

**DRCLAS BRAZIL OFFICE**

*Annual Report*

**2016  
2017**



**HARVARD UNIVERSITY**  
DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER  
FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

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## **INTRODUCTION**

In 2017, members of the Harvard community around the world mourned the passing of David Rockefeller and celebrated the fascinating legacy that he left behind. His generosity and vision have undoubtedly changed the University, its professors, and its students for many years to come. When examining Mr. Rockefeller's life, it is clear that his international experiences as an undergraduate at Harvard were fundamental in guiding his career and the impact he made on the world.

It is in this spirit that we operate our collaborative projects and initiatives. The work of the DRCLAS Brazil Office is oriented towards facilitating ties between Harvard and Brazilian institutions. Consequently, this edition of our Activities Report will focus on the collaborative nature of our work and our emphasis

on transcending boundaries – both physical and imagined – to facilitate the kind of knowledge exchange that can have global implications.

This Activities Report is not meant to be a full representation of our projects, but rather a glimpse into our work. As we look to the future, we hope to expand our results by engaging with a greater variety of Harvard faculty and students with partners in Brazil.

**Finally, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for the generous support we receive from our donors, advisors, and partners. We could not do this work without them and we look forward to further building on these relationships in the years to come.**

## **BRAZIL AT HARVARD**

The work of the **Brazil Studies Program** in Cambridge and the **Brazil Office in São Paulo** plays a role in driving the number of Brazilians at Harvard by identifying opportunities for collaboration, disseminating information, and building connections. The Brazilian community at Harvard is growing and becoming more impressive every year. During the 2016-2017 academic year, there were 139 Brazilians at Harvard: 97 in degree programs and 42 in non-degree programs. Harvard was home a dozen faculty members from Brazil, and the number of faculty doing research in Brazil has been steadily increasing year over year.

The presence of Brazilians at Harvard greatly enriched the university's programming related to Brazil. For example, the Brazil Conference – organized by Brazilian students from Harvard and MIT – attracted hundreds of attendees in 2017, and featured political leaders, researchers, entrepreneurs, social activists, and artists from Brazil as speakers.

The **Brazil Studies Program Seminar Series 2016-2017**, hosted seminars on various topics, such as Brazilian art history, poetry, political parties, and economic performance; the challenges of education, sustainability, food security, the Zika and HIV viruses, and internet governance; and national history and identity as seen through the prisms of race, gender, sexuality, urban growth, and indigenous civilizations. See the full list of seminars [here](#) and for more details on the Brazil Studies Program, see the [2017 – 2022 Strategic Plan](#).

The Sixth Annual Lemann Dialogue, held in Cambridge on November 17-18, 2016, on the theme “Brazil beyond the Crisis”, organized panels around political institutions and institutional reform, reigniting economic growth, the challenges of education reform, urban governance and public security, and achieving sustainable development.

The Executive Leadership Program on Early Childhood Development (ELP) 2017, in its 6th edition, brought 50 leaders and policy makers from Brazil to Harvard, for 5 days of lectures, discussions, site visits, and group work focused on Early Childhood Development.

*“The ELP changed my view on early childhood development, and from now on I will place a greater emphasis on early childhood when working on public policies”*

**-ELP 2017 Participant**

**139**  
**Brazilians at  
Harvard during  
the 2016-2017  
academic year**



**Brazil Conference organizers**

## FIELD PROGRAMS IN BRAZIL

One of the central aspects of the DRCLAS Brazil Office's work is to help create and support the opportunities for Harvard faculty and students to engage with Brazil on a deep level. One of the ways we accomplish this task is through a variety of field programs that allow members of the Harvard community to gain on-the-ground experience in Brazil. During the 2016-2017 academic year, our field programs included:

- **Public Health Field Course** – In January 2017, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (HSPH), the University of São Paulo Medical School (FMUSP), and Harvard's DRCLAS offered the 9th edition of the Harvard-Brazil Collaborative Public Health Field Course. This 3-week course, which attracted the participation of 12 HSPH students and 18 Brazilian students, covered 5 specific topics: HIV/AIDS, Leishmaniasis, Tuberculosis, Dengue and Urban Violence.
- **São Paulo Studio Course** – This advanced studio course, offered by the Harvard Graduate School of Design, examined how the rescaling of inner city rail infrastructure can serve as a driver for new sites of affordable housing in São Paulo. As part of the course, a group of 12 students spent one week in São Paulo to analyze the larger history of public works and urban development in the city. Additionally, 9 Loeb Fellows accompanied the GSD studio group on this trip to Sao Paulo and built their own agenda of meetings with local professionals and leaders.
- **Mentoring and Language Acquisition in Brazil (MLAB)** – The MLAB program aims to reduce barriers for talented Brazilian youth with overwhelming potential and a strong desire to study in the world's best universities. Following a semester of long-distance mentoring, 12 Harvard College students met their 12 Brazilian high school mentees and engaged in a structured program of educational and cultural exchange in São Paulo for two weeks in January.
- **Portuguese Language and Culture: Study Abroad in Recife** – This eight-week intensive program, offered by the Harvard Summer School and led by Professor Viviane Gontijo, brought a group of 8 Harvard students to Recife to enhance their Portuguese language skills and deepen their understanding of Brazil's cultural diversity.
- **Summer Internships** – A total of 6 undergraduate students spent two months interning in São Paulo and Belo Horizonte through the Brazil Summer Internship Program, the Harvard Global Health Institute and the Government Department Chair's Traveling Fund.

*"I fundamentally believe that this program shaped me into a stronger leader, and I am looking forward to utilizing the lessons gained in this program in my activities and future programs at Harvard."*

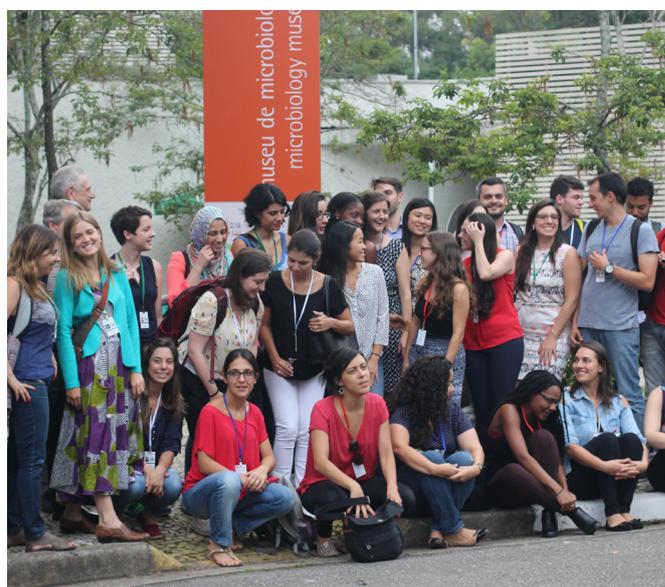
- MLAB 2016-2017 Participant

*"Thank you for putting together such an excellent course! It was great to have the opportunity to observe in the field some of the interventions we have been studying in the classroom."*

- Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health student



MLAB participants at "Beco do Batman"



Public Health Field Course participants

## RESEARCH, PROJECTS AND EVENTS

The Brazil Office supports Harvard faculty and students in their research, teaching and learning and facilitates ties between the University and Brazilian institutions. The joint work of the Brazil Office in São Paulo and the [Brazil Studies Program in Cambridge](#) results in a rich set of research, workshops, lectures and other events in Brazil. The following is a list of some of the projects and events we have collaborated on:

### LEMANN BRAZIL RESEARCH FUND – 2017 AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Emmerich Davies, Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Education

*Teacher Incentives and Socialization*

Gigi Luk, Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Education

*Early Literacy Prediction and Reading Intervention for Preschoolers from Low-Income Families in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil*

Dana McCoy, Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Education

*Assessing the Impact of Socio-Emotional Learning Programming in Brazil: A Follow-up Study*

Nicholas Menzies, Assistant Professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

*Identifying Approaches to Reduce Disparities in TB Diagnosis and Care in Brazil*

Katherine Merseth, Senior Lecturer at the Graduate School of Education

*Teaching Teachers to Teach: Investigating Pedagogies and Practices to Improve Teacher Education in Brazil*

Gary Urton, Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

*The Black Earth and Radial Villages of Acre, Brazil: Explorations of a Continent-Wide Landscape Paradigm*

### SUMMER RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

12 graduate students were awarded DRCLAS Summer Research Grants to conduct research in Brazil during the summer of 2017. Their projects focused on a wide range of topics, including organized crime, transnational publishing, and soy commodities, among many others.

### HARVARD-BRAZIL CITIES RESEARCH FUND

5 faculty and 5 graduate students were awarded a total of US\$75,000 to conduct research in Brazil over a one-year period. Research topics included education, collective housing, impacts of public housing on urban crime, and air quality in the Amazon.

