

# Brazilian Student Ambassadors

## 2013-2014



**Aaron Litvin**

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PhD in Romance Languages and Literatures Candidate  
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GSAS)

Aaron Litvin is a doctoral student in the Portuguese section of the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures at Harvard. His areas of interest include international migration, transnationalism, documentary film, and Brazilian history and literature. After graduating from Harvard College with a degree in Latin American Studies, Litvin was a Fulbright Scholar in Brazil and obtained a Master of Sciences in Sociology at the University of São Paulo. For his thesis, entitled “The Social and Economic Adaptation of Brazilian Migrants in Japan,” he did 18 months of fieldwork in Japan as a Japanese Government Research Scholar. Litvin also co-produced and co-directed the documentary film *From Brazil to Japan*. From 2010 to 2013, Litvin was the Program Manager of the Brazil Studies Program at Harvard’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. He has been a DRCLAS Brazilian Student Ambassador since August 2013.



**Aduino Modesto Junior**

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2013-14 Lemann Fellow; MPP Candidate  
Harvard Kennedy School (HKS)

Aduino Modesto Junior was born in a small town in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. It was there that he first became passionate about fighting social inequality and working for more wealth distribution in Brazil. This interest led him to pursue Economics at the University of São Paulo, USP. At USP, he studied economic development using a wide range of theoretical matrices. He also served as a member of both the Board of Students’ organization of the Department of Economics and the Board of the Central Directory of Students at USP. After these years at USP, he determined that government is a crucial vector of the development process. He then moved to the federal capital of Brasilia in 2007 to join the team of advisors of former Senator Aloizio Mercadante. While in Brasilia, he also worked for the Civil Cabinet of the Presidency of the Republic and the Ministry of Finance. He looks forward to his time at the Kennedy School in order to improve his skills in formulating and implementing public policies.



**Ana Paula Hirano Litvin**

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PhD in Romance Languages and Literatures Candidate  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS)

Ana Paula Hirano Litvin is a doctoral student in Harvard’s Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, with a Secondary Field in Visual and Environmental Studies. Before coming to Harvard, she earned her undergraduate degree from the University of São Paulo in Economics, with additional coursework in visual anthropology, sociology, and cinema. She also received a Japanese Government Scholarship and studied at Sophia University in Tokyo for one year, during which she co-produced and co-directed the documentary film *From Brazil to Japan*. Her primary areas of interest are Brazilian literature and film.



**Andrei Cristian Roman**

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2013-14 Lemann Fellow; PhD in Government Candidate  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS)

Andrei Roman is a Ph.D. candidate in Government at Harvard University. His research interests are related to Latin American and European politics, in particular the study of regime transitions, party systems, electoral politics, and social policy. Andrei has conducted field research in Brazil, China, India, Peru, Poland, and Romania. In Brazil, he performed a case study of the community driven development framework of the World Bank's latest generation of rural poverty alleviation programs. He conducted research on development policy and financial inclusion at UNDP and the World Bank. His work experience also includes sovereign risk analysis for Goldman Sachs and management consulting with McKinsey. In 2010, he worked on campaign strategy for a Brazilian presidential candidate. At the moment, Andrei is busy writing his dissertation, which investigates the formation of political cleavages and party systems in Latin America and Eastern Europe after the end of the Cold War.



**Anita Amaral Gurgel**

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2013-14 Lemann Fellow; EdM Candidate (2014)  
Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE)

Anita Gurgel is a Master's candidate in International Education Policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE). She holds an M.A. in International Relations, with a concentration in International Development and Economics from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University. Anita's bachelor's degrees in Management and Journalism were obtained at the University of South Florida thanks to numerous scholarships. As a Corporate Social Responsibility Manager at Odebrecht, a Brazilian multinational engineering and construction firm, Anita has helped develop and implement social initiatives in some of the poorest and most remote regions of the world, including Djibouti, Guinea, Liberia and Mozambique. Much of Anita's work in education has focused on technical and vocational education and training. Before joining the private sector, she worked for two years at Brazil's SENAC, coordinating educational projects for grassroots organizations and social entrepreneurs. At HGSE, Anita plans to deepen her understanding of education reform, of the role of public-private partnerships in education and of the impact of non-cognitive skills in academic and professional success. She sees no better way of contributing to her country's development than to help it design and implement a more equitable and effective education system.



**Deborah Barbosa Alves**

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Class of 2015  
Harvard College (FAS)

Deborah Alves is a sophomore at Harvard College studying Computer Science and Mathematics. She lived in São Paulo all her life, until she came to Harvard. As a proud Brazilian, she is currently the co-president of the Harvard Undergraduate Brazilian Association and works as an intern at the Brazil Studies Program at DRCLAS. She also loves music (including, of course, Brazilian music) and sings with the Harvard Noteables. She also likes to pursue other interests through dance, visual arts and American Sign Language classes.



**Flavia Nasser Goulart**

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Master is Public Policy Candidate (2015); MBA Candidate (2015)  
Harvard Kennedy School (HKS); Harvard Business School (HBS)

For the past seven years I have been working in non-profit and public organizations with projects that improve public sector's practices in Brazil. During this period I led initiatives to improve governance and management in several State and local government offices, such as meritocracy programs, design of public policies and bureaucracy reduction. In 2009 I worked for the city of São José dos Campos (in the State of São Paulo) as one of the members studying and proposing a new urban plan for the city. In 2012 (from February to July) I was working with a small group towards the foundation of a new political party in Brazil, called "Partido NOVO". After the Joint Degree Program at Harvard, my goal is to return to Brazil and continue working for the development of public leadership and better public management practices in my country.



**Guilherme Finkelfarb Lichand**

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2013-14 Lemann Fellow; PhD in Political Economy & Government Candidate  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS)

Guilherme Lichand is an economist and a PhD student at Harvard in Political Economy and Government, a joint program between the Economics and Government Departments, and administrated by Harvard Kennedy School. His main research areas are Political Economy and Development. He received a BA in Economics from FGV-SP in 2007, and a MA in Economics from PUC-Rio in 2010. From 2010 to mid-2011, he worked as a Consultant at the World Bank country office in Brasilia. Either through the Bank or as an independent consultant, Guilherme has worked with the Governments of Alagoas, Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul and São Paulo. Guilherme is one of the founders of MGov-Brasil, a platform that provides tools for Government based upon data collection through mobile phones.



**José Roberto Strang Xavier Filho**

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LLM Candidate (2014)  
Harvard Law School (HLS)

José Roberto Xavier Filho is a lawyer dedicated to the public sector, notably since he was admitted as a Public Attorney for the Municipality of Sao Paulo, in June 2009. In this position, he has been in charge of counseling the city government in almost every major case in the field of Land Use and Environmental Law brought to local courts ever since. For instance, he dealt with the environmental regulation of Congonhas Airport; participated in settlements regarding the compliance of cell sites to municipal laws and took the legal defense of several public housing and redevelopment projects. Currently, he is an assistant to the Attorney General. From 2005 to 2009, he clerked at a Federal Court and at the Federal Prosecution Office in Sao Paulo. He earned his first law degree from the University of Sao Paulo in 2007. As a student, he collaborated with International Law Professor Paulo Casella for "International Terrorism and Civil Aviation", book published in 2006. Jose Roberto also earned a post-secondary degree in Public Law from the Paulista School of Magistrates, in 2011.



**Júlio Batatinha**

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Student Researcher

FMUSP - Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo



**Karina Baba**

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2013-14 Lemann Fellow; MPA/ID Candidate (2015)

Harvard Kennedy School (HKS)

Before coming to Harvard, Karina Baba worked at the World Bank, in the Finance and Private Sector Development Network in the Latin America and Caribbean division. There, she focused on development projects in Haiti. She first joined the Bank as a fellow in CGAP's Technology Program, when she coordinated surveys on mobile money and branchless banking for unbanked populations.

Karina developed her strong interest in financial inclusion after being a guest researcher at the Brazilian microfinance institution CEAPE, in the Northeast region of Brazil, and volunteering at the Center of Microfinance Studies of Fundacao Getulio Vargas. She has also worked as a Senior Associate of the Financial Institutions Group at Moody's in Sao Paulo, when she provided analytical support to senior analysts of more than 30 Brazilian banks during the financial crisis in 2008. Karina also worked for the "Developing MFI Social Performance Scorecard & Ratings" project, a collaborative commitment of Moody's and Kiva to the Clinton Global Initiative, contributing to the development of a global rating methodology for microfinance institutions.

Karina holds a Bachelor in Business Administration from FGV-EAESP. At the Kennedy School, Karina will complete the Master in Public Administration in International Development program. There, she hopes to deepen her understanding of policies that foster entrepreneurship and financial inclusion at the bottom of the pyramid.



**Renan Ferreirinha Carneiro**

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AB Candidate, Class of 2017

Harvard College

I was born in São Gonçalo, a city close to Rio de Janeiro, and studied for seven years at the Military School of Rio de Janeiro (CMRJ). There I was a member of the Cavalry, doing horseback riding frequently; vice-president of the Student's Union; director of the Union of Catholic Students; Valedictorian; Olympiad medalist, getting a Scholarship in a Junior Scientific Initiation Program; and Colonel Student, the top-ranked student in the senior year class. Outside of school, my cousin and I created SOMAR-English, an English course for kids and adults in an underprivileged community in Rio de Janeiro. On the junior year of high school, I decided to do the application process and after two years of hard working I was accepted in eight American universities, being seven Ivy League schools. Moreover, I have a column called "I wanna be a freshaman" on the website "Estudar Fora" (<http://www.estudarfora.org.br/>) and co-founded and command the social business "O Formigueiro" ([www.oformigueiro.org](http://www.oformigueiro.org)), the first crowdfunding platform in Brazil exclusively devoted to education projects. At college, I intend to study Economics and Political Science and then come back to Brazil to work with education and public policies.



**Ricardo Camatta Sodre**

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MBA Candidate (2014)

Harvard Business School (HBS)

Ricardo Camatta Sodre is from Vitória, Espírito Santo, and earned his BSc in Mechanical-Aeronautical Engineering from Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica (ITA), where he graduated with Honors in Physics. Ricardo started his career in the Equity Research team at Credit Suisse in São Paulo. In 2009, Ricardo joined Advent International, where he spent the past three and half years working on its private equity investment team. During his experience in Advent, Ricardo participated in the acquisition of Kroton - the largest educational group in Latin America; in the IPO and trade sale of CETIP - Latin America's largest fixed income and OTC derivatives depository; and in the acquisition of TCP - Brazil's third largest container terminal. Currently, Ricardo is pursuing his MBA at Harvard Business School. Ricardo believes that the continuous growth of the Brazilian economy will depend on an innovative and entrepreneurial attitude, therefore he plans to start his own company once he returns to Brazil.



**Rodolfo Bonatti**

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Student Researcher

FMUSP - Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo

Rodolfo Bonatti is a fourth-year medical student at FMUSP. Born and raised in São Paulo, he studied in Colégio Visconde de Porto Seguro high school, where he learned German, English and Spanish. In 2008, he was the holder of the highest grade point average in the school. Upon entering FMUSP, Rodolfo got involved with many extracurricular activities, including the FMUSP handball team, the Extensão Médica Acadêmica (EMA) project, the Video Surgery Club and the Rheumatic Fever Club. He has also participated in two ophthalmology research projects, an eye tumor biopsy project, a lung trauma project, and a study about the effects of pollution on tears. Two of these efforts resulted in published papers. Here in HSPH, he learns a lot in Professor Richard Verrier cardiology laboratory, and that this knowledge will further his academic growth and development during the remainder of his time in medical school. Besides studying, Rodolfo is also the goalkeeper of the Team Handball team from the Medical School.



**Stephanie Martins**

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ALB Candidate, Class of 2016

Harvard Extension School

Stephanie currently attends the Harvard Extension School and is working to attain a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Government and Legal Studies. She has been working in the financial and legal industry in Massachusetts for over 7 years. In 2012 she started her own business offering legal assistance for the Brazilian community with preparing immigration paperwork, interpreting in court and as a notary public recognized by the Brazilian General Consulate in Boston translating/certifying documents. As a passionate for business subjects, Stephanie was the Deputy Director of Marketing for the Harvard Extension Business Society in 2011-2012. She volunteers with children from various backgrounds twice a week and has also written several pieces for the Brazilian newspaper A Semana. In addition to the professional background, she enjoys traveling and photography and has traveled to seven different countries around the world. Stephanie is originally from Belo Horizonte but has been living in the U.S. permanently since 2004.



**Tábata Amaral de Pontes**

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AB Candidate, Class of 2016

Harvard College

Tabata Amaral de Pontes is from Sao Paulo, Brazil, and a student at the College, in the class of 2016. Her interests are Astrophysics, Education and Political Science. She is a member of the Harvard Bhangra Team (passionate about dance), of KSNAP (Kids with Special Needs Achievement Program, a program with PBHA), and the HUBA Publicity Coordinator. After graduating from Harvard, she dreams about going back to Brazil to work with public education, either as a researcher or as a policymaker. In line with this, she is one of the developers and coordinators of VOA, a project in which that prepares Brazilian students from public schools to scientific Olympiads. Right now, she is working together with HPSD (Harvard Project for Sustainable Development), in order to improve and expand VOA's impact.



**Thiago Barros Rodrigues Costa**

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PhD in Applied Mathematics Candidate

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS); Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS)

Thiago Barros Rodrigues Costa is a PhD student in Applied Math at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. His current research focus on developing mathematical tools to explore statistical models for networks, with application on social network analysis. Throughout his academic career, he worked in a broad range of fields, including abstract algebra, dynamical systems, combinatorics and statistics. He graduated in Computer Engineering from University of Campinas (São Paulo, Brazil), then received a Masters degree in Mathematics from the Institute of Pure and Applied Mathematics (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). During his undergrad and graduate studies in Brazil, he was an exchange student at École Polytechnique (Paris, France) and at the California Institute of Technology (Pasadena, CA). He was a member of Caltech's team for the Darpa Grand Challenge. He is an enthusiast of the Brazilian Math Olympiad, institution that he has been proudly collaborating since his high school years in Fortaleza, Ceará.



**Tomás Scanavino Lopes Teixeira e de Carvalhosa**

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2013-14 Lemann Fellow; MPP Candidate (2014)

Harvard Kennedy School (HKS)

Tomás Lopes Teixeira is a candidate to the Master in Public Policy at Harvard University, with concentration in Political and Economic Development. Graduated in Economics from University of São Paulo, Tomás worked at Merrill Lynch from 2007 until mid-2011, where he was responsible for structuring financing deals for the infrastructure sector in Brazil and risk management operations (hedging). After this period, Tomás worked in Geneva, Switzerland to the United Nations (UN). Acting as an economist at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), he led a research project on the importance of private sector initiatives in poverty reduction and local development in Africa and Latin America. Furthermore, he performed evaluation of public policies played in the infrastructure sector for the Federation of Industries of São Paulo - FIESP. Having served in positions linked to both the public and the private sectors, Tomás believes that both sectors should work seamlessly to promote Brazilian development and aims to bring contributions to the country in this area.



**Vanessa Moon**

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MUP Candidate; MLA Candidate (2016)

Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

Vanessa Moon is an architect from Sao Paulo pursuing concurrent master's degrees in landscape architecture and urban planning at the Graduate School of Design. After receiving her bachelor's degree in architecture from Cornell University in 2006, she joined a practice in Brooklyn, NY with a focus on industrialized building process and sustainable design. In 2010 she returned to Sao Paulo and has since collaborated in a variety of international projects, further adding to her diverse professional experience.