



# Brazilian Student Ambassadors

2014-2015



HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
David Rockefeller Center  
for Latin American Studies



## Adauto Modesto Junior

Master of Public Policy (2015); 2014-15 Lemann Fellow  
Harvard Kennedy School (HKS)

Adauto 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

PhD in Romance Languages and Literatures Candidate (2017)  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS), Harvard  
University (FAS)

Ana Paula is a doctoral student in Harvard's Department of Romance Languages and Literatures with a Secondary Field in Visual and Environmental Studies. As a doctoral student her studies have focused on literature and film theory and the intersection between history and fiction. Her research project sheds light on the fine line that separates "Official History" from other histories, stories, and narratives produced in Brazil during and after the military dictatorship. 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*.

**Andrei Cristian Roman**

Ph.D. Candidate in Government (2015); 2013-14 Lemann Fellow  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS), FAS - Harvard  
University

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.

**Carlos Henrique Rassi**

Certificate of Clinical Effectiveness Candidate  
Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH)

Carlos Henrique Rassi is pursuing a Certification in Clinical Effectiveness program at Harvard School of Public Health. Originally from Goiânia, Goiás, Carlos Henrique graduated in Medicine at Medical School of Federal University of Goiás in 2006, where he also specialized in Internal Medicine and Cardiology (2007 - 2011). He has training in Advanced Noninvasive Cardiovascular Imaging (Magnetic Resonance and Computed Tomography) at the Heart Institute (InCor) of University of São Paulo (USP) (2011 - 2013). He is now a Post-Doc Fellow (Research Fellow) at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School (2013 - Present).



**Deborah Barbosa Alves**  
Undergraduate Student, Class of 2015  
Harvard College (FAS)

Deborah Alves is a senior at Harvard College studying Computer Science and Mathematics. She had lived in São Paulo all her life, until she came to Harvard. As a proud Brazilian, she is currently president emeritus of the Harvard Undergraduate Brazilian Association and has worked 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.



**Filipe Oliveira Franca**  
MBA Candidate (2015)  
Harvard Business School (HBS)

Filipe Franca is currently pursuing his MBA at Harvard Business School. Previously, he worked for Advent International in Brazil for over three years, as a private equity professional. He had also been the Controller and M&A Manager of two Advent portfolio companies, in the infrastructure and business services sectors. Prior to that, he worked for AARM Corp in Boston, developing tools for institutional investors to select private equity funds. He holds a BA in Business Administration from the University of São Paulo. He is interested in private equity, entrepreneurship and start-ups. He loves traveling and practicing sports such as running and crossfit.

para a biografia.

**Flavia Nasser Goulart**

Master in Public Policy Candidate (2015); MBA Candidate (2015);  
2014-15 Lemann Fellow  
Harvard Kennedy School (HKS); Harvard Business School  
(HBS)

Flavia Nasser Goulart has been working for the past seven years in non-profit and public organizations with projects that improve public sector's practices in Brazil. During this period she led initiatives to improve governance and management in several local and state-level government offices, such as meritocracy programs, design of public policies and bureaucracy reduction. In 2009 she 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) she worked with a small group towards the foundation of a new political party in Brazil, called "Partido NOVO". After the Joint Degree Program at Harvard, her goal is to return to Brazil and continue working for the development of public leadership and better public management practices in the country.

**Guilherme Finkelfarb Lichand**

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

Guilherme Lichand is an economist and a PhD student in Political Economy and Government, a joint program between the Economics and Government Departments, but 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 research analyst 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, Bahia, 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.



**Gustavo Sampaio de Abreu Ribeiro**

LLM Candidate (2011)

Harvard Law School (HLS)

Gustavo Ribeiro is a doctoral candidate at Harvard Law School working on a variety of topics at the intersection of law and philosophy. Originally from Rio de Janeiro, Gustavo holds a Bachelor's degree (summa cum laude) in Law from the Fundação Getúlio Vargas Law School, Rio de Janeiro and a Master of Laws from Harvard Law School (all requirements fulfilled, degree waived).



**José Frederico Lyra Netto**

Master in Public Policy (2015); 2014-15 Lemann Fellow

Harvard Kennedy School (HKS)

José Frederico Lyra Netto has worked at the Education Department of Goias State (Brazil) as Chief of the Educational Reform Unit and as Superintendent of Special Programs from 2011 to 2013. He focused on the development of the state-wide educational reform plan and on the implementation of part of its innovative projects. Before working at the Education Department of the state of Goias, Jose developed other projects at the public sector. In 2007, he co-founded Vetor Brazil, a non-profit organization that built development plans for small Brazilian cities. In 2010, Jose worked as City Secretary of Economic Development and Social Assistance at Araguaçu (TO). Jose holds a B.S. in Mechatronic Engineering from Unicamp. During college, he was elected President of the Brazilian Confederation of Junior Enterprises and appointed as member of National Council of Youth. Jose's experiences in the public sector lead him to his current areas of interest: education and government planning and reform. At Harvard Kennedy School, he is a candidate for the Master in Public Policy program. After Harvard, he hopes to come back to Brazil and develop education and managerial reforms at the government level. On the long term, he hopes to become a politician at the state and national levels.

