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# LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

2023-2024

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# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

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# The Year in Review



# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

## Acting Director's Letter

**“Celebrating the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies: 15 Years of Academic Achievements and Rhythms”**



This past year has been transformative and dynamic for the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies, marking 15 years of impactful activities and events that have significantly advanced its mission. As the Acting Director, I am proud to reflect on the many accomplishments and collaborations that have enriched our community and strengthened our ties with Brazil.

One of the highlights of our year was the visit to Brazil with President Killeen and a distinguished delegation from the University of Illinois system. This strategic trip facilitated vital connections with numerous universities and key partners, sparking productive discussions on topics ranging from educational exchanges to joint research opportunities. These engagements underscore our deep commitment to fostering international partnerships. Subsequently, the Center actively participated in FAPESP Week and the Fiocruz visit, engaging in meetings and facilitating networking to promote research collaboration and mobility. Moreover, we collaborated with

other campus units and Illinois International Programs to renew Memorandums of Understanding with Brazilian Universities, further strengthening academic partnerships. Our commitment extends globally, as we have also reached out to other Centers across the US and beyond, focusing on Brazil and around the world, demonstrating our dedication to Brazilian studies and culture and our willingness to collaborate with partners worldwide.

Our Visiting Distinguished Professor program brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our campus. In Fall 2023, we welcomed José Vicente Caixeta Filho, followed by Suzel Reily in Spring 2024, and we look forward to hosting Magna Inácio in Fall 2024 and Elisa Frühauf Garcia in 2025. These esteemed scholars have engaged with our faculty and students, fostering an environment of academic excellence and cross-cultural exchange.

This year, the Lemann Lecture Series experienced remarkable growth, showcasing the increasing interest and engagement in Brazilian studies within our community. The number of presentations expanded significantly, with twenty-three lectures covering a wide range of topics, from Brazilian politics and economics to cultural and social issues, reflecting the multifaceted nature of Brazilian society. This diverse series fostered rich discussions and deepened our understanding of Brazil, enhancing academic discourse and providing valuable networking opportunities, reinforcing our commitment to being a leading hub for Brazilian studies.

Fostering Brazil-related research is crucial for advancing our understanding of Brazilian culture, language, and society. The Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies supports diverse projects that contribute to this goal. Research topics include language acquisition in Brazilian Portuguese, the music of Brazilian composers, and the exploration of Brazilian cultural figures. Additionally, collaborative projects investigate urban politics surrounding basic income programs, policies and impacts of biofuels, and innovative technologies for sustainable biomanufacturing. These projects highlight the importance of diverse research topics in enhancing our knowledge of Brazil's rich cultural heritage and addressing global challenges.

The Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies continued its commitment to supporting scholars at various stages of their academic journey. The Center awarded five Lemann Center Graduate Student Fellowships and one Werner Baer Graduate Student Fellowship, providing crucial support to these promising students. Additionally, the Center welcomed two new postdoctoral fellows, who received the prestigious Werner Baer Postdoctoral Fellowships. Moreover, the Center initiated

a new program for Study Abroad Scholarship for Undergraduate Students, funding three students in its inaugural year. Additionally, we organized an Alumni + Student reception in Sao Paulo in partnership with the Grainger College of Engineering, the Gies School of Business, and ACES.

We kicked off the academic year in September with a lively celebration alongside colleagues from CLACS, filled with music and festivities. In February, our Brazilian Carnival events were a resounding success, drawing 350 participants. Held at the YMCA and Krannert Center, these events featured live music, traditional cuisine, and vibrant decorations, offering our community an authentic experience of Brazilian culture. Our collaboration with the Krannert Center, Allerton Park, and Japan House continued to highlight Brazilian culture through various activities. An enchanting evening of jazz at Allerton Park in April 2024, featuring the Jose Gobbo Trio with Raphael Ferreira, showcased the universal language of music, bringing together faculty, students, and community members in celebration. Additionally, in March 2024, we honored the legacy of composers Heitor Villa-Lobos and Tom Jobim through recitals, outreach initiatives, and thematic lectures.

This year, the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies also took significant strides in student involvement and professional development. Four undergraduate interns revamped the Center's website and launched its social media presence, enhancing our digital outreach. The Center also expanded student involvement in governance, with undergraduate interns joining weekly meetings alongside graduate students. One graduate student, Kainen Bell, organized two impactful events focusing on facial recognition technologies, enriching the Center's programming.

Community engagement remained a cornerstone of our activities. We collaborated with local libraries and schools to introduce Brazilian culture to younger audiences. An art exhibition featuring student-created works inspired by Brazilian culture was held at the Urbana Free Library, accompanied by a recital of Villa-Lobos' works by our faculty and students.

Our efforts in advancement and fundraising included securing a Bridge grant in collaboration with the University of Birmingham. This project aims to foster institutional engagement between the faculty in both universities around the theme of Development and Diplomacy in the Global South.

Numerous achievements and meaningful collaborations have marked this past year. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Prof. Marc Hertzman, who worked with me this year, and the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies team, our partners, and our community for their unwavering support and dedication. Together, we have made significant strides in promoting Brazilian studies and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

In preparation for our 15th Anniversary Events, our dedication to cultural awareness and diversity guides our planning. We're looking forward to a vibrant lineup of activities and events for the Fall, celebrating this milestone with joy and reflection.

As I transition out of my role, I am confident that the Lemann Center will thrive under the leadership of Prof. Karam, who will be returning after a sabbatical in Lebanon, along with Elis Artz and Lucas Cavoli. Their expertise and commitment will undoubtedly drive the Center to new adventures.

Flavia Andrade

Acting Director, Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies



# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

## Associate Director's Letter



It was an enormous pleasure to serve as Acting Associate Director of the Lemann Center this year and to work under the excellent leadership of Flávia Andrade. Though I have been campus for more than a decade, this was my first opportunity to work in an official capacity at the center, and what an exciting year it was!

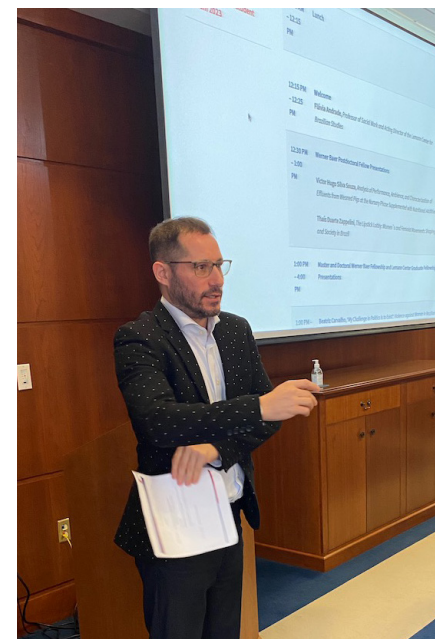
At our weekly meetings, good humor and serious dedication and planning were the norm (along with the occasional tasty treat), and it was gratifying to work alongside the center's fantastic staff, who tirelessly problem solved and strategized about how to best serve the university community and to continue to foster sustained engagement with Brazil and to connect those who study it on campus and beyond. It was humbling to see the energy that the entire team demonstrated daily, and Flávia truly set the tone, leading by example with selfless dedication to Brazil and Brazilian Studies. It was also incredibly rewarding to have accomplished such a great deal this year. With a dramatic increase in new faculty affiliates and the fantastic attendance at the lecture series, it seems that interest in Brazil has

never been higher on campus than it is right now. The student interns and student workers did an incredible job with the website and in increasing our digital presence, and I am excited about all the programming we have already put in place for next year.

It was a great year at the Lemann Center, I am grateful to have served at the center last year, and I look forward to remaining connected to it for years to come.

