strauss. “Prologue.” *Saudades do Brasil: A Photographic Memoir*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1995, pp. 9-23.
- Optional: Bruna Franquetto and Tommaso Montagnani. “‘When Women Lost Kagutu Flutes, To Sing Tolo Was All They Had Left:’ Gender Relations among the Kuikuro of Central Brazil as Revealed in Ordeals of Language and Music.” *Journal of Anthropological Research*, vol. 68, 2012, pp. 339-355.

Film screening: *The Hyperwomen* by Carlos Fausto, Takumã Kuikuro, and Leonardo Sette (2012)

Guest speaker: Carlos Fausto (Museu Nacional, UFRJ).

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

### **June 25**

#### Readings:

- Aparecida Vilaça. “A Morte sem Canibalismo.” *Paletó e Eu*. São Paulo: Todavia, 2018, pp.11-22. In English: “Chapter 1: Death without Cannibalism” (manuscript).
- Aparecida Vilaça. “A Museum in Flames, as viewed by one of its Anthropologists.” Available at: <https://brazillab.princeton.edu/>.

Guest speaker: Aparecida Vilaça (Museu Nacional, UFRJ).

Afternoon: Field trip to the colonial/coastal town of Paraty (charted bus leaving from IMS).

### **June 26**

Morning: Tour of Paraty.

Afternoon: Visit to a native Guarani community. Consultant: Anthropologist Rafael Fernandes Mendes.

Assignment: Visual field trip chronicle.

### **June 27**

Morning: Boat tour to Paraty’s islands (8am-12pm).

Afternoon: Visit to *Fazenda Bananal* & dinner at *Livraria das Marés*

**June 28**

Reading:

- Hebe Mattos and Martha Abreu. “Jongo, Recalling History,” in *Cangoma Calling: Spirits and Rhythms of Freedom in Brazilian Jongo Slavery Songs*, edited by Pedro Meira Monteiro and Michael Stone. Dartmouth: University of Massachusetts, 2013, pp.77-88.
- Soundscapes: Jongos recorded by Stanley Stein. Available at: <http://www.laabst.net/laabst3/index.htm>.

Film: *Jongos, Calangos e Folias: Música Negra, Memória e Poesia* by Hebe Mattos and Martha Abreu (2005), available at [https://youtu.be/DB\\_AHH3xXYQ](https://youtu.be/DB_AHH3xXYQ).

Morning: Visit to *Quilombo do Campinho* community.

Afternoon: Trip back to Rio de Janeiro.

**Optional Classic Writings & Films**

- Euclides da Cunha. *The Amazon: Land without History*. Transl. Ronald Sousa. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006 [1909] (Portuguese edition: *A Margem da História*. Biblioteca Virtual do Estudante Brasileiro, n.d., available at <http://www.dominiopublico.gov.br/download/texto/bv000088.pdf>.)
- Mário de Andrade. *Macunaíma*. Transl. E. A. Goodland. New York: Random House, 1984 [1928]. (Portuguese edition: *Macunaíma*. Arca Literária, available at <http://bd.centro.iff.edu.br/bitstream/123456789/1031/1/Macuna%C3%ADma.pdf>.)
- Claude Lévi-Strauss. *Tristes Tropiques*. Transl. John and Doreen Weightman. New York: Penguin, 1992 [1955].
- Eduardo Neves. “Warfare in Pre-Colonial Amazonia: When Carneiro Meets Clastres,” in *Warfare in Cultural Context: Practice Theory and the Archaeology of Violence*, edited by Axel Nilsen and William Walker. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2009.
- Davi Kopenawa and Bruce Albert. *The Falling Sky: Words of a Yanomami Shaman*. Transl. Nicholas Elliott. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2013.
- Film: *Iracema, uma transa amazônica* by Jorge Bodansky and Orlando Senna (1976).
- Film: *Bye-bye Brazil* by Cacá Diegues (1980)
- Film: *Coffee with Cinnamon* by Glenda Nicácio and Ary Rosa (2018).

