

2023 / 2024

TROPICAL

THAMES

COMMISSION

**COMMUNITY
BUILDING**

**EMBRACING OUR
BRAZILIAN HERITAGE**

**ACADEMIC
SUPPORT AND
NETWORKING**

**SYMPOSIUMS LINKING
STUDENTS WITH
BRAZILIAN
PROFESSIONALS**

**CULTURAL
CELEBRATIONS**

**SOCIAL EVENTS TO
NETWORK AND
ENGAGE**



Editorial Board

Editor-in-chief and writer: Luena Abigail Pimenta Ricardo

Editor and writer: Laísa Barroso Lima

Editor and writer: Cecília Zahran

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Welcome to the first magazine edition of the Oxford University Brazilian Society!

Over the past academic year, we engaged in a journey to create opportunities for the Brazilian academic community at the University of Oxford. The Tropical Thames Commission was born out of the desire of eight students interested in engaging through our similarities, creating spaces for academic discussions, and strengthening cultural connections with social events.

One year later, we are wrapping up an amazing year: 20 events throughout the three terms, with hundreds of participants, an upscale engagement in person and on social media, and, more than everything, ensuring the maintenance of a platform where every Brazilian and friend of Brazil feel welcome and part of the team.

In this magazine, you will see a brief recollection of our past year, the events we participated in and all the fun and knowledge-sharing we had together.

We hope that the energy surrounding the OUBS will be maintained and continue to grow over the next academic year. We are grateful for being part of this platform and are sure that will continue transforming positively the experiences of Brazilians in Oxford!

Luena Ricardo
President 2023/24

Láisa Lima
Vice-President 2023/24

The Oxford University Brazilian Society (OUBS): bridging Brazil and Oxford

The Oxford University Brazilian Society (OUBS) serves as a vibrant community and resource for Brazilian students at the University of Oxford. With nearly 24,000 students at the university, the Brazilian cohort, though small in number – 82 in 2022 – benefits from the support and activities organised by OUBS.

We are dedicated to fostering a welcoming environment for Brazilian students, members of staff and friends of Brazil, facilitating their integration into the broader university community and enriching their academic and social experiences. Through a variety of events and initiatives, we promote cultural exchange, academic collaboration, and a sense of belonging.





GET TO KNOW THE TEAM

PRESIDENT 2023/24

LUENA ABIGAIL PIMENTA RICARDO



I completed an MPhil in Global and Area Studies at the University of Oxford, where my research focused on community-led initiatives for public goods provision in Brazilian favelas in Belo Horizonte and South African townships in Cape Town. I also hold a Master's degree in Cultural Diplomacy and a Bachelor's degree in Law. While a student at the University, I served as the Co-Chief Editor of the Graduate Inequality Review Journal (2023/24). Currently, my work primarily lies at the intersection of community engagement and migration. I still live in Oxford and have joined the team at MultakaOxford at the History of Science Museum as the Community Outreach and Learning Facilitator.

VICE-PRESIDENT 2023/24

LAÍSA BARROSO LIMA



I hold a Master of Public Policy from the Blavatnik School of Government (2022-2023), where I was a Lemann Scholar. As a jurist with a strong foundation in public policy, I have worked across the Brazilian private, public, and third sectors. Driven by a passion for connecting people and ideas, I actively engage in networks such as Vetor Brasil (BR), Reach Alliance(CA) and the Early Childhood Community of Practice - Inovagov Network (BR). Currently based in Brazil, I work as a consultant on projects that focus on social policies and human rights. I am dedicated to applying the knowledge and skills I acquired at Oxford to create positive change in the lives of Brazilians.

LAURA WAISBICH
SENIOR MEMBER



Dr. Laura Trajber Waisbich is the Director of the Brazilian Studies Programme at the Latin American Centre, University of Oxford. She joined Oxford in 2022 as a Social Sciences Division Postdoctoral Fellow. Her research explores the geopolitical dynamics of rising powers like China, India, and Brazil, particularly in South-South cooperation and civil society engagement. With over a decade of experience in civil society and think tanks in Brazil and the UK, Laura's work spans foreign policy, international development, and the human rights of emerging powers.

JOANA PERRONE
SECRETARY



DPhil in Area Studies (Latin America) (2018-2024) working on femicide in Brazil. I pursued my DPhil with an AHRC scholarship. I have worked as a tutor in International Relations and in welfare teams at several colleges. I recently submitted my thesis and now work at Oxford Global, a social enterprise focused on education. OUBS has been fantastic for me to connect with and support all the amazing Brazilians at Oxford!

CECILIA ZAHNAN
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER



Master of Public Policy in the Blavatnik School of Government (2022-2023), I've pursued my master's with a Chevening Scholarship and the support of Educa Foundation. I've mainly worked in the third sector with public policy and today occupy the position of Advocacy Manager at Lemann Foundation. Though I am back in Brazil, I continue to foster a connection to Oxford via OUBS and the amazing people I met during my Masters.