Marc Hertzman

Associate Director, Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies





## THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

### Jorge Paulo Lemann Chair in Brazilian History Letter



The academic year began with a visit by University of Illinois System President Timothy Killeen and a delegation of leadership from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and University of Illinois at Chicago to Brazil. The visit was long planned – originally, it was scheduled for the third week of March of 2020.

Beginning in September of 2022, we restarted planning for the visit, which created opportunities to build the University of Illinois' systematic engagement with Brazilian institutions. These included the University of São Paulo and the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, INSPER, Fiocruz, EMBRAPA, CAPES and the Ministry of Education, CNPq, FAPESP, as well as agencies involved in innovation and entrepreneurship. In our final meeting, at the Lemann Foundation, Director Denis Mizne gave strategic advice about to build on the university's already strong relationships.

Following the visit, the University of Illinois System created the Brasillinois Initiative. The mission of Brasillinois is to foster high-impact research partnerships between

faculty at the University of Illinois campuses in Chicago, Springfield and Urbana-Champaign with researchers and institutions in Brazil. Brasillinois' focus is on three areas: climate and sustainability, health and medicine, and democratic institutions and social inclusion.

To advance this mission, we hosted the first FAPESP Week international research symposium held since the beginning of the pandemic, which was held at the University of Illinois' innovation hub, the Discovery Partners Institute, this April. We are following that meeting by working to support scholars at Illinois in building research collaborations in advance of a joint call for research proposals with FAPES that will be launched in the fall.

We are also preparing to launch a visiting doctoral student research program called the Brasillinois Mobility Program, through which 350 graduate students will spend 6 to 10 months at the University of Illinois campus as a visiting scholar. CAPES, the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education, is investing \$7m in the mobility program.

Brasillinois is a new facet in the university's longstanding relationships with Brazil that, in particular, engages researchers who have not had previous connections to Brazil, and engages with colleagues in Chicago and Springfield, some of whom have significant research collaborations with Brazilian partners.

Jerry Dávila

Lemann Chair in Brazilian History

### Jorge Paulo Lemann Chair in Brazilian Economy Letter



The academic year of 2023-24 was a transformative period in my academic journey. It was a year of exceptional enrichment and productivity, where I had the privilege of engaging in numerous events, hosting esteemed academic visitors, initiating innovative projects, and forging valuable collaborations. I am deeply grateful to the Jorge Paulo Lemann Chair in Brazilian Economy, the Lemann Center, and the Department of Economics for their unwavering support and for fostering an inspiring environment that has been instrumental in my pursuit of academic ambitions.

One of the most significant highlights of the year was the visit of Guilherme Lichand from Stanford's Graduate School of Education, who served as the Lemann Chair in Brazilian Economy Speaker during the Fall semester. His presentation on "The Inter-temporal Effects of Seeing Prices: Evidence from Delivering Prevention in Malawi" was not just a presentation, but a significant intellectual contribution that has influenced my research.

During the Fall semester, the collaboration between the Lemann Chair in Brazilian Economy and the Econometrics Lab led to the successful organization of the workshop "Trends in Macroeconometrics." This event was not just a platform for discussion, but a catalyst for new ideas and collaborations. It brought together six distinguished professors, young scholars, and graduate students, sparking stimulating discussions on the latest advancements in macroeconometrics.

Additionally, I am proud to acknowledge the financial support provided by the Lemann Chair and the Econometrics Lab for the Fifth International Workshop in Financial Econometrics, held in Santo André, Bahia, Brazil, in October 2023. This workshop facilitated meaningful exchanges among international researchers and practitioners. Moreover, hosting the 16th Annual Meeting for the Society for Financial Econometrics (SoFiE) by the Pontifical Catholic University in Rio de Janeiro marked a historic occasion as the first time this prestigious event was held in South America.

The academic year also saw significant strides in fostering international collaboration, exemplified by four graduate students and one PostDoc researcher from Brazil spending a full semester at the Department of Economics. This initiative has laid the foundation for ongoing exchange programs between Brazilian institutions and the University of Illinois, promising a bright future of mutual learning and cooperation.

Lastly, I continued to advance my research endeavors, focusing on the intersection of machine learning techniques and econometrics. I am excited about the progress made and the new projects initiated with collaborators across the globe, further enhancing our understanding and application of econometric methodologies.

In summary, the academic year of 2023-24 was marked by remarkable achievements, valuable partnerships, and significant contributions to the field of quantitative methods in economics and data science. I look forward to building upon these accomplishments in the years to come.

Marcelo Medeiros

Lemann Chair in Brazilian Economy

# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

## Lemann Distinguished Visiting Scholar



**Jose Vicente Caixeta Filho, Agricultural Engineering Science**  
**Lemann Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Fall 2023**

It was a very pleasant and productive period, which provided a very high level of technical and social interaction. It was quite clear the excellent work being carried out by the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (see, for example, the diversity of topics presented in the organized Seminars, which could be compiled into digital Working Papers to be made available on the Lemann website). In this sense, I believe that the existence of the Lemann Center alone could be one of the explanations for the significant increase in the number of Brazilian students and teachers in Urbana-Champaign. I also believe that many of these Brazilians were unaware of the possibility of possible support from Lemann. So that Lemann can act - who

knows - even more assertively with this Brazilian community, perhaps it is worth evaluating the possibility of maintaining a support office ("branch"?) in Brazil, which would not only be important to facilitate the integration of Brazilians who plan to go to the University of Illinois but also to offer due support to missions from Illinois that come to visit Brazil - including Illinois own undergraduate and postgraduate students. [I have already had meetings with German Bollero, Flavia Andrade, Mary Arends, and Jerry Davila to discuss this issue; I also spoke with Prof. Marcio Castro, current Scientific Director of Fapesp.] The process for this is not very trivial, but a double-degree (or even a pre-defined set of courses - focused on topics of interest - for students from both institutions, worthing credit) involving the University of Illinois and the University of São Paulo (USP), eventually counting on the support/resources of funding institutions in Brazil and the USA, such as Fapesp and the NSF.



**Suzel Ana Reily, School of Music**

**Lemann Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Spring 2024**

### Musicking at U of I

I would like to begin this report by thanking the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies and the School of Music for the opportunity to spend the Spring 2024 term at the University of Illinois, where I was able to engage with staff and students in a wide range of activities, encompassing formal classes, seminars, recitals, informal conversations, and even collective music making.

Throughout the term, I was responsible for a graduate seminar in the Music School titled "Local Musicking in Brazilian Contexts," in which students were introduced to a variety of local music worlds in Brazil, past and present, looking at how these spaces were shaped by the contexts in which they occurred and how they, in turn, impacted the localities that surrounded them. Prior to my professorship at U of I, I had coordinated a large framework project funded by FAPESP, the main research funding agency of the state of São Paulo, which aimed to study the dynamics of "local musicking" across Brazil as well as transnationally. This course provided an opportunity to share some of the findings and debates that emerged during the project with students in Illinois, as well as to identify new dimensions for this perspective.

As far as research is concerned, the position of visiting scholar favors academic productivity. Freed from day-to-day academic responsibilities, I was able to complete several pending publications and initiate new projects. First and foremost, I finalized the edited volume initiated in the final year of the FAPESP project and submitted the manuscript to the Unicamp Press for evaluation. Besides its thematic focus, the novelty of this volume is its collaborative orientation. Alongside an introduction outlining our understanding of "local musicking," the book contains ten chapters, each of which was written by a team of between four and six researchers, encompassing senior scholars, post-doctoral fellows, doctoral and masters students, as well as undergraduates. These scholars had all been affiliated with the project, bringing their own individual investigations of a particular local music world. The teams were then organized around theoretical topics emerging from their research, and they each produced a theoretical discussion informed and illustrated through their individual ethnographies. An opportunity to present the volume and to discuss our experience of collaborative writing was also made available at a colloquium at the Music School on 26 April titled "Ten Chapters, Fifty Authors: Musicking through Collaborative Writing," and it was also presented at a seminar at the Music Department at DePaul University in Chicago on 1 May.