## Week 3 | Immigrants and the Making of a Modern Brazil

### July 1

#### Readings:

- Jeffrey Lesser. "A Better Brazil." *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos* 21:1 (Jan/Mar 2014). Available at: <https://bit.ly/2G0ug8P>
- João Biehl. "The Mucker War: A History of Violence and Silence." In *Postcolonial Disorders* edited by Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good, Sandra T. Hyde, Sarah Pinto, and Byron Good. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008, pp.279-308.

#### Student presentations of visual Paraty field trip chronicles I

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

### July 2

#### Readings:

- Stefan Zweig. [1941] *Brazil: A Land of the Future*. Transl. Lowell Bangerter. New York: The Viking Press, 1941, pp.1-13.
- Sérgio Buarque de Holanda. [1936] *Roots of Brazil*. Transl. Harvey Summ. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2012. Chapter 5.
- Oswald de Andrade. [1928] "Cannibalist Manifesto." Transl. Leslie Bary. *Latin American Literary Review* 19:38 (Jul.-Dec. 1991), 38-44.

#### Student presentations of visual Paraty field trip chronicles II

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

### July 3

Portuguese in Brazil

### July 4

#### Reading:

- Carolina Maria de Jesus. [1960] *Child of the Dark*. Transl. David St. Clair. New York: Dutton, 1962, pp.i-xv; 3-39.

Morning Field Trip to São Paulo (flight from Santos Dumont airport).

Afternoon: Visits to exhibitions at the Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP) and São Paulo's Instituto Moreira Salles; walk through Avenida Paulista.

Evening: Dinner hosted by Lilia M. Schwarcz (USP/Princeton).

Assignment: Audiovisual field trip journal.



## July 5

### Reading:

- Teresa Caldeira and James Holston. "State and Urban Space in Brazil: From Modernist Planning to Democratic Interventions," in *Global Assemblages*, edited by Aihwa Ong and Stephen Collier (Malden: Blackwell, 2005).

Morning: Visit to *Pinacoteca*; lunch at a Korean-Brazilian restaurant.

Afternoon: Guided field visits to local communities with José Ricardo Ayres (USP).

## July 6

### Readings:

- Guilherme Wisnik and Tuca Vieira. "Cidade inacabada." *Pianú* 112 (January, 2016).
- Marcelo Ferraz. "The Making of Sesc Pompeia." Available at: <http://linabobarditogether.com/2012/08/03/the-making-of-sesc-pompeia-by-marcelo-ferraz/>

### Optional reading:

- Charles Perrone. "Performing São Paulo: Vanguard Representations of a Brazilian Cosmopolis." *Latin American Music Review / Revista de Música Latinoamericana*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (Spring - Summer, 2002), pp. 60-78.

Morning: Visit to SESC Pompeia with Guilherme Wisnik (USP)

Lunch at *Restaurante do MAM-SP*

Afternoon: Ibirapuera and Museu AfroBrasil with Lilia M. Schwarcz (USP/Princeton)

## July 7

Morning: Bike tour through the city.

Afternoon: Flight back to Rio de Janeiro

### **Optional Classic Writings & Films:**

- Euclides da Cunha. [1902] *Backlands: The Canudos Campaign*. Transl. Elizabeth Lowe. New York: Penguin Books, 2010. (Portuguese edition: *Os Sertões*. Rio de Janeiro: Laemmert, 1902, available at <https://digital.bbm.usp.br/handle/bbm/5351>).
- Mário de Andrade. [1922] *Hallucinated City*. Transl. Jack E. Tomlins. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1968. (Portuguese edition: *Pauliceia desvairada*. São Paulo: Projeto Livro Livre, 2016, available online at <https://sanderlei.com.br/PDF/Mario-de-Andrade/Mario-de-Andrade-Pauliceia-Desvairada.pdf>).
- Mário de Andrade. [1947] *Contos Novos*. São Paulo: Projeto Livro Livre, 2016. Available online at <http://dynamicon.com.br/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Contos-novos-de-Mário-de-Andrade.pdf>.