### POST-GRADUATION FELLOWSHIP

The Post-Graduation Fellowship provides a one-year purposeful travel and professional exploration experience through a position with the DRCLAS Brazil Office. The 2016-2017 Fellow, Jasmine Fernandez, utilized the Fellowship to gain experience that would inform her career plans to become a doctor in service of underserved communities. Having previously participated in numerous programs and internships organized by DRCLAS, Jasmine seamlessly transitioned from student beneficiary to creator of opportunities for Harvard affiliates in Brazil.

### EVENTS

- *Addressing Adversity in Early Childhood*, Open Lecture at the University of São Paulo by Theresa Betancourt, Adjunct Professor of Global Health at HSPH
- *Workshop on Pre-Texts* at Instituto Cultural e Educacional Paideia, with Professors Doris Summer and Viviane Gontijo
- *Workshop on Case Writing for Teacher Education* at Instituto Singularidades, with Professor Katherine Merseth, Senior Lecturer on Education at HGSE

***"Thank you again for being such terrific hosts! I learned a lot about Brazil and the great home visiting and early childhood development programs underway."***

***– Theresa Betancourt, Adjunct Professor of Global Health at HSPH***



Katherine Merseth at Singularidades Workshop

***"The visit far exceeded my expectations and I am totally motivated for the work. Everything was perfect and the success is due in great part to [the Brazil Office] ... I honestly think we can launch something to make a real difference."***

***– Katherine Merseth, Senior Lecturer on Education at HGSE***

## **PEOPLE AND PARTNERS**

The work of the DRCLAS Brazil Office is made possible by the guidance, dedication and generosity of our advisory group and partners in both Brazil and the United States. We would like to thank our funders, partners, advisors, and supporters for their integral role in the success of the Brazil Office. Whether you are a funder, a professor, or a partner, each of you are contributing to our work, and we could not have achieved so much without you.

### **BRAZIL OFFICE ADVISORY GROUP**

The BOAG is vital to our work. We would like to show our appreciation to these dedicated individuals for all the time and effort they devote in support of the DRCLAS Brazil Office.

- Ana Paula Martinez
- Claudio Luiz da Silva Haddad
- Elisa Maria da Conceição Pereira Reis
- Flavia Buarque de Almeida
- Gilberto Dimenstein
- Guilherme Leal
- João Fernando Gomes de Oliveira
- João José Reis
- Jorge Paulo Lemann
- José Olympio da Veiga Pereira
- Martín E. Escobari
- Paula Louzano
- Philip Yang
- Wolff Klabin

### **BRAZIL STUDIES PROGRAM IN CAMBRIDGE**

The Brazil Office works jointly with the Brazil Studies Program in Cambridge to advance knowledge by supporting research in and on Brazil. We thank the Co-Chairs of the Brazil Studies Program, Professor Scott Mainwaring and Professor Frances Hagopian, and the [Brazil Studies Program](#) Faculty Advisory Committee for their contribution.

### **BRAZIL OFFICE TEAM**

- Helena Monteiro, Executive Director
- Breno Carvalho dos Santos, Administrative Coordinator

- Gerson da Rocha Gouveia Neto, Communications Assistant
- Gilmar Cintra da Silva, IT
- Jasmine Fernandez, Post-Graduation Fellow
- Larissa do Carmo Leal, Programs Intern
- Leonardo Daneu Lopes, IT Intern
- Manoel Carlos Pereira Neto, Associate Director
- Manuela Parisi Braga, Student Program Coordinator
- Marina de Moura, Administrative Coordinator
- Níkolás Bánkuti Romano Povreslo, Communications Intern
- Tiago Genoveze, Program Coordinator
- Timothy Patrick Linden, Program Manager

We would like to thank **Ashley Collins**, 2018 Post-Graduation Fellow for her work in writing this report.

### **PARTNERS**

We thank Harvard faculties, Schools, and Centers, including DRCLAS, for their generous contribution and support to the Brazil Office. In addition, we also would like to acknowledge the support and collaboration of our local partners in Brazil.

- Aba Global Education
- Colégio Anchieta
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- Colégio Bandeirantes
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- Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo
- Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo
- Fundação Estudar
- Fundação Faculdade de Medicina
- Fundação Lemann
- Fundação Maria Cecília Souto Vidigal
- Insper
- Instituto de Medicina Tropical de São Paulo
- iSMART