

DUKE GLOBAL BRAZIL CONFERENCE “CONVERSATIONS” 2015¹

“Conversation”: A different model of knowledge production and sharing

- Each conversation/session will have **interdisciplinary reach** and be organized around **specific questions/queries** developed in consultation with faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and community members.
- The organizing committee chose this format in order to lay the basis for launching networks and working groups in the future here at Duke, at neighboring universities, and in the Triangle more broadly.
- There will be no **formal “paper giving”** in order to enhance the conversational flow. We believe this unfamiliar format will contribute to a more fluid and open exchange of information and viewpoints.
- Each **conversation starter** will have with **no more than 5 minutes** to offer opening thoughts.
- Each conversation will have an **active chair** whose role is to **control the time** and **create space** for participation from and involvement by the audience.
- The success of each “conversation” depends on the **audience** so **please join in** with your thoughts, questions, and opinions.

1. *First Conversation: Expressive Cultures/Global Flows: Histories & Bodies in Flux*

Facilitator: Katya Wesolowski (Duke)

Participants: Janani Arangan (Duke), Gary Carbell (Duke), Ana Paula Höfling (UNC-G), J. Lorand Matory (Duke), Ava LaVonne Vinesett (Duke), and Lamonte Aidoo (Duke)

Abstract: Conceptualizations of the body - in appearance, productivity, and performativity - have long been central to the self-definition and stratification of Brazil. In the colonial period, native bodies symbolized the fecund paradisaical, wild and dangerous; bodies of enslaved Africans appeared productive and yet threatening. Discourses of miscegenation and hybridity have reigned since 19th century “scientific” discourses of “whitening” to 20th century discourses of an exceptional Brazilian nationalism. This conversation approaches these bodies-in-flux from various disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives, in order to better comprehend their national, regional, and global presence.

Questions:

1. How does Brazil help us think about the way bodies are shaped by biology, history and culture? How do subjects experience these constraints yet move beyond them?
2. How have transnational flows shaped bodily practices in Brazil? How do these practices create subjectivities, desires, fantasies, socialities, and life projects for Brazilians?
3. How do bodies – the material, the spiritual, the performative or otherwise conceptualized – figure into your research in Brazil?

¹ The “Global Brazil Conference” of 26-28 March 2015 at Duke University is co-sponsored by the Duke Brazil Initiative and the Global Brazil Humanities Lab of the Franklin Humanities Institute with additional support from the Brazilian Embassy.

4. Are there certain metaphors or ways of conceptualizing the body – eg. bounded, unbounded, open, closed, bare, masked, porous, disruptive, transgressive, volatile - that you have found particularly helpful for thinking about embodied subjectivity in Brazil?
5. How do certain types of body politics produce certain bodies in Brazil? And how do these body politics manifest in different cultural domains – aesthetic, expressive, religious, medical, scientific?
6. How do we contend with the continued acts of violence, violation and governance against certain categories of bodies in Brazil despite it becoming an increasing globally powerful, democratic nation?

Order of Speakers:

Lamonte Aidoo (Duke)
 Janani Arangan (Duke),
 Gary Carbell (Duke),
 Ava LaVonne Vinesett (Duke)
 Ana Paula Höfling (UNC-G)
 J. Lorand Matory (Duke)

II. ***Second Conversation: Open Innovation, Information, and Technology***

Facilitator: Jason Cross (Duke)

Participants: Mariana Abdalla (UNC), Jonathan Igne-Bianchi (Duke), Andrew Rens (Duke), Giulia Riccò (Duke), Ana Santos Rutschman (Duke)

Brazil has been at the vanguard of new approaches to promoting technology development in ways that are more accessible and open to collaboration than dominant approaches. Brazilian pharmaceutical, internet, information, agricultural, culture industries, and software policies are touted as models by technology stakeholders worldwide and governments in the global South. This conversation explores the impact of Brazilian innovation, information and technology policy in Brazil and around the world.

Questions:

1. How are Brazilian policies, entrepreneurs and activists advancing more open approaches to innovation and information access?
2. What does "open" mean in different sectors? How are open processes socially constructed? What are the limits of open innovation and information?
3. What is the global impact and significance of Brazilian initiatives for open innovation and information?
4. What are concrete examples and stories that illustrate and bring to life the points you might make on these questions in regard to our various areas of work: security archives, music, educational resources, medicines, agriculture, internet and communications?