- Brodwyn Fischer. *The Poverty of Rights: Citizenship and Inequality in Twentieth-Century Rio de Janeiro*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008.
- Bruno Carvalho. *The Porous City: A Cultural History of Rio de Janeiro*. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2013.
- Film: *São Paulo, Sinfonia da Metrópole* by Adalberto Kemeny and Rudolf Rex Lustig (1929).
- Film: *O homem que virou suco* by João Batista de Andrade (1980).
- Film: *The Cambridge Squatter* by Eliane Caffé (2016).

## Week 4 | Brazilian Culture & Persistent Inequalities

### July 8

Film screening: *Santiago* by João Moreira Salles (2007).

Guest speaker: João Moreira Salles

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

### July 9

Student presentations of audiovisual São Paulo journals

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

### July 10

Readings:

- Pedro Meira Monteiro. "Precariousness rocks: Brazilian counterculture, from Hélio Oiticica to Daniela Thomas." *Asymptote*. 2018.
- Caetano Veloso. [1998] *Tropical Truth*. Transl. Isabel de Sena. Cambridge: Da Capo Press, 2013, pp. 1-9, 320-332.

Afternoon: Samba lesson

### July 11

Readings:

- João Biehl. "A Life: Between Psychiatric Drugs and Social Abandonment." In *Subjectivity: Ethnographic Investigations* edited by Biehl, Good, Kleinman. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007, pp.397-421.
- João Biehl. "Will To Live: AIDS Drugs and Local Economies of Salvation" (a photographic essay with Torben Eskerod). *Public Culture*, 2006, 18(3):457-472.

Exercise: Catarina's Dictionary

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

### July 12

Reading:

- Clarice Lispector. [1977] *The Hour of the Star*. Transl. Benjamin Moser. New York: New Directions, 2011.

Video: Interview with Clarice Lispector: <https://bit.ly/2HEKIhm>

Assignment: Work with IMS's literary archive | Clarice Lispector

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

## July 14 (Sunday)

Afternoon: *Flamengo* soccer game at the *Maracanã* stadium.

### Optional Classic Writings & Films:

- João Guimarães Rosa. [1956] *Grande sertão: veredas*. São Paulo: Companhia das Letras, 2019. (Excerpt in English, “Bedeviled in the Badlands,” by Alison Entrekin, *Words Without Borders*, July 2016, available online at <https://www.wordswithoutborders.org/article/july-2016-brazil-beyond-rio-grande-sertao-veredas-joao-guimaraes-rosa>.)
- Clarice Lispector. [1964] *The Passion According to G.H.* Transl. Idra Novey. New York: New Directions, 2012. (Portuguese edition: *A paixão segundo G.H.* Rio de Janeiro: Rocco, 1988.)
- Mário Filho. [1947] *O negro no futebol brasileiro*. Rio de Janeiro: Mauad, 2003.
- José Miguel Wisnik. “The Riddle of Brazilian Soccer: Reflections on the Emancipatory Dimensions of Culture.” *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas*, Issue 73, Vol. 39, No. 2, 2006.
- Waly Salomão. *Algaravias: Echo Chamber*. Transl. Maryam Monalisa Gharavi. Brooklyn: Ugly Duckling Presse, 2016.
- Irene V. Small. *Hélio Oiticica: Folding the Frame*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2016.
- Paulo Leminski. “Four Poems.” Transl. Elisa Wouk Almino. *Asymptote*. 2016, available online at <https://www.asymptotejournal.com/poetry/paulo-leminski-four-poems/>.
- Film: *Black Orpheus* by Marcel Camus (1959).
- Film: *Entranced Earth* by Glauber Rocha (1967).
- Film: *Hour of the Star* by Suzana Amaral (1985).

## Week 5 | Insurgent Futures

### July 15

- João Biehl. "The Judicialization of Biopolitics." *American Ethnologist*, 2013, 40 (3): 419-436.
- Alex Edmonds. "'The Poor Have the Right to be Beautiful': Cosmetic Surgery in Neoliberal Brazil." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 2007, 13: 363-381.