Another publication finalized and submitted during the professorship is a chapter for the edited volume, The Oxford Handbook of Global Popular Music. A preliminary version of this text was presented at the Spring 2024 Lemann Lecture Series on 19 March as "Musical Artivism and Social Media in the Bolsonaro Era." Following the presentation, the paper was extended to encompass questions and comments that emerged at the presentation. I am happy to report that the paper is already in production at OUP.

A couple of projects were initiated during the professorship, most notably the plan for a joint journal article on collaborative research in Brazilian music studies. The idea for this article emerged during an informal conversation over a glass





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of wine with Professor Michael Silvers of the Music School as we discussed recent trends in Brazilian ethnomusicology. We've already drawn up a preliminary outline for the text and defined strategies for our collaborative writing, so we're ready to start writing.

A second more ambitious project was also launched in the past few months involving collaboration with Professor José Alberto Salgado of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Inspired by Raymond Williams' classic Keywords, we have invited music scholars based at Brazilian universities to suggest "keywords" for an online publication for educational use. We received indications of interest from 40 scholars, about half of whom have already submitted their ideas. In May, we will begin sifting through the proposals and initiate the invitations for the writing of the entries. It was also during the professorship that a new FAPESP Framework Project was submitted and, which I am to coordinate. This project, "Vozes – passados, presenças, encruzilhadas" (Voices – pasts, presents, crossroads), if/when approved, could provide a fruitful arena for collaborations between music researchers in São Paulo and the University of Illinois.

I was also involved in a number of lesser quotidian activities, including talks in various courses at the U of I as well as other institutions, participation in two promotion committees at the University of Aveiro, several thesis and dissertation defenses at Brazilian universities, meetings with students to discuss their research and so on. There have also been numerous enjoyable musical experiences, encompassing concerts and shows at the Krannert Center and the Music School, student recitals, and shows at the Gallery Art Bar.



## Lemann Distinguished Visiting Professor, Fall 2024



### Magna Inácio, Political Science

Magna Inácio is an associate professor of Political Science and former director of the Centre for Legislative Studies (CEL-DCP) at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG). Edward Laroque Tinker Visiting Professor at Stanford University (Jan/July, 2019); Visiting Scholar at University of Oxford (2012; 2017); GIGA/Hamburg (2014); Universidad de Salamanca (2009). She holds a PhD in Political Science from UFMG (2006) and has conducted extensive comparative research on political institutions, Presidencies, coalition politics, and Executive-Legislative relations. She has published in journals such as Presidential Studies Quarterly, Government & Opposition, America Hoy, Journal of Politics in Latin America, and Brazilian Political Science Review. Editor of [www.pex-network.com](http://www.pex-network.com), a blog dedicated to studies on presidents and executive politics, development and functioning of Presidencies, and cabinet's politics. Magna will be teaching the course "Politics and Institutions in Brazil" at the Political Science department during the Fall 2024 semester.



## THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

## Werner Baer Prize for Notable Public Service



Joaquim Guilhoto

## Linking environment and economy, contributions of input-output analysis

Being chosen to receive The Werner Baer Award in 2021 and having the opportunity to deliver a lecture at the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign filled me with a profound sense of emotion. This feeling stemmed not only from the distinction itself but also from what Werner—whom I’ve affectionately referred to by his first name after over 3 decades of friendship—and the University of Illinois (U of I) represent in both my professional and personal life. Reflecting on this, I can confidently assert that Werner and the University of Illinois have been instrumental in shaping my achievements and the person I’ve become.

Being invited by Professor Flávia Andrade to give a lecture at the Lemann Center, in celebration of the Werner Baer Award, presented a valuable opportunity to showcase the work and accomplishments I have achieved through my connections with Werner Baer and the University of Illinois. It was also a fantastic chance to revisit the Urbana-Champaign campus, fostering connections with the new generations of students and faculty. The reception I received was incredibly warm and welcoming, leading to fruitful and memorable moments at the University. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Flávia, as well as to all the faculty, staff, and students at the Lemann Center, for their

gracious hospitality.

The Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies at UIUC is closely associated with Werner’s impactful work for Brazil and its economy. It’s crucial to remember that Werner played a pivotal role in developing Brazilian graduate courses in economics and has contributed to the training of hundreds of economic PhDs who are now active in various sectors in Brazil, including academia, research centers, government, and the private sector. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the country’s economic landscape.

My lecture at the Lemann Center, titled “Linking Environment and Economy: Contributions of Input-Output Analysis,” was a direct reflection of my professional career and research, and also a nod to my connection with Werner and the University of Illinois. Before my talk, I had the chance to engage with graduate students and faculty, sharing my work experiences and insights. One of the focal points of our discussions was the critical importance of the environment for our society and the need for tools like input-output theory to model the interconnections between the environment and the economy. I also shared my experiences working in academia and with international organizations, OECD and IMF, emphasizing the crucial link between environmental and economic factors and highlighting the shortage of professionals who can bridge these areas.

In my lecture, I emphasized the importance of input-output (I-O) models, developed by Nobel Prize laureate Wassily Leontief, for obtaining a comprehensive understanding of economic activities, including production, income generation, consumption, and the integration of economic and environmental variables. The presentation started with an introduction to the core principles of input-output theory and its relevance to addressing environmental issues. It proceeded with a detailed, yet non-exhaustive, exploration of the various applications of input-output models in environmental modeling, highlighting their current limitations and proposing potential enhancements to the model. The lecture concluded with an overview of the anticipated future developments of input-output model

within the realm of environmental analysis.

Looking back on my journey, Werner’s influence on both my career and personal development is undeniable. Our relationship transcends professional boundaries, evolving into a deep and meaningful friendship that has significantly impacted both me and the broader Brazilian academic scene. During my Ph.D. I had the opportunity to know Professor Geoffrey Hewings (Geoff), a Professor in the Department of Geography at Illinois, who ended up serving on my thesis committee and allowed me to get into the field of input-output analysis which shaped my work. Their guidance was invaluable not only for my work at the University of São Paulo but also for my roles at the OECD and IMF. Interestingly, Geoff and Werner later became close friends, collaborating on various projects related to Brazil.

After completing my Ph.D., my collaboration with Werner remained strong, spanning research, publications, and mentorship. This partnership extended to my students in Brazil, whom Werner supported in their studies in Illinois, with some of them even pursuing their Ph.D. there thanks to his assistance. My own research in Illinois, supported in part by Werner, the Hewlett project, and the Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL) headed by Geoff were invaluable. We organized several workshops in São Paulo, Illinois, and a particularly memorable one in Paraty, Rio de Janeiro, in 2005. These workshops were more than academic endeavors; they were opportunities to forge lifelong friendships. Publicly acknowledging Werner’s impact on Brazil has always been an honor, but sharing the personal influence he’s had on my life is profoundly special.

I can say the journey I’ve embarked on, both professionally and personally, has been significantly shaped by Werner’s mentorship, friendship, and the academic environment at the University of Illinois. My experiences there, especially my recent visit and lecture at the Lemann Center, have not only allowed me to reflect on my career and contributions but also to appreciate the deep connections and friendships I’ve developed over the years. These relationships and experiences have been pivotal in guiding my research, shaping my perspectives on environmental and economic issues, and contributing to the global discourse in these critical areas. As I look back on the decades of collabora-

tion, learning, and personal growth, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities I’ve had and the people who have been part of this remarkable journey.





## Faculty Development and Achievements

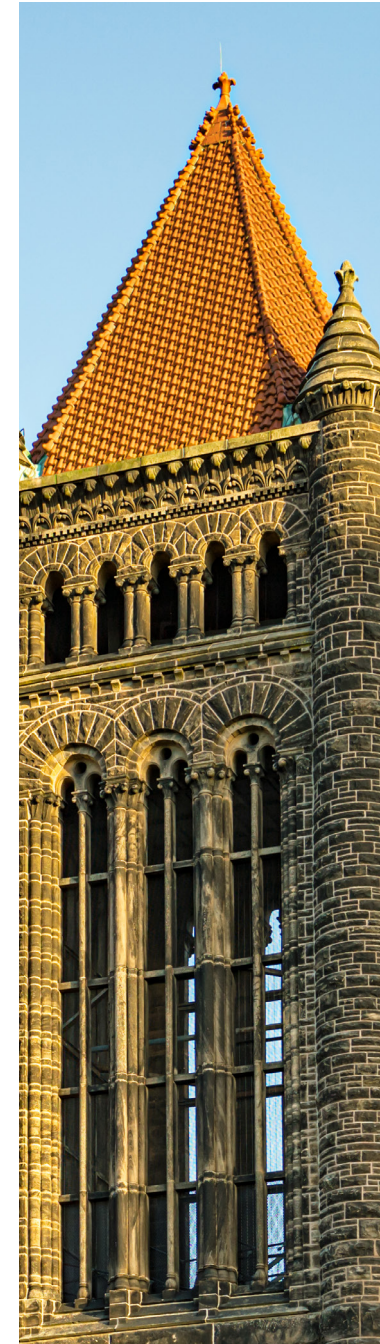
### Growth in the number of affiliated faculty

We've been actively pursuing the recognition of scholarly contributions in Brazilian studies across our campus. This year, we prioritized enhancing the center's ability to recognize and connect with faculty working in Brazil. We have seen a substantial increase in the number of faculty affiliated with the center, which has more than doubled since 2022, from forty-five to over ninety affiliates today. This expansion is seen across fourteen distinct colleges and schools, indicating the growing prominence and recognition of Brazilian Studies within our academic community.

### Growth in investment in faculty research

For the 2023-2024 grants cycle, the Lemann Center demonstrated its commitment to faculty development by funding three individual faculty research proposals and awarding four collaborative grants to Illinois and Brazilian faculty members. For the 2024-2025 year, Professors Charles Chip McNeil, Douglas Smith, and Rafael Tassitano were awarded the Lemann Center Faculty grants. Last year, we awarded three collaborative grants with PI's Marc Doussard, Madhu Khanna, and Xiao Su, and we're eager to expand our collaborative efforts and awarded four professors for the 2024-2025 cycle: Francina Domingues, Jorge Guzman, Geoffrey Hewings, and Juan Salamanca.

In addition, we increased the amount of total funding awarded to faculty, from \$80K to \$95K, a decision approved by both the Faculty Advisory Board and External Board. This investment in faculty development aims to foster collaborative research initiatives and advance scholarship in Brazilian Studies.



# Lemann Center In Numbers



# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

## Noteworthy Departmental Achievements

*This year, our team has been actively involved in multiple initiatives. We've focused on international outreach, academic engagement, cultural and community engagement, outreach and communication coordination, administrative support, and operations. Additionally, we have dedicated significant time to improving our organizational and document processes and procedures.*

### Growth in International engagement

#### **Visit to Brazil with a delegation including President Killeen, and initial planning for Brasillinois**

The University of Illinois System delegation was comprised of the following individuals: Timothy Killeen, University of Illinois System President; Nick Jones, Executive Vice President/Vice President for Academic Affairs; Jay Walsh, Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation; Mark Rosenblatt, Associate Vice Chancellor, Physician Affairs, and Executive Dean, College of Medicine, UIC; Brooke Weisenbeck, Vice President for Presidential Development Initiatives; Pradeep Khanna, Associate Vice President for International Engagement (UIUC); Jerry Dávila, Executive Director, Illinois Global Institute; Flavia Andrade, Acting Director of the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies; and Pedro Hallal, Director of the Master of Public Health. During our visit, we met with numerous universities, including Sao Paulo University (USP), Catholic University in Rio (PUC-Rio), Insper, and other key partners such as funding agencies (FAPESP, CAPES, CNPq, CONFAP), Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, governmental agencies (Ministry of Education, BNDES, EMBRAPA), and the National Industry Confederation. After the trip, a series of meetings followed to start planning for the Brasillinois initiative, FAPESP week, and the Fiocruz visit. Profs. Dávila, the Lemann Center Professor for History and IGI Director, and Prof. Pedro Hallal will spearhead the Brasillinois initiative.



#### **Establishing Study Abroad Initiatives**

In our constant effort to expand the knowledge of Brazilian culture and contribute to the construction and maintenance of academic collaborations, this year the Lemann Center expanded and reinvigorated our study-abroad work by providing funding to undergraduate students to make short trips to Brazil. This year a small group was led by UI faculty on a study abroad program during the summer of 2024. During that time the students visited and participated of enriching conversations in public health agencies, universities and other institutions in Rio de Janeiro and in Florianopolis. To enhance the process for the upcoming year, we've collaborated with individuals such as Kate Abney (Director for International Programs in Grainger College of Engineering), Dustin Tarter (Assistant Dean, College of Applied Health Sciences), and Ali Freter (Director of Study Abroad, College of ACES). The goal for the next academic year is to introduce a call for the Development of Short-term Study Abroad course grants and to build on the momentum we created this year.

#### **Development of Fulbright Chair**

We're collaborating with Luiz Loureiro from Fulbright-Brazil to establish a chair at the Lemann Center. The idea for this initiative originated during our delegation trip to Brazil. The original MOU was reviewed by Prof. Patrick Keenan from the Law School and approved by our Faculty Advisory Board. Currently, we're finalizing the payable contract with IIP. We anticipate this initiative to span five years.

#### **FAPESP Week**



FAPESP, the São Paulo Research Foundation, plays a crucial role in fostering scientific research and technological innovation in the state of São Paulo by providing financial support for research projects across various disciplines. We engaged in numerous planning meetings, focusing on two thematic areas: Sustainable Cities and Public Health (One Health), and Public Institutions and Public Policy. The event occurred in April, and representatives from the Lemann Center, affiliated faculty, and a postdoctoral student attended. Flavia Andrade delivered a presentation about the Center. We met several scholars from Brazil, and the goal is to continue facilitating faculty and student mobility and research.

#### **Fiocruz delegation visit**

Fiocruz, the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, is a pivotal institution in Brazil dedicated to enhancing public health through research, education, and developing vaccines and public health initiatives. In May, a delegation from Fiocruz spent two days at UIUC. Flavia Andrade had the opportunity to collaborate with Jerry Davila in developing the names for a visit to Champaign. Throughout this two-day visit, Flávia actively participated in various meetings and luncheons, which provided invaluable insights and networking opportunities. The Lemann Center also organized a dinner for the delegation, further enriching the experience by facilitating deeper discussions and fostering connections among attendees.



FIOCRUZ

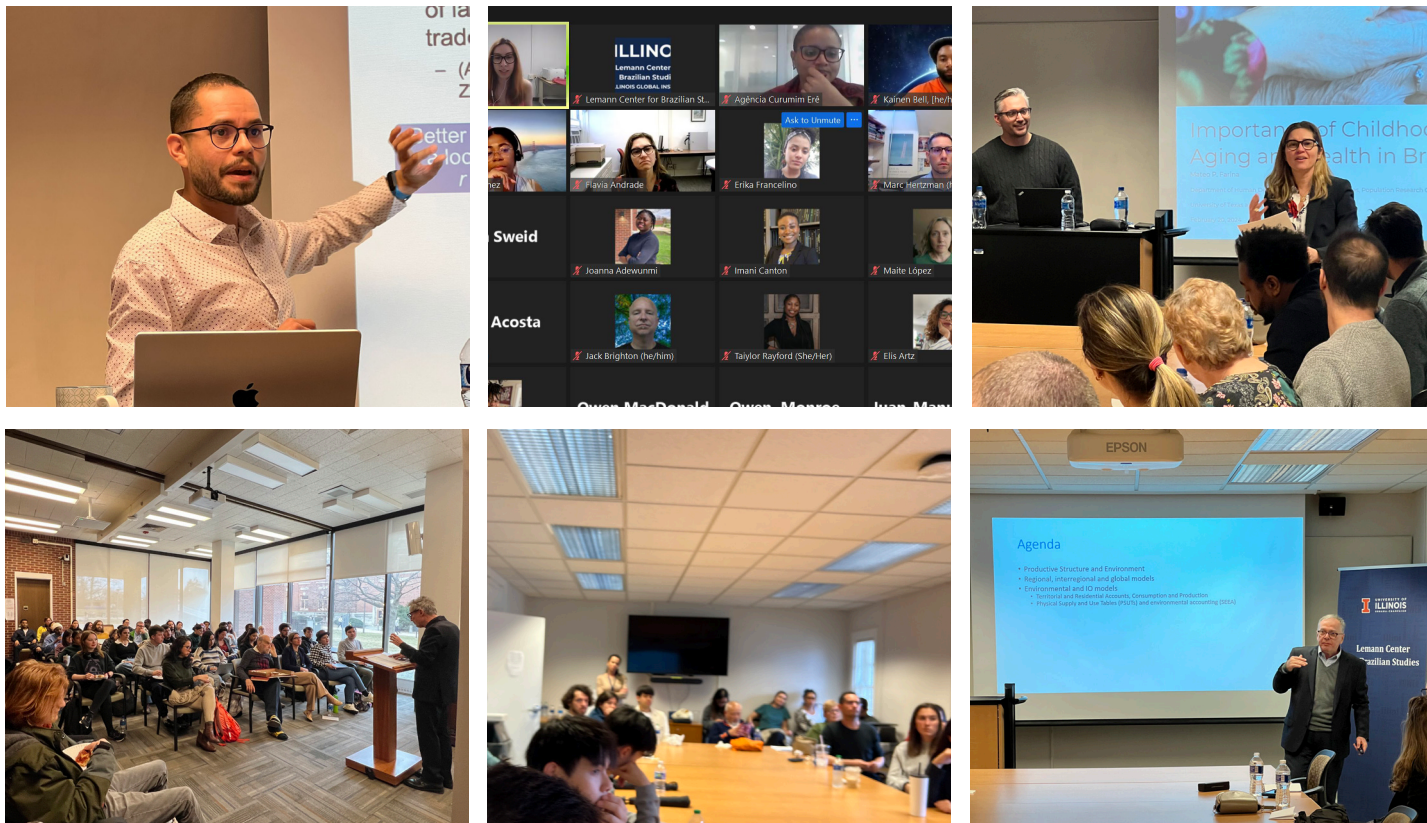


# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

## Growth in academic engagement

### *Growth in numbers and scope of the Lemann Lecture Series*

The Lemann Lecture Series is a crucial hub for fostering integration and dialogue among students and scholars interested in Brazilian studies, highlighting our significant growth. Over the past year, the Center sponsored and organized twenty-three presentations, a significant increase from previous years. As evidenced by its diverse topics ranging from environmental sustainability to Brazilian literature, the series reflects our commitment to fostering intellectual discourse and explorations in Brazilian Studies while providing a comprehensive platform for academic dialogue and exchange. Though we have not previously kept attendance records, this year's events were almost universally well-attended. We had more than 550 people join us in Coble hall, with more than 30 others tuning in online to several events that we held in hybrid format. In considering our speakers for this year and next, we have sought to diversify the participants, extending invitations to scholars from underrepresented groups and regions in Brazil that have not always received the same attention and engagement as those stationed in Brazil's coastal population centers.



### *Restoring the Werner Baer Award and promoting the visit of awardee Prof. Guilhoto*

The Werner Baer Award, which had paused in 2020, is now being reinvigorated through renewed contacts with the Lemann Foundation, represented by Nathalia Bustamante, and the Brazilian National Association of Economists (ANPEC). Discussions began in the Fall with former ANPEC director, Luciano Nakabashi; current president, Cassio Nobrega; and vice-president, Cassia Costa, who is now overseeing the release of the new call for submissions for the award. Aimed at recognizing exceptional and transformative work in Brazil's development, particularly in the realms of education economics, education funding, economics teaching, and the role of science in the economy, the Werner Baer Award is a significant one given the role of Prof. Werner in shaping the Center and the relationships between Brazil and Illinois. In collaboration with these partners, we were also able to host Prof. Joaquim Guilhoto, a senior economist at the International Monetary Fund and past recipient of the award, who visited campus in late April, delivering a lecture and holding meetings with numerous professors and students. Prof. Guilhoto visited our campus in late April, delivering a lecture and engaging in meetings with numerous professors and students. His visit underscores the award's importance and the caliber of individuals it attracts. In his opening remarks, Prof. Guilhoto described in heart-felt terms the significance of receiving this award and of Prof. Baer's role in his career. We are grateful to Prof. Guilhoto for his presentation and for helping carry forward Werner's memory and legacy.

### *Engaging with other national and international centers with a focus on Brazil*

This year, we have initiated efforts to establish connections with other centers in the United States (e.g., MIT, Michigan, Wisconsin) and abroad (e.g., Salamanca, Birmingham) focusing on Brazilian studies. The goal is to facilitate activities, faculty and student programs, and promote Brazilian studies.

### *Werner Baer Postdoctoral Fellowships*

These positions, established in memory of Professor Werner Baer, are funded by a gift from his sister, Marianne Kilby, and her family. This year, two applicants were awarded positions for the next year. Affiliated faculty Andiara Schwingel, Carlos Inoue, Eric Morgan, and Tania Ionin served on the selection committee. In addition, one recipient from last year hasn't been able to join us due to visa issues. We're continuing to work closely with IGI and ISSS to assist in resolving this.

### *Lemann Center Graduate Fellowships and Werner Baer Graduate Fellowships*

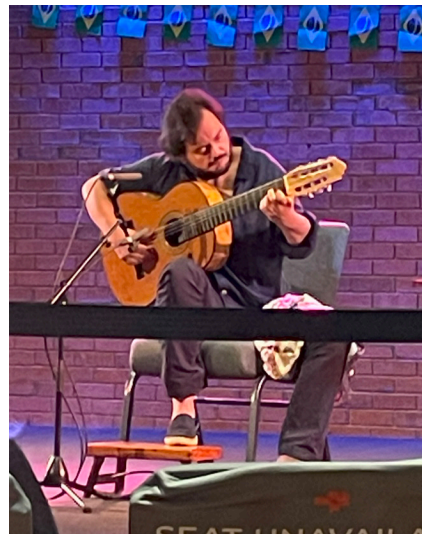
For the 2024-2025 we were able to fund five students with Lemann Center Graduate Fellowships and two with Werner Baer Doctoral Fellowships.



# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

## Cultural and community engagement

### *Yamandu Costa, September 2023 – Elnora Guitar Festival – Krannert Center*



Virtuoso guitarist Yamandu Costa is renowned for captivating audiences with his mastery and impassioned performances on the 7-string guitar. Born into a musical dynasty in Rio Grande do Sul, Yamandu’s prodigious talent ignited at an early age, culminating with a debut concert at the age of seventeen, which propelled his rise to international stardom. Widely hailed for rejuvenating Brazilian guitar music, Yamandu’s sonic tapestry defies convention, seamlessly weaving diverse genres, including chorinho, bossa nova, milonga, tango, samba, and chamamé. His groundbreaking artistry earned him the prestigious 2021 Latin GRAMMY for Best Instrumental Album, a testament to his enduring influence and innovation.

Throughout his illustrious career, Yamandu has collaborated with musical luminaries such as Bobby McFerrin, Gilberto Gil, and Marisa Monte, enchanting audiences worldwide with transcendent performances. Following his standing-room only performance at Krannert, the Lemann Center hosted an intimate reception in his honor at the residence of Professor Flavia Andrade, where guests enjoyed an evening of exquisite music and cultural exchange, reaffirming Yamandu’s status as a true ambassador of Brazilian musical heritage.

### *Choro das 3, Dec 1, 2023 – Gallery Art Bar*

The Lemann Center end-of-semester reception was featured the enchanting melodies of Choro das 3, a family group comprised of three sisters: Corina on flute, Lia on 7-string guitar, and Elisa on mandolin, clarinet, banjo, accordion, and piano. The trio specializes in Brazilian instrumental music rooted in choro, an instrumental genre originating in 19th-century Brazil. In 2021, tragedy struck the group when their father, Eduardo, who had played tambourine and percussion with his daughters since its inception, passed away from COVID-19. Despite this loss, the sisters have bravely continued their musical journey, viewing each note they play as a heartfelt tribute to their beloved father. The group’s performance in December headlined our reception, where faculty, staff, and students brought a joyful end to a great year and began to look forward to the spring.



### *Brazilian Carnaval, February 10th 2024 - at the YMCA, and Carnaval!, February 13th, 2024 – at Krannert Center*

At the YMCA, Carnaval’s cultural and economic significance was highlighted, with the local band Brazookas delivering spirited renditions of carnival tunes. Co-sponsored by the Lemann Center and the Luso-Brazilian Association, our 2024 Brazilian “Carnaval” was a resounding success, attracting 350 participants. It featured live music, colorful decoration, traditional cuisine, and guaraná, offering an authentic taste of Brazilian culture and showcasing the richness of the Portuguese-speaking world. The following week, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts dazzled on a Tuesday night with “Carnaval!” This vibrant celebration, co-sponsored by the Lemann Center, showcased cultures from around the globe, including France and Brazil. Student performers from the Lyric Theatre at Illinois took center stage in Foellinger Great Hall, showing the audience their talent. Before the show, a lively reception in the lobby set the mood with feathers, colorful hats, and sequined masks. Brazookas serenaded guests with “Marchinhas de Carnaval,” creating an unforgettable atmosphere.





# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES



### ***Tribute to Jobim and Villa-Lobos, March 2024 – Smith Hall***

This tribute unfolded through recitals, outreach initiatives, and thematic lectures that delved into the life and compositions of Brazilian maestros Heitor Villa-Lobos and Tom Jobim. The aim was to harness the full potential of the grant by employing a holistic strategy, melding different aspects of university activities, including research, teaching, outreach, and recruitment. In one of the events, guest artist Elisa Galeano, a distinguished pianist renowned for her expertise in Brazilian solo and chamber repertoire, conducted a masterclass for two student ensembles. The session focused on refining their interpretations of the pieces “Choros No. 7” and “Duo for Oboe and Bassoon.”



### ***Jose Gobbo Trio featuring Raphael Ferreira, April 2024 – Allerton Park***

It was a delightful evening filled with smooth jazz melodies as Gobbo, an established jazz guitarist and former Allerton In-Resident participant, joined forces with Ferreira, a talented saxophonist from Brazil. During the same stay, Ferreira visited campus to participate in a jazz forum at the School of Music and brought his captivating musical expertise to the stage. As professors, staff, students, and community members gathered, they were treated to a performance that transported them on a musical journey. Gobbo’s guitar mastery intertwined seamlessly with Ferreira’s soulful saxophone melodies. It was a truly memorable occasion, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds to share the universal language of music.



### ***Way Beyond Samba, Brazilian Cinema Film Series, April 2024, Normal Theatre***

This event was part of an engaging series held in April dedicated to Brazilian cinema. Three movies (including Bacurau, Neighboring Sounds, and Pictures of Ghosts) by filmmaker Kléber Mendonça Filho were screened, offering a captivating glimpse into the world of Brazilian northeastern cinema. Each screening was followed by conversation about Brazilian cinema and culture, expertly mediated by Gustavo Nery, an incoming UI PhD student.



# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

## ***Brazilian Jazz Ensemble, April 2024 – Krannert Center Studio Theater***

The Brazilian Jazz Ensemble performed a selection of classic Brazilian Bossa Nova and compositions by Goio Lima, a 2023-2024 Lemann Graduate Fellow and UI PhD music student.



## ***Arts Impact Panel, Nov. 2023 – Krannert Center***

A special edition of Krannert Center Uncorked was held in partnership with the Arts Impact Initiative in the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies. The event featured two sets by the Brazilian Jazz Ensemble, accompanied by a panel discussion supported by the UI System Presidential Initiative between the sets.

The conversation included reflections on recent faculty collaborations with Arts Alliance Illinois, Illinois' statewide arts advocacy organization, aimed at providing the state's arts and cultural sectors with much-needed evidence and information that could shape and inform matters and decisions affecting communities throughout Illinois and that were of importance to state-level policy.

The panelists included Andrew Greenlee, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning; Emily Guske, Master of Urban Planning Alumna and Independent Researcher; and Jennifer Novak-Leonard, Research Associate Professor in the College of Fine & Applied Arts. The discussion was moderated by Dean Kevin Hamilton, College of Fine & Applied Arts.

## ***Capoeira Angola International Conference, April 2024***

The Capoeira Angola Center of Mestre João Grande-Illinois hosted its 19th annual International Conference of Capoeira Angola at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Illinois State University campuses from April 18th-21st, featuring Mestre João Grande, a world-renowned teacher of the traditional art of Capoeira Angola with over 70 years of

teaching it worldwide. The event was open to all experience levels and free for U of I and Illinois State University students.

The conference's theme was "Meu Mestre, Meu Tesouro," a celebration of the cultural treasure of Capoeira Angola and the historical significance of Mestre João Grande's generation for practitioners of Capoeira today. They were excited to also welcome a special guest, Professor Cascão (Juan Pablo Espinosa) of the Capoeira Angola Center Study Group-Mexico City, who led hands-on dance and music workshops inspired by his work with and research about Candomblé.

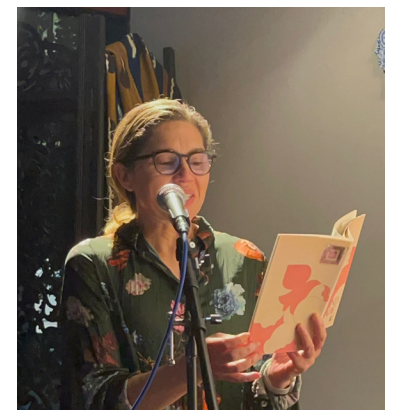
They had workshops on the fundamentals of Capoeira Angola, Afro-Brazilian dance, and percussion. Participants also engaged with emerging research and dialogues around Capoeira Angola's role and will continue to play in the consciousness of Afro-Brazilian culture worldwide.

## ***Word is Seed, A Celebration of International Voices Through Poetry and Languages, October 2023 – Salaam Middle East & North Africa Cultural Center***

Word is Seed was a poetry reading that showcased, celebrated, and promoted African language poetry and poets worldwide. To create an amazing evening, they invited other (non-African) language(s) poetry. The 2023 year's theme was: "Love, the Sensual, protest, Intoxication, and all things Exquisite." Participants were asked to choose and read poems with one or a combination of these themes to share with the audience in their original language. Acting Director Flavia Andrade read two poems from the book *O Amor Natural* by Carlos Drummond de Andrade, her third-degree cousin and considered one of the greatest Latin American poets of the 20th century.

## ***International Music Night 2023, November 2023 – Courtyard Café at the Illini Union***

As a highlight of International Week, the Lemann Center, along with other cultural centers, orchestrated an immersive musical experience by showcasing music from all over the world including Ashiq Delili, Latin American Ensemble, SPICMACAY and the Brazilian Jazz Ensemble at the Illini Union. The University of Illinois Brazilian Jazz Ensemble with a captivating performance transported the audience to Brazil's vibrant rhythms and melodies.





# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

## Local Schools and Public Library

As a cornerstone of our outreach program, the Lemann Center actively engages with local schools and libraries in Urbana-Champaign and Chicago, enriching communities through vibrant cultural experiences. Through events like Multi-cultural Nights featuring music, food, and dance, we offered immersive glimpses into Brazilian culture. These initiatives fostered a deeper understanding and appreciation of Brazil among students, parents, and the wider community, creating connections and enriching lives through shared experiences. This year, we partnered with: Westview Elementary School

Carrie Busey Elementary School; South Side Elementary School (Chicago); Vernon Hills High School and Liberty Villae High School (Chicago); York High School (Chicago); Champaign Free Library, Discovering Latin America and the Caribbean: “Caranguejo não é peixe”; Urbana Free Library, Latin America Story Time/Portuguese; Urbana Free Library, Celebrate Brazilian Art and Music Exhibit.

In addition, Prof. Marc Hertzman visited to area schools (Next Generation School in November and University High School in February) to discuss the history of Palmares, one of history’s largest and longest-lasting maroon societies. The presentations shed light on the significance of Palmares as a symbol of resistance against slavery and colonial rule.



PRESENT  
DISCOVERING LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN  
“CARANGUEJO NÃO É PEIXE”

Date: Tuesday, April 23rd  
Time: 6:30 - 7:00 pm  
Place: Nate & Lillie Story Room,  
Champaign Public Library

Discovering Latin America and the Caribbean: Bilingual program for children based on poems, rhymes, and traditional songs.

## IGI Educator’s workshop, July 2024 – Via Zoom

We cosponsored IGI’s Summer 2024 workshop. In this event k-12 teachers, community college educators and librarians had a learning time and those that attended received ISBE Professional development hours. The workshop was held virtually and the theme was critical thinking in the technological world.



## Outreach and coordination

As we approach the 15th anniversary of the Lemann Center, we built the “15 Years of Lemann” page on our website. We began a series of interviews to celebrate the center’s legacy and impact. These interviews, featuring past directors Joe Love, Jerry Dávila, and Mary Arends-Kuenning, as well as funders and other pivotal figures like Ms. Marianne Kilby, will be released in Fall 2024.

## Graduate Forum

The Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies Graduate Student Forum at the University of Illinois showcased the work of graduate students who had received Lemann Center Graduate Fellowships, Werner Baer Doctoral Fellowships, Werner Baer Post-Doctoral Fellowships and Lemann Leadership Fellowships. The event included presentations, roundtables, and poster exhibitions covering disciplines ranging from public health to Brazilian politics. We matched students with affiliated faculty, who provided comments and feedback on their presentations, promoting constructive dialogue and improving the quality of the event. In one case, the partnership not only introduced a student to a faculty member in another department but also helped foster additional dialogue, concluding with the faculty commentator serving on the student’s master’s committee. The graduate forum concluded with a lively musical performance and reception.

## Lemann Dialogue and BRASA



This year, planning for the Lemann Dialogue (which we hosted last year and was hosted by Stanford this year) coincided with FAPESP Week, both on the heels of the biennial meeting of the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA). With limited resources, we did our best to participate in each event. Marc Hertzman distributed flyers and discussed center activities and initiatives at BRASA and Flavia Andrade attending FAPESP Week and recorded a video with a report of our activities, which was shown at Stanford along with Harvard’s director, who also was unable to attend this year.) Professor Rafael Tassitano and Postdoctoral fellow Victor Silva also represented us in person. Flavia also attended the Directors’ meeting via Zoom.



## THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

### Administrative support and operations

#### *Hiring of administrative support*

This year, we successfully hired an Office Aid specialized in accounting, Lucas Cavoli. His responsibilities include managing the Center's accounting records, balance sheets, payments, and purchasing. This appointment strengthens our operational efficiency and ensures robust financial management.

#### *Meeting with external board and internal boards*

We convened with our External Advisory Board following a postponement from last year. The External Advisory Board supported increasing funding for programming and research, demonstrating their confidence in our initiatives. We also convened with our Faculty Advisory Board during the fall semester and used email to communicate about developments and new initiatives during the spring semester.

#### *Acting Faculty Director*

As Acting Director this year and the past year as Associate Director, Flavia had the opportunity to immerse herself in the leadership and the unit's operations, fostering local, national, and international partnerships. Creating these connections across faculty with shared interests, students, and administrators allowed her to boost interest in Brazilian studies and culture on campus. This experience provided valuable insights and skills about Center management and allowed Flavia to develop a vision for its growth. This experience has also highlighted the importance of succession planning in ensuring the Center's continued success. Identifying additional potential candidates, such as Prof. Marc Hertzman, for future succession was also very important. Mentoring and collaborating with Prof. Hertzman this year was a great pleasure. Collectively, Marc and I fostered a supportive environment among staff members, which will be helpful as Prof. Karam returns. We also documented key processes and shared contacts and plans with the staff to avoid disruptions during the transition period.

#### *Acting Faculty Associate Director*

The Lemann Center had Prof. Marc Hertzman as Acting Associate Director. Dr. Marc Hertzman, an associate professor in History, began this academic year. In this position, Prof. Hertzman gained knowledge of the Lemann Center's range of activities. Some of his responsibilities and contributions are listed elsewhere in this document. Some of the highlights of his time as Acting Associate Director include participating in the center's weekly organizational meetings; planning and coordinating the Lemann Graduate Forum; editing, revising, and organizing the annual newsletter (and helping streamline our process for gathering and organizing material for the next newsletter); serving ex officio on the faculty and student grand committees; chairing the search committee for our Office Aid; coordinating with the family of Professor Emeritus and former director of the center, Joseph Love, so that he could be included in our 15th-anniversary celebration next year;

planning events for next year; helping write and edit a new funding brochure, meant to attract a larger number and more diverse set of applicants for our funding opportunities; and participating in regular strategy sessions on topics ranging from event planning to Brasillinois.

#### *Faculty Advisory Board Composition*

The Lemann Center has expanded its faculty advisory board, which currently consists of 11 professors, with six women and five men. Given their deep understanding of the Center's needs and operations, this group holds significance as a potential resource for leadership succession.





## THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

### Efforts to Expand Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

#### Efforts to diversity and expand inclusive processes

Efforts to diversify and expand inclusive processes guided our selection of students, distinguished professors, and staff. Previously, decisions were predominantly made by a few faculty members, but this year, committees were formed with diverse areas of expertise and, where needed, included the input of IGI and LCBS staff to ensure fair evaluation. The Acting Director and Acting Associate Director served as non-voting members. We are grateful to the time and efforts that faculty across campus provided in these processes. The committees included:

- Lemann Distinguished Visiting Scholar: Marcelo Medeiros, Mariana Teixeira Silva, Michael Silvers, Olivia Campos Coiado, and Patrick Keenan.
- Werner Baer Postdoctoral Fellowship: Andiara Schwingel, Carlos Inoue, Eric Morgan, and Tania Ionin.
- Lemann Center and Werner Baer Graduate Students Fellowships: Andrea Aguiar, Emerson Sebastiao, Ilan Shomorny, Iura Sobrinho, Mary Paula Arends-Kuenning, and Raquel Goebel.
- Collaborative and Faculty Grants: Andrew Greenlee, Carla Santos, Heitor Almeida, Katrina Chester, Olga Manslova, Silvina Montrul, and Stephen Parente.
- Office Aid: Elis Artz, Marc Hertzman, and Daniela Fontes.

#### Promoting Inclusive Student Exchanges: A Collaboration between PUC-Minas and UI

In our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, we have been planning a trip for faculty and students with disabilities from PUC-Minas. Spearheaded by affiliated faculty Prof. Andiara Schwingel, the initiative aims to strengthen inter-university cooperation by facilitating student exchanges with various disabilities. We meet monthly with PUC-Minas faculty and staff to guarantee its success. Progress includes hotel selection, transportation decisions, and collaboration with the College of Applied Health Sciences and Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) on programming. The Center has dedicated 40% of the Director's non-discretionary funds to support this initiative.

#### Increased diversity on the External Advisory Board

The External Advisory Board initially comprised eleven men and four women. This year, we were pleased to welcome Prof. Nadya Guimaraes, adding another woman to the Board. However, our representation of diverse racial and ethnic groups remains limited. Consequently, within our unit, we've been actively discussing potential names for an invitation to address this gap.

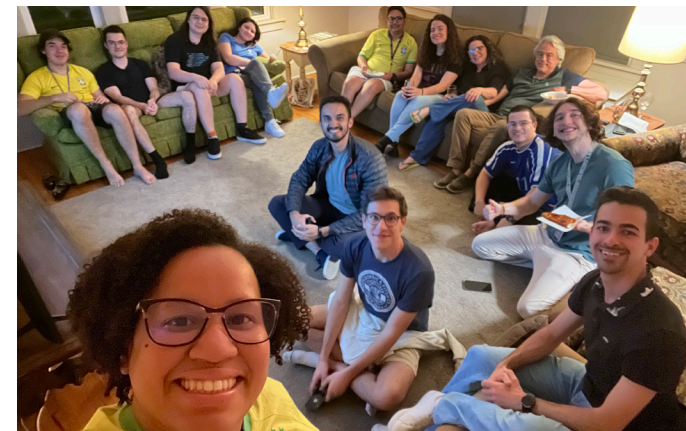
*Faculty Advisory Board:* The Faculty Advisory Board comprises faculty members from different disciplines and colleges within the university and includes the current Acting Director, Acting Associate Director, and past Directors. This board provides input and advice on academic programs, research initiatives, and other important decisions, ensuring that the Center's activities align with the broader academic goals of the institution.

*External Advisory Board:* Input is sought regarding new initiatives for the Center. This board assists us with budget planning and having a long-term perspective on the Center's goals.

*Student Involvement:* This year, we were proactive in inviting students to play a more active role in the governance of the center through participation in weekly meetings and student-led initiatives. This year also marked the debut of undergraduate interns in these gatherings, joining three graduate students to provide invaluable input on programming, events, and outreach tailored to student interests. Furthermore, we experimented with a new model of student-led initiatives. Graduate student Kainen Bell received backing from the Center to organize two events: one in-person with Bianca Kremer and another online featuring Horrara Moreira discussing facial recognition technologies. Next year, graduate student and 2023-2024 Lemann Fellow Goio Lima will be organizing the visit of the Director and CEO of Beija-Flor Institute. The Beija-Flor Institute is a civil society organization that provides free daily assistance to children and adolescents in Brazil who are in a situation of social vulnerability. We believe the template we helped establish this year may be used moving forward to sustain greater student engagement.



*Community Engagement:* The Center engages with external stakeholders, including community organizations, such as local libraries and private and public schools.





## THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

### Advancement and Fundraising efforts

#### Bridge grant

Acting Director Flavia Andrade and Prof. Asaf Siniver from the University of Birmingham co-authored a successful grant application as part of the Bridge program. This project encourages institutional engagement between UoB and UIUC faculty in the Social Sciences and Humanities around the research theme of Development and Diplomacy in the Global South. We proposed a series of activities supported by the University of Birmingham Brazil Institute and UIUC's Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies, which centered around engagement with a broader community of African and Brazilian scholars, particularly emerging scholars. These activities will include a joint Early Career Researcher workshop, joint mentorship and fellowship schemes, and culminating in a jointly sponsored international conference at the University of São Paulo, Brazil.

#### Reaching out to alums

In partnership with the Grainger College of Engineering, Gies, and ACES, we worked with the Campus B group to organize the Alumni + Student reception in Sao Paulo on May 15, 2024.

#### Brazilian Consulate in Chicago

We've been coordinating monthly meetings with the Brazilian Consulate in Chicago to promote Brazilian events and culture. These efforts are geared towards organizing a week of events in October, commemorating the Center's 15th anniversary and the 200-year diplomatic relations milestone between Brazil and the United States. Additionally, exploring potential collaboration with the Consulate could offer avenues for funding opportunities, and potentially reducing some of our event costs.

#### Amazon+10 FAPESP

We've been exploring a potential collaboration with Joao Reis and Rafael Andery for a joint call for faculty and student mobility, creating a partnership between the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies and the Amazon+10 initiative.

#### Visiting Distinguished Professor

We were honored to have José Vicente Caixeta Filho join us in Fall 2023, followed by Suzel Reily in Spring 2024, and Magna Inácio was selected to join us in the Fall of 2024 and Elisa Frühauf Garcia in 2025.

### Other Departmental Accomplishments

#### Supporting Grainger-Inspere collaboration

The Grainger College of Engineering has been receiving students and faculty from Inspere in Brazil. We have met many times with Gregory Pluta, students, and faculty from Inspere who are visiting our campus.

#### Goals for AY 2024-2025

We have developed robust programming and planning for the next year to ease Prof. Karam's return in the fall and, of course, understand that he will also introduce additional goals or initiatives.

##### **Research, Scholarship and Networking:**

- **Engagement with Brazilian Universities:** Develop connections with more Brazilian universities, focusing especially on less developed or often overlooked regions. The Amazon+10 initiative is a potential platform for this engagement, as is a visit we have planned for October by a representative from the Universidade Federal de Rondônia.
- **Support the Werner Baer Award:** Continue collaborating with ANPEC and the Lemann Foundation to present the Werner Baer Award.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Maintain the Lemann Center lecture series and graduate forum to facilitate networking, considering hybrid formats to reach audiences in Brazil.
- **Graduate Student Development:** Offer additional training and mentoring workshops on AI, library resources, and professional development.
- **Collaborative Research:** Encourage collaborative research on Brazilian issues by building a network of scholars interested in Brazilian studies.

##### **Cultural Awareness and Diversity:**

- **15th Anniversary Events:** Plan activities that highlight cultural understanding and diversity, featuring different areas of knowledge and Brazilian culture. Collaborate with Krannert Center and Japan House for co-organized events.
- **Diverse External Advisory Board:** Work on diversifying the External Advisory Board to reflect a broader range of backgrounds and perspectives.
- **Support for Underrepresented Brazilian Scholars:** With the end of the Empower program, find new ways to support underrepresented Brazilian scholars to ensure continued progress in this area.





## Lemann Center Graduate Fellowships

*The Lemann Center continues to fund graduate student research. It offers two types of graduate awards: Lemann Center Graduate Fellowships and Werner Baer Doctoral Fellowships. In the 2024 competition, the Lemann Center awarded five Lemann Center Graduate Fellowships and two Werner Baer Fellowship, which will be carried out in the 2024-2025 academic year. What follows are synopses of proposed lines of research.*

### 2024-2025 Lemann Center Graduate Fellows



**Kainen Bell, Inf. Science**

***“Understanding the Impact of Surveillance Technologies on Afro-Brazilian Communities”***

Kainen Bell is a Ph.D. student in Information Sciences, advised by Dr. Anita Say Chan. His research uncovers algorithmic biases and follows the work of digital rights activists and organizers of anti