Order of speakers:

Jason Cross (Brazil Global Policy Impact: (1) WTO, WHO, WIPO Diplomatic Leadership; (2) Internet Law as Inspiration & Model)
 Jonathan Igne-Bianchi (Agricultural Tech: Open Seed Network v. GMOs)

Mariana Abdalla (Open Source Strategies in Pharmaceutical Research: Drugs for Neglected Disease Initiative)
Ana Santos Rutschman (Free Culture: (1) Technobraga; (2) Rise of Creative Commons)
Giulia Ricco (The Limits of Open Information Law in the Truth Commission Process)
Andrew Rens (Brazilian Tech Policy Impacts in Southern Africa and South Asia)

III. ***Third Conversation: The Amazons: Science, Conversation, Communities***

Facilitators: Brenda Baletti (Duke), Ivan Vargas (Duke), and Diego Herrera (Duke)

Participants: Paul Baker (Duke), Alex Pfaff (Duke), Stuart L. Pimm (Duke), Luiz Pinto (Duke), Edgardo Latrubesse (University of Texas at Austin)

In the 1960s, Amazonia emerged into the national imaginary as the *Tabula Rasa* on which to inscribe the nation's future. As the military transformed the region through "colonization" programs, the ideas of the empty Amazon came up against the reality of land inhabited by multiple peoples with historic claims over their lands - lands that were ravaged by deforestation and massive environmental devastation. International environmentalists, multi-lateral agencies, governments and Amazonian inhabitants themselves began to represent this region as an environmental resource needing conservation. In the 21st century, as Latin America's progressive governments have re-focused their economic development programs on mining, agro-industry, and hydroelectricity, the popular imaginary of the region as one of future economic promise is again gaining prominence. This panel will explore the tensions, issues, and problems arising from the intersection of these different desires for the future of Amazonia.

Questions:

1. Some argue that conservation and development projects in the Amazon often work hand in hand in tension with a third element - the people and movements that live there. What are the tensions, issues or problems regarding development and conservation in the Amazon?
2. Is it possible to achieve a balance between the aims of development (i.e. dams, infrastructure, agro-business) and the objectives of conservation in the Brazilian Amazon?
3. What is the overall impact of development and conservation efforts on local livelihoods in the Amazon? To what extent do local communities participate in decision-making processes around conservation initiatives in the region?
4. Can you envision a scenario of "sustainable development" in the Amazon, and how can the knowledge from different disciplines be integrated to improve our understanding of the ongoing processes and the future of the region?

Order of Speakers

Stuart Pimm, Ph.D, Doris Duke Professor of Conservation Ecology
Paul Baker, Ph.D, Professor of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Duke University
Alex Pfaff, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Public Policy, Environmental Economics, Duke University
Luiz Pinto, Master in International Development Policy, Duke University
Edgardo Latrubesse Ph.D, Geography and Environment, University of Texas at Austin

Brenda Baletti Ph.D, Lecturing Fellow, Duke University-Thompson Writing Program,
Duke University

IV. ***House of Cards: Building, Operating, and Criticizing the Brazilian State***

Facilitators: John D. French (Duke) and Andrew Guinn (Duke, UNC-CH)

*Participants: Casey Stegman (UNC-CH), Rosalía Romero (Duke), Julio Pinto (Duke),
Camila Hermida (Federal University of Uberlândia), Kaley Deal (Duke), Rob Anderson
(Winston-Salem State University)*

Amid the ever-widening Petrolão corruption scandal and ongoing calls for the impeachment of President Rousseff, we are reminded that following developments in Brazilian politics and policy-making can feel like watching a season of House of Cards. In spite of a smattering of important and successful policy reforms, the Brazilian state remains in many ways corrupt, opaque and cynical, and ongoing efforts to meaningfully transform the political system seem like attempts at “reforming the unreformable.” Keeping these current affairs in mind, this conversation will assess how policy formation and political contestation work (and don’t work) in Brazil through an exploration of historical and contemporary debates about political theory and the role of the state in Brazil.

Questions:

1. How do trajectories of political theory and political contestation in Brazil relate to those followed by other countries in the Americas?
2. Why has political reform been so difficult to enact, and what are the prospects for reform in the future?
3. How do new sources of political influence, from private interests to social movements, shape the formation and implementation of economic and social policies in contemporary Brazil?

Order of Speakers

Casey Stegman (PhD Student, UNC-CH Dept. of Political Science)

Rosalía Romero (PhD Student, Duke Dept. of Art History)

Julio Pinto (Professor, Legislative Affairs Program, National Congress of Brazil
Visiting Research Scholar, Duke University)

John French (Professor Duke Dept. of History, Director, Duke Brazil Initiative)

Camila Hermida (PhD Student Federal University of Uberlândia Dept. of Economics;
Visiting Scholar, Duke Center on Globalization, Governance &
Competitiveness)

Andrew Guinn (PhD Student, UNC-CH Dept. of City & Regional Planning Research
Associate, Duke Center on Globalization, Governance & Competitiveness)

Kaley Deal (Duke 2014; Global Brazil staff; DBI grant recipient; Research Assistant,
One Person One Vote)

Rob Anderson (Associate Professor of Portuguese, Winston Salem-State University)