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

### July 16

- Marielle Franco. "Letter to the 'Bastard Students' of Exclusive Rio University." RioOnWatch | Community Reporting on Rio. <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=43508>.
- Marielle Franco. After the Take-over: Mobilizing the Political Creativity of Brazil's Favelas. *New Left Review* 110, March/April 2018, pp.135-140.

Guest Speaker: Alessandra Orofino

Afternoon: Guided visit to the *Corcovado*.

### July 17

Assignment: Group field visits and interviews with various activist, political, and educational initiatives

Possible sites: Instituto Tecnologia e Sociedade (ITS-Rio), Universidade das Quebradas, Quilombo Sacopã/Nucec-Museu Nacional, Instituto Igarapé

### July 18

Workshopping and field visit presentations/discussions

Discussant: Miguel Lago

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

### July 19

Morning: Guided visit to the *Museu do Amanhã* and to *Porto Maravilha* (leave from hotel at 9am)

## Optional classic Writings & Films

- Afonso Henriques de Lima Barreto. *The Sad End of Policarpo Quaresma*. Transl. Mark Carlyon. London: Penguin Classics, 2014. (Portuguese edition: *O triste fim de Policarpo Quaresma*. São Paulo: Ática, n.d., available online at <http://www.dominiopublico.gov.br/download/texto/bv000159.pdf>.)

- Paulo Lins. [1997] *City of God*. Transl. Alison Entrekin. London: Black Cat, 2018. (Portuguese edition: *Cidade de Deus*. São Paulo: Companhia das Letras, 1997.)
- Film: *Madame Satã* by Karim Aïnouz (2002).
- Film: *Cidade de Deus* by Fernando Meirelles and Kátia Lund (2002)
- Film: *Tropa de Elite* by José Padilha (2007)

## Week 6 | Becoming Brazil

### July 22

Film screening: *Amazonia Inc.* by Estevão Ciavatta (2019)

Guest speaker: Estevão Ciavatta

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

### July 23

- Geovani Martins. *The Sun in the Head*. New York: Farrar Strauss & Giroux, 2019. Selections.

Guest speaker: Geovani Martins

After Lunch: Portuguese in Brazil

### July 24

Preparation at IMS of final Becoming Brazil portfolio

### July 25

Final presentation of students' portfolios

Discussants: João Moreira Salles & Flora Thomson-DeVeaux

### July 26

Farewell lunch

## Optional classic Writings & Films

- Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis. *The Collected Stories of Machado de Assis*. Transl. Margaret Jull Costa and Robin Patterson. New York: Norton, 2018. (In Portuguese, Machado's short stories available online at <http://www.machadodeassis.net>.)
- Carlos Drummond de Andrade. *Multitudinous Heart: Selected Poems, a Bilingual Edition*. Transl. Richard Zenith. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015.
- Elizabeth Bishop. *Poems*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015.
- Drauzio Varella. *Lockdown: Inside Brazil's most Dangerous Prison*. London: Simon & Schuster UK, 2012. (Portuguese edition, *Estação Carandiru*. São Paulo: Companhia das Letras, 1999.)
- Ferréz. *Capão Pecado*. São Paulo: Planeta, 2013.
- Heloisa Buarque de Hollanda et alii. *Explosão feminista: arte, cultura, política e universidade*. São Paulo: Companhia das Letras, 2018.
- Laura Carvalho. *Valsa brasileira: do boom ao caos econômico*. São Paulo: Todavia, 2018.
- Ronaldo de Almeida, Angela Alonso et alii. *Democracia em risco? 22 Ensaios sobre o Brasil hoje*. São Paulo: Companhia das Letras, 2019.

- Film: *Vidas Secas* by Nelson Pereira dos Santos (1963).
- Film: *Edifício Master* by Eduardo Coutinho (2002).
- Film: *Elena* by Petra Costa (2012).
- Film: *Kbela* by Yasmin Thayná (2015).
- Film: *The Second Mother* by Anna Muylaert (2015).
- Film: *Aquarius* by Kléber Mendonça Filho (2016).
- Film: *Campo Grande* by Sandra Kogut (2016).