ROGER NASCIMENTO
TREASURER



Undergraduate student in Theology. Alongside my studies as a mature student, I volunteer with a community-based chaplaincy service and work part-time at the university with postgraduate students. I am grateful for the generosity, friendship, and inspiration I have found within the Oxford University Brazilian Society and look forward to remaining involved for a while longer.

ISABELA GOMES
ALUMNI OFFICER



I am an MSc graduate with merit in Latin American Studies from the University of Oxford (2022-2023), where I was awarded the Clarendon Scholarship. My research explored how structural barriers and institutional racism impact Latin American women survivors of gender-based abuse in the UK. As an alumni officer for the Oxford Brazilian Society, I organised an International Women's Day takeover in March, promoting the talents, skills, and achievements of Brazilian students and alumni at Oxford University, fostering connections, and aiming to inspire future generations.

ADRIANO BELISARIO
IT OFFICER



Adriano Belisario combines expertise in communication, open-source technologies and data to address important social concerns. He currently collaborates with the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement and the Netlab laboratory from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Belisario holds an MSc in Social Data Science from the Oxford Internet Institute (University of Oxford).



HAPPENED IN OXFORD



Mato Grosso high school students in Oxford



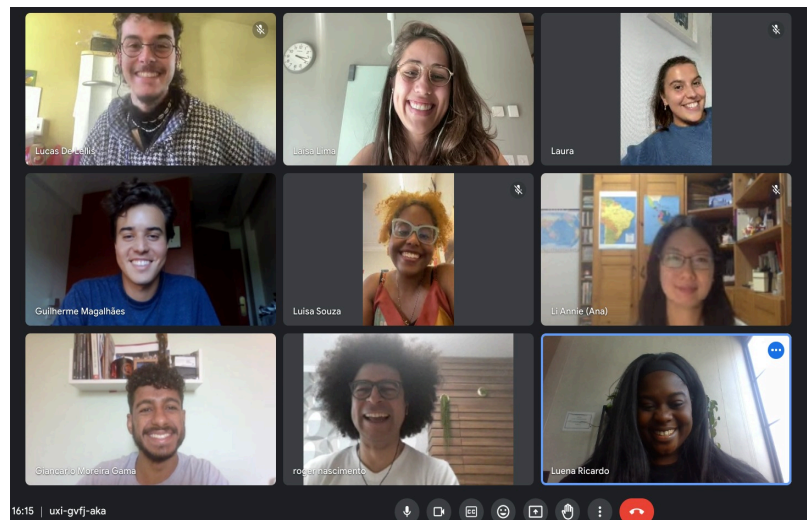
Before the beginning of the 2023-2024 year, on the 8th of September, the Tropical Thames OUBS committee held its first activity. That day, we took 14 high school students from the Mato Grosso State School System on a tour of the University of Oxford. The group is part of a state public policy, which has selected 100 students with good results in an English course to go further in their English studies through a two-week

course in different cities in the UK.

We visited the Latin America Centre, the government school, St Antony's College and Linacre College with this group. We were delighted to have the opportunity to talk to the students about our journeys and to see their determination to continue to succeed in their studies!

Welcome Webinar

The initial reception you receive upon arriving in a new place can significantly shape your entire experience there. With this in mind, the Tropical Thames committee organised a welcome webinar for all Brazilians beginning their studies at Oxford in 2023. Our goal was to foster connections from the start, strengthening the local Brazilian community and assuring them that the Brazilian Society would support them throughout their journey at the University.



It happened on September 2023 and, after brief introductions from all participants, we discussed various aspects of life in the UK and the city of Oxford. Topics included the arrival process, transportation, finances, and how the NHS functions. Regarding the University, we covered essential information about the libraries, colleges, and clubs and societies. All students received links to the "Brazilians in Oxford" WhatsApp group and the OUBS newsletter, so they could feel included in the Brazilian community from the beginning.

Finally, students also received a **Welcome Guide to the University of Oxford**, put together by the OUBS Committee with key information about arriving at the University.

> [OUBS Welcome Guide 2023/2024](#)



Participation in the Fresher's Week



At the beginning of every academic year the University of Oxford organises a freshers fair to introduce new students to clubs, societies and organisations on campus. This year the society the OUBS returned with its stand, showcasing our planned activities for the Michaelmas Term and advertising our social networks. We also distributed traditional Brazilian treats such as paçoca, Bis, and yoghurt candy. During the event, we had the opportunity to meet new Brazilian students who did not know the OUBS, and students from other nationalities interested in learning more about Brazil. We also interact with other clubs and societies, increasing the reach of OUBS activities and talking about partnership possibilities.

Welcome Event

With the start of the Michaelmas Term (from September to November), the OUBS partnered with [Brasil on Campus](#), a program by the Lemann Foundation, and the college Regents Park, to host a welcome cocktail for all Brazilian students at Oxford on 12 October 2024. This event offered a valuable opportunity for students to meet the OUBS committee in person, get to know the Brasil on



Campus opportunity and share experiences with peers from diverse courses and backgrounds. The event was attended by 44 people, fostering a strong sense of community among Brazilians and mobilising everyone to attend the other events we were planning to organise during the Michaelmas Term.

Coffee and Science

We maintained the tradition of the Coffee and Science sessions, happening since 2019 in the Society and with the partnership of the Brazilian Studies Programme at the Latin American Centre. The event invites Brazilian researchers around the University to share more about their research and engage in lively interactions with an interested audience. This year, we had three Coffee and Science events that took place across the Michaelmas and Trinity Terms. Our thanks to the researchers who participated and enlightened our debates with rich knowledge-sharing.

The role of nature-based solutions in Brazil's net-zero pathways

Dr. Aline Soterroni

Research Fellow, Nature-based Solutions Initiative, Oxford Net Zero, Department of Biology

October 16th, 2024



Thinking together with the Guarani-Mbyá the Covid-19 vaccination in Brazil

Dr. Maria Paula Prates

Departmental Lecturer in Medical Anthropology at the University of Oxford

November 22nd, 2023

The Constitutional Design of Inequality in Brazil

Prof. Antonio Maués

Research Visitor at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights

January 26th, 2024

The Four Workarounds

Dr. Paulo Savaget

Associate Professor at the University of Oxford

February 28th, 2024

Brazilian Black Awareness Day

November 20th marks the death of Zumbi dos Palmares, a Brazilian quilombola leader and one of the pioneers in resisting the enslavement of Africans in Brazil. This day is observed as Black Awareness Day in Brazil, a significant date given the country's history of racism and prejudice, present in our society until today through different ways. To honor the importance of this day and the Black Rights Movement, the OUBS partnered with a Brazilian Capoeira group led by Master Sereno.



Capoeira is an Afro-Brazilian martial art that blends elements of dance, acrobatics, music, and spirituality. Created by enslaved Africans in Brazil, Capoeira was once declared illegal but now holds UNESCO's special protected status as intangible cultural heritage. During the event, before engaging in Capoeira, Master Sereno spoke about Brazil's black heritage, highlighting the often overlooked black fighters and heroes in the country's history, and discussed the current context of significant racial inequalities.

OUBS at the Annual Conference of the Brazilian Studies Programme: "Is Brazil Back?"



On Friday, March 8th, OUBS actively participated in the Annual Conference of the Brazilian Studies Programme at St Hugh's College. The conference, themed "Is Brazil Back? Assessing the Politics and Challenges of Brazil's Unfolding Reconstruction," was a day-long event that delved into the multifaceted social-political process of Brazil's current reconstruction efforts.

"Reconstrução" or "reconstruction" has become a pivotal term in Brazil's political discourse, prominently featured during the 2022 presidential campaign. The term encapsulates the efforts of the Workers' Party (PT)-led coalition government, which has been in power since January 2023, to rebuild Brazilian democracy, institutions, public policies, and the national social fabric following a decade of political-economic instability and the rise of far-right political forces.

The 2024 BSP Annual Conference sought to explore the various dimensions of this reconstruction through a series of expert panels. These panels examined themes such as the economy, social policies, foreign policy, and the expansion of conservative political forces within Congress and broader society. Rather than viewing reconstruction as a return to previous norms, the conference highlighted the emergence of a new, volatile normal for Brazil, characterised by heightened political polarisation and instability.

Women's Day Social Media Campaign

To celebrate Women's Day, we prepared a Social Media campaign that exceeded our expectations: with the initial plan to create a one-week engagement on our Instagram, where different women - students and alumni - would share about their daily lives, tips, and answer questions about their new realities or their Oxford experiences, we ended up with 20 participants and a lively three-week calendar. We had over 6000 likes on the posts and an engagement seen like never before in our social media!



oxfordbraziliansociety
University of Oxford

8 de março *International Women's Day*
OUBS Instagram Takeover/2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31					1 Rafaela Viana	2 
3 Marcela Alves	4 Joana Perrone	5 Camila Infanger	6 Luisa Souza	7 Mayra Gramani	8 Luena Ricardo	9 Jessica Rodrigues da Silva
10 Manoela Machado	11 Juliana Motta	12 Laisa Lima	13 Cecilia Zahran	14 Julia Carnevalli Durigan	15 	16 Ana Luiza Gibertoni
17 	18 Cláudia Coleoni	19 Priscilla Tomaz	20 Julia Dias Carneiro	21 Laura Trajber	 OXFORD UNIVERSITY BRAZILIAN SOCIETY	
24	25	26	27	28		



Parties at the Linacre Bar

During the academic year, we made sure to create social opportunities for engagement with our community beyond academic settings. This is why during the year 2023/2024 we called Linacre College the “home” of the Society. Over the past months, we used the space to do many events: from team meetings, to the Assembly that confirmed our election, to bar nights filled with Brazilian music, dance and fun.



Samba

To enjoy some of the best parts of Brazilian culture, members of the Brazilian Society periodically organised “Sambinhas da OUBS”, where they met at the recently closed Berkshire Pub & Tapas Café, a Portuguese-owned bar that welcomed our events and served foods known to our Brazilian culture. With a lively repertoire, musics widely known nationally were sung by hours-on-end. Great memories!



Carnival Party

Naturally, the world's biggest party could not be left out of the OUBS events lineup. Aiming to organise the largest carnival celebration Oxford had ever seen, we first mobilised other Brazilian students to assist in the planning. The event would not have been possible without the support of volunteers: Bruna Torino (MSc in Economics for Development), Karoline Bello (MPP), and Luisa Costa (MSc in Evidence-based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation).

Additionally, we partnered with the Wolfson College Bar, where the party took place. Ticket sales were a success, and approximately 300 people attended the event. The event brought a piece of Brazilian culture to Oxford and people left asking when would be the next OUBS party.



‘Julina’ Party

To finalise the celebrations we gathered in July at the Wolfson College Bar to engage in a festa Julina, where Brazilians and Friends of Brazil celebrated together this tradition with food, drinks, dance and games all night long.



OUBS Symposium

The Oxford University Brazilian Society Symposium marked an important milestone in sharing academic work created by Brazilians and about Brazil at the University. The inaugural event happened on June 17th, 2024 and was organized in collaboration with the Brazilian Studies Programme at the Latin American Centre.



Featuring 11 academic works spanning from natural sciences to social sciences, the symposium provided a valuable platform for academic exchange and networking.

You can check out the event's schedule on [OUBS's Instagram](#).



STUDENT AND STAFF TESTIMONIALS



Marcela Alves - PhD, Computer Science

The OUBS has been a family to me. During this last year, I made friends that I will cherish forever. The activities also included people of other nationalities, making it even more interesting to learn about different countries and share about our culture and the research conducted by Brazilian researchers or targeting Brazil. I am especially grateful for the fantastic carnival that the OUBS organised. It was a summer night in the cold Oxford. I could meet some international students who have been to Brazil, and they are so happy to celebrate with us. The feedback was incredible. Community is fundamental for responsible research. Seeing the work the OUBS has done to connect the Brazilian students and interact with the university is heartwarming. From the social gathering to the OUBS symposium, I enjoyed and learned all year long. I appreciate the efforts of the last OUBS committee in working towards a stimulating and welcoming society.



Rafaela dos Santos - Master in Public Policy

From academic events to informal gatherings, OUBS has allowed me to make friends, expand my professional network, and gain academic knowledge. I remember that, before the beginning of my master's, OUBS released a very useful guide with the most important information we needed to navigate Oxford bureaucracy. On the festive side, we celebrated black consciousness with events such as the Capoeira class and carnival, which were some of the best BOP events. On the academic side, I felt inspired by Brazilian women conducting research here by following their Instagram takeover. These are just a few examples of the many well-thought-out activities and experiences OUBS has allowed me to have. OUBS events have been key in my journey at Oxford, and I'm grateful to every one of the organizers. I hope OUBS continues to grow as a community and in its impact.



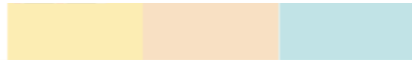
Rodrigo Furst - Post-doctorate, Policy and Practice Research Group - Pandemic Sciences Institute

During my stay as a postdoctoral researcher in Oxford, the OUBS provided me with a sense of home while away from Brazil. It served as a bridge, connecting me with other Brazilians, and offered me the opportunity to present the richness of our culture in its diverse forms to other non-Brazilian friends. Beyond cultural exchange, OUBS activities facilitated lasting friendships and introduced me to talented individuals from all regions of Brazil, who are making significant contributions in their fields through impactful research. I am truly grateful for the OUBS's hard work in making the community more connected through its events and activities.





RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Migratory Sea Birds and the health of marine ecosystems: assessment of biochemical and molecular responses of Manx Shearwaters Puffins to environmental impacts

Patricia Pereira Serafini

Analista Ambiental

PhD Candidate - Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC)

Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade

Centro Nacional de Pesquisa e Conservação de Aves Silvestres - CEMAVE/SC

Seabirds serve as vital indicators of ecosystem health, reflecting the interplay of various environmental factors. As apex predators covering expansive ocean territories, they act as sentinels, facing threats such as chemical pollution, plastic ingestion and climate change. Plastic pollution, a major concern for marine conservation, affects up to 90% of seabirds, posing risks due to ingested contaminants like plasticisers, flame retardants, and adsorbed chemicals. One of the biggest challenges for ecotoxicologists is to detect the harmful effects of contaminants on individual organisms before they have caused significant harm to natural populations and affect species that have already other cumulative pressures that are leading them to extinction. One possible approach for discovering sub-lethal, negative health effects of pollutants is to study biomarkers, that identify metabolic pathways and physiological processes affected by contaminants.



Our line of research in Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina/Brazil, in collaboration with Professor Tim Guilford at the University of Oxford, works with biotransformation and effect biomarkers in Manx shearwaters (*Puffinus puffinus*), such as the biochemical response and transcription of pollution-affected genes and genes related to the endocrine system or the physiological stress response. In a recent paper published in June 2024, we investigated plastic ingestion in 155 Manx Shearwaters along the southern Brazilian coast, assessing liver contaminants and biomarkers related to xenobiotic responses. We assessed transcript levels of aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR), cytochrome P450-1A5 (CYP1A5), UDP-glucuronosyl-transferase (UGT1), estrogen receptor alpha-1 (ESR1), and heat shock protein-70 genes; and enzymes activity (ethoxy-resorufin O-demethylase and glutathione S-transferase (GST)). Plastic debris was found in 29% of the birds. The transcription of UGT1 and CYP1A5 was significantly associated with hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and PCB levels. ESR1 was associated with HCB and Mirex, and GST was associated with DDTs and Mirex. While plastic ingestion showed weak associations with AhR, overall results didn't strongly link plastic ingestion to specific contaminants or biomarker responses. Instead, contamination levels appeared more influential. Our findings suggest the downregulation of biotransformation biomarkers due to increased contamination levels, emphasising the urgent need to mitigate ocean pollution to safeguard seabird health and minimise plastic availability as xenobiotics are also potentially adsorbed onto plastics.

Addressing the coordination challenges of regionalisation of health in Brazil

João Pedro Caleiro

Researcher at the Lemann Foundation Programme, Blavatnik School of Government
Brazil



Credits: SUS - Agencia

The Sistema Único de Saúde (SUS), or Unified Health System, is one of the largest universal healthcare systems in the world. Responsibility for health in Brazil is shared among the three levels of the federation - federal, state and municipal - with each of them enjoying full autonomy. This means that health delivery and decision-making in Brazil relies on a high degree of coordination, facilitated by management commissions and other forums.
Fonte imagem: SUS - Agencia Brasil

One of the organisational principles of SUS that guides this relationship is the regionalisation of health. It is defined by the Ministry of Health as *“the structuring axis which organises the decentralisation of health services and actions in the country”* and aims to ensure that citizens can access most medium- and high-complexity exams and treatments within their regions. Brazil is divided into 456 health regions; many other countries, such as the United Kingdom, Canada and Spain, also organise their healthcare systems on a regional basis.

Historically, the first years of SUS emphasised municipalisation. While this improved access and health outcomes, fragmentation issues became apparent over time. Approximately two-thirds of Brazil’s 5,565 municipalities have populations under 20,000, lacking the scale and capacity to offer services beyond primary care. Many of these smaller municipalities have formed consortiums to pool their resources, but this strategy has its constraints. Effective coordination at the state level is essential to address these challenges comprehensively.

The operationalisation of regionalisation in the SUS is influenced by several factors from geographical barriers in sparsely populated places like the Amazon region to the degree of organisational emphasis placed on regionalisation by state health secretariats. Our research, based on long-term engagement by the Lemann Foundation Programme with public health officials in Brazil and a two-day workshop in Rio de Janeiro in September 2023, identified key challenges related to regionalisation under three umbrellas: financing, institutional design, and political relationships. We also explore how these challenges can be overcome through enhanced coordination.

The outputs from this work include an upcoming report on coordination and equity in health systems for the Health Working Group of the G20, commissioned by the Global Innovation Hub for Improving Value in Health, and a policy brief in the T20, the G20 engagement group. A research paper is also in development, focusing on regionalisation indicators over time in selected health regions of Minas Gerais.

A room of her own: the gendered institution of science and the tortuous path faced by academic mothers



Credits: 2016, Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro by Tuyuka Carvalho Lara and production by Grazielle Marcela Balieiro Marques.

Camila Infanger Almeida

Visiting Researcher at the Latin American Centre, Oxford University
PhD candidate in the Political Science department, São Paulo University

The ever-increasing rate of scientific and technological change involves changes likely to transform our very understanding of what it means to be a human being. Also, what it means to be a woman, or a mother, while at the same time being an academic. Scientific values and culture have been created by and for men: working in science means compliance with a mindset and resulting systems that historically did not consider the women's perspective.

The structural exclusion of women from science can be traced back to, at least, the 18th century. Intersectional exclusion is even more appealing: only in 1932, a black African woman, Lady Kofoworola Ademola, achieved a degree at Oxford university¹, over 800 years after teaching was available there. History shows that women were confined to the domestic sphere while science, as part of the public sphere, was regarded as a male domain (Lesley Hall, 2010).

As a result, a widespread perception that scientists are male, that there is no place for women in science and that women do not have the aptitude for it, persists. It persists not only in the perception level, but also in the material one with the still existing exclusion of women in many areas of science. The typical taken-for-granted framing of women in science discourse involves the assumption that women will necessarily reveal their parental, reproductive and domestic selves (Garforth, 2009).

The overall effect is to endlessly reinscribe women in relation to the reproductive plan, via the construction of a dual biography that is simply not expected of men. This trail of thought fails to properly challenge structures of advantage, the gendering of science and research organisations as masculine, as well as the gendered division of labour (Wajcman, 1991). It is important to salient that academia is not an isolated institution, disassociated from the rest of society. The choice to become a mother is one that carries unavoidable penalties, in science and elsewhere in the job market. Childbirth results in career interruption and caring for small children is time-consuming. If true equity is to be achieved, then fathers need to share family responsibilities equally. But, moreover, science policy must be directed to the promotion of equity, in order to accommodate the diversity it has and it is ought to increase. The spotlight of potential solutions capacities must be removed from women and be focused, instead, on transforming the institution of science.

The relation between São Paulo Law School and the enslavement of Indigenous people and Africans in Brazil (1827-1930)

Ariel Engel Pesso

Credits: Benedito Junqueira Duarte. Acervo Fotográfico do Museu da Cidade de Sao Paulo

My research aims to analyse the relation between the São Paulo Law School (now the University of São Paulo Law School) with the enslavement of indigenous people and Africans In Brazil. It seeks to clarify whether such a relationship existed and, if so, its nature.

Established on 11 August 1827, the law school in São Paulo aimed to train the state bureaucracy of the newly independent Brazil and it successfully graduated politicians, lawyers, magistrates, literati, and diplomats, all of whom were instrumental in consolidating the Brazilian nation-state.



An aspect that remains unexplored is the relationship between these institutions and slavery. Given that slavery was a dominant social fact at the time, pervading all physical and symbolic spaces of imperial Brazil, it is expected that the law schools had some connection to it. In the United States, such studies have been ongoing for two decades, starting with Yale (2002) and Brown (2006) and leading to the formation of a consortium of universities, the Universities Studying Slavery (USS), which includes over ninety higher education institutions from the United States, Canada, Colombia, Scotland, Ireland, and England. Brazil must also understand the slave heritage of its educational institutions and the legacy of slavery in its society.

As already stated, the primary objective is to analyse the relation between the São Paulo Law School and the enslavement of indigenous people and Africans. The secondary objectives include determining whether there was a direct, economic, or intellectual link between them and in what terms this occurred. Ultimately, the project aims to develop recommendations for the institution, focusing on reconciliation and reparation.

Methodologically, the research employs a historical method, involving selection and analysis of historical sources (primary sources from 1823 to 1930) and secondary literature, mainly of Legal History. The methodology encompasses the institutional and social history of law, aiming to analyse the role of institutions in the enslavement of human beings, considering the roles of their agents, particularly students and teachers. The project also utilises intellectual history and legal thought, analysing the legal ideas available and mobilised by these agents.

Materials include primary sources such as legislation, parliamentary debates, Government reports, historical-academic memoirs, correspondence, specialised journals, syllabuses, class notes, student dissertations, academic press publications, doctoral and contest dissertations, and manuals. Key secondary sources are reference and memorial works, especially those by Almeida Nogueira and Spencer Vampré.

Diversifying Audiences in UK Arts Institutions

Sylvia Morgado de Queiroz
www.sylviamorgado.com/phd-research

This practice-based doctoral research is a collaboration between Oxford Brookes University and Modern Art Oxford (MAO). Participants are co-creators to benefit from it, with art allowing the expression of the community's values, and engagement with institutions encouraging an increased sense of belonging.



An outcome of this practice-based inquiry is a documentary film. In it, the researcher interviews individuals who engaged with artist Maxwell Alexandre's exhibitions and events in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The aim is to understand their experiences and explore how UK arts institutions and artists can replicate this model.

Alexandre, a contemporary Brazilian artist, celebrates Black culture and identity in his paintings, powerfully portraying individuals in positions of authority. Born in Favela da Rocinha, Rio de Janeiro, he actively engages with his community and others through social media, fostering a sense of belonging and cultivating a new audience.

Using his own resources, Alexandre creates pop-up art galleries in unconventional spaces, notably in Rocinha, drawing fresh audiences to both these areas and the cultural institutions he collaborates with, including the Museum of Art Rio (MAR). Maxwell's solo exhibition at MAR proved transformative, prompting the institution to reconsider its curatorial approach due to a significant increase in attendance.

The first part of this research looked at MAO's archive and audience research to understand the gaps in the history of the institution. It informed the second part of the research, in which people from diverse backgrounds in Oxford, including members of the Oxford African Caribbean History and Community Archive, were invited to visit the Ashmolean Museum, The Old Fire Station and MAO. In October 2023, participants shared - through a spoken word event and art workshops at MAO - their experience and what makes them feel welcome in these spaces, which resulted in a manifesto.

Documentary is a powerful tool for democratising dissemination of research and fostering public engagement. "Paving the way" will premiere at Rhodes House in Oxford on the 30th of October 2024, and it will be followed by a talk with participants from Brazil. The film will then tour various museums, galleries, and community centres in London, Oxford, and Rio de Janeiro.



FRIENDS OF BRAZIL: OPINION PIECE

When do these people sleep?

Robin Simpson

UNCTAD Independent Consultant
University of Oxford Alumni (1969 - 71)

Like many Northern Europeans, I was struck by this mystery on my first visit to Latin America (the LA parliament in Sao Paulo followed by three nights of dancing) in 1995. For me, the mystery remains unsolved, but I have had a lot of fun trying to find the answer. During this quest, I have managed, almost accidentally it now seems, to work on public utilities, particularly the vital matter of extending networks to guarantee universal service, while, along the way, discussing Brazil's famous Consumer Protection and Defence Code (CDC) with some of the world's leading experts in the field of consumer law.

During the '90s I worked as head of policy at the UK National Consumer Council, actively participating in the global federation of consumer associations, Consumers International (CI), which is based in London and where I worked in turn from 2002-2019. CI's dynamic regional office in Chile organised a five-country study (Brazil, Chile, Peru, Colombia and Mexico) producing research reports and conferences on public utilities - water, energy and telecoms. My Brazilian expert colleagues were the Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor (IDEC), at that time the largest such body in Latin America. Marilena Lazzarini, the president of IDEC, became the president of CI and together we presented our findings to a large meeting of World bank experts in 2004. In the heart of the 'Washington consensus', Marilena did not pull any punches, 'we are simply opposed to privatisation' she said.

Brazil has been very adept at drawing upon international expertise while also making key inputs into international initiatives, including:

- The 'Water Dialogues,' a 2002-9 project involving private and public providers, labour unions, consumer associations and environmentalists, including the Director of Recife water, Tonino Miranda Neto.
- Extensive work on the tourism sector, pioneered by Professor Claudia Lima Marques from the university of Rio Grande do Sul, following Brazil's hosting of the Olympic Games and football world cup. This work on the world's second-largest economic sector continues in the UN.
- Hosting the world congress of CI in 2015 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Consumer Code(CDC).

The CDC was adopted in 1990, five years after the end of the dictatorship and just after the 1989 Congress of the International Consumer Law Association in Sao Paulo. As a 'free-standing' law, it became second only to the Constitution as the best known law in Brazil. It challenged the earlier supremacy of contract law and introduced such legal concepts as subjecting sectoral 'vertical' legislation to 'horizontal' protective legislation, collective redress, 'judicial activism' and a presumption of imbalance between consumers and producers. Crucially, the legislation set up the machinery for its application, the regional PROCONs often using mediation rather than judicial orders.

Much of this machinery survives, albeit under the strain of the volume of work. In 2019, I was invited to present it as a case study to officials of the Russian government together with colleagues from the Russian consumer association. Brazil has achieved the twin goals of being influenced by international legal innovations while in turn influencing them, such as the EU Unfair Commercial Practices Directive. And I still do not know how they found time to sleep.

RS June 2nd, 2024



Message from Senior Member

Unindo forças: the Brazilian Studies Programme-Brazilian Society partnership in 2023-2024

The Brazilian Studies Programme at the Latin American Centre (BSP/LAC) of the University of Oxford has had a busy year, marked by a variety of research and outreach events, and new partnerships. Renewing our ties with the student-led Oxford University Brazilian Society (OUBS) is undoubtedly one of the major highlights of this 2023-2024 academic year.

We started the year by welcoming a new director, Dr Laura Trajber Waisbich. She is a Brazil-born political scientist and international relations expert. She has researched and published extensively on Brazilian Foreign Policy, the global circulation of Brazilian social policies, and the politics of South-South cooperation, looking comparatively at 'Global' China, India, and Brazil. In recent years, she has also been involved in projects related to international cooperation in the Amazon Basin and to the rapidly evolving China-Latin American relations. Under Dr Trajber Waisbich's directorship, the BSP resumed its series of research events, many of which were in close collaboration with the Oxford Brazilian Society. Together we hosted the "Coffee & Science" series: monthly sessions bringing together students and scholars across the University interested in Brazil. The series featured topics such as the role of nature-based solutions in Brazil's net-zero pathways, Indigenous struggles, and the constitutional design of inequality in the country.

The partnership with OUBS was also key to the BSP Annual Conference in March 2024, which revolved around the politics of Brazil's ongoing reconstruction. The conference featured four panels with 15 experts from across the United Kingdom, attracting over 60 attendees. The event was preceded by a special session with Dr Suely Carneiro, the former President of Brazil's National Environmental Agency (Ibama) and current policy advisor for the Brazilian civil society network Observatório do Clima. Our final keynote panel, focusing on Brazil's efforts to resume its global engagements, featured Brazil's former Foreign Minister and current Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Ambassador Antonio Patriota.

Throughout the year, BSP and OUBS also joined hands to promote other research events, including a film screening of the documentary *Stepping Softly on the Earth*, followed by a Q&A session with the film Director, Prof Marcos Colón, featuring Indigenous voices across the Amazon and beyond. We ended our joint events, in June, with the OUBS Graduate Symposium in which young scholars presented their ongoing research on a range of topics related to Brazilian politics, society, culture, environment, and science.

We look forward to continuing working with the OUBS Team, in the next academic year, to continue advancing research, academic dialogue, and policy conversations on Brazil-related matters across the University and beyond.

Testimonial Senior Member

Dr. Laura Waisbich
Director of the Brazilian Studies Programme
Latin American Centre

This academic year brought a myriad of social and academic events to the Oxford-based Brazilian community at the University and beyond. The tireless team leading the OUBS this year played a vital role in creating spaces for Brazilians and other students and academics from different backgrounds and areas of expertise interested in Brazil to meet, network, and exchange. From celebrating Brazilian culture to discussing Brazilian politics and society, this Society is a sign of the strength and power that constitute Oxford University's diversity. It is a real honour to serve as a Senior Member and a partner for the OUBS.



Alumni Updates: where are they now?

Camila Infanger Almeida

Visiting Researcher at the Latin American Centre, Oxford University
PhD candidate in the Political Science department, São Paulo University

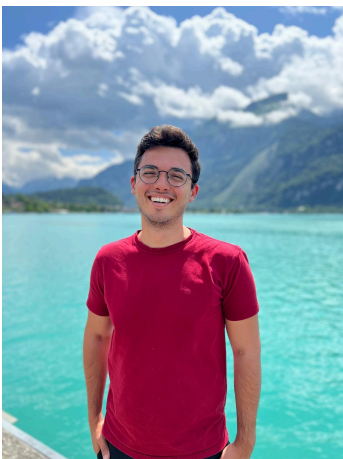


Having recently returned from Oxford in July 2024, I am now nearing the end of my 3rd year as a PhD student in Political Science at the University of São Paulo. My research focuses on the dynamics of policy design, particularly how the perspectives of academic mothers are integrated into the Science, Technology, and Innovation sectors. I see myself as also an academic activist, as I'm a member of the movement Parent in Science, advocating for the advancement of motherhood within the equality, diversity and inclusion agenda. While at Oxford University, I had the privilege of engaging with brilliant scholars, attending insightful seminars across various colleges, auditing a couple of courses, and presenting my work at conferences. I am excited about the upcoming opportunity to share my experiences at our department's

seminar, and I hope to inspire fellow students to consider Oxford as a research destination.

Darlan da Silva Cândido

DPhil in Zoology, University of Oxford
Vice-President OUBS 2019-2020
President OUBS 2020-2021



I completed my DPhil in Zoology at the University of Oxford, and am currently a Research Associate in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at Imperial College London. My work focuses on global health, particularly on the eradication of poliovirus, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. I am passionate about outbreak preparedness and work on strengthening public health systems by applying epidemiological and genomic approaches to improve outbreak surveillance and response. My research also includes extensive work on arboviruses and respiratory infections in Brazil and beyond, with a particular interest in the impacts of climate change on the spread of infectious diseases. I am committed to

advancing internationalisation and equity in science and I collaborate closely with the Brazilian government to create opportunities that connect Brazilian research with international institutions, aiming to open doors for Brazilians who aspire to study abroad.

Thank you

We've had a great year. From Oxford to Brazil, the engagement of dozens of people and other institutions with the Oxford University Brazilian society made this year possible, with academic events that make us proud of Brazilian scientific production and contribution, as well as cultural and social gatherings that are the fabric behind Brazilian interaction.

A special thanks to everyone who made it possible and our vows that OUBS's work stays alive, supporting Brazilians at Oxford with your help for years to come.

The Tropical Thames Commission