**Karina Baba**

Master in Public Administration in International Development (2015); 2014-15 Lemann Fellow  
Harvard Kennedy School (HKS)

Karina Baba has 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 São Paulo, when she provided analytical support to senior analysts of more than thirty 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. Karina is a candidate in the Master in Public Administration in International Development program in the Harvard Kennedy School where she hopes to deepen her understanding of policies that foster entrepreneurship and financial inclusion at the bottom of the pyramid.

**Larissa Cavalcante Queiroz de Lima**

Master in Public Policy Candidate (2016); MBA Candidate (2016);  
Lemann Fellow (2013-14)  
Harvard Business School (HBS); Harvard Kennedy School (HKS)

Larissa Cavalcante Queiroz de Lima is pursuing a combined Master in Public Policy/Master of Business Administration (MPP/MBA) degree at the Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School. Originally from Fortaleza, Ceará, Larissa graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Harvard College in 2009, where she was a Lemann Harvard College Scholarship recipient (2008-2009). Afterwards, she worked as a management consultant for Oliver Wyman Consulting in Boston, MA, working across different industries in the US and Brazil. She took a sabbatical to serve as a volunteer consultant for TechnoServe in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Throughout her time abroad, she maintained her connection to Fortaleza through her work for Primeira Chance, a nonprofit that provides scholarships and mentorship to low-income students.



**Luisa Pinheiro Penna de Mello Barreto**

Masters in Education in Human Development and Psychology

(2015)

Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE)

Luisa de Mello Barreto is pursuing a Masters in Education in Human Development and Psychology at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Luisa is originally from Brasilia but grew up moving around various countries. However, her entire family lives in Brazil. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a concentration in Counseling and Health from Emmanuel College in Boston in May 2014. Luisa worked as an intern at the inpatient psychiatric unit at Boston Children's Hospital (BCH). Her role was to lead therapeutic recreational activities with children aged 8-17 years old. She also worked as a volunteer at BCH at the CAT-CR and dialysis unit. She also experienced working at the neuromodulation at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital/Harvard Medical School.



**Renan Ferreira Carneiro**

Undergraduate Student, Class of 2017

Harvard College (FAS)

Renan Ferreira Carneiro 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 he was a member of the Cavalry, Vice President of the Student Union; director of the Union of Catholic Students, valedictorian, Olympiad medalist, awarded a Scholarship in a Junior Scientific Initiation Program, and Colonel Student (the top-ranked student in the senior year class.) Outside of school, he and his cousin created SOMAR-English, an English course for kids and adults in an underprivileged community in Rio de Janeiro. During his junior year of high school, he decided to apply to American universities and after two years of hard work he was accepted to eight American universities, seven being Ivy League schools. Moreover, he writes a column called "I wanna be a freshman" on the website "Estudar Fora" (<http://www.estudarfora.org.br/>) and co-founded and leads "O Formigueiro" ([www.oformigueiro.org](http://www.oformigueiro.org)), the first crowdfunding platform in Brazil exclusively devoted to education projects. At Harvard, he intends to study Economics and Political Science and then come back to Brazil to work with education and public policies.



**Stephanie Martins**  
Bachelor's Degree, Liberal Arts, Minor in Government (2015)  
Harvard Extension School

Stephanie is a Bachelor's Degree candidate with a concentration in Government at the Harvard Extension School. She has worked in the financial industry for 7 years and as a paralegal providing legal services to the Portuguese speaking community and translating in court. Recently, Stephanie became a Real Estate investor and licensed agent at the successful Real FIC Realty in Cambridge with multiple offices in different states.

At Harvard, Stephanie has served as Deputy Director of Marketing for the Harvard Extension Business Society, as the Director of Events and now Vice President of the Harvard Extension Entrepreneurship Club. Along with those activities Stephanie also volunteers for HESA and she is part of the organization of the Harvard Students Ready for Hillary movement on campus. In addition to that she is also assisting the Harvard Graduate Student Government with communications for the Harvard Leadership Conference.

Stephanie also has a passion for community involvement and outside of Harvard and of her professional career she has been volunteering for Maura Healey's campaign for Attorney General of Massachusetts where she has been working on minority outreach by identifying and reaching out to community leaders and introducing the candidate to various members of minority communities as well as writing for Brazilian newspapers about the campaign and translating for the candidate at radio shows. She has also been appointed a volunteer Regional Organizer for the Latinos Ready for Hillary movement in Massachusetts. On the weekends she volunteers with children and once a month with survivors of domestic violence through the Rahab program at the Universal Church.

Stephanie is originally from Belo Horizonte and has been living in the U.S. since 2004. She loves traveling and photography and has been to over 7 countries around the world.



**Tábata Amaral de Pontes**  
Undergraduate Student, Class of 2016  
Harvard College (FAS)

Tabata Amaral de Pontes is from São 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 is 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 that prepares Brazilian students from public schools for 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**

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 Ph.D. student in Applied Math at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. His current research focuses 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 the 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. Thiago is an enthusiastic supporter of the Brazilian Math Olympiad institution, which he has been proudly collaborating with since his high school years in Fortaleza, Ceará.

**Vanessa Moon**Masters in Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning (2016)  
Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

Vanessa Moon is an architect from São 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 São Paulo and has since collaborated in a variety of international projects, further adding to her diverse professional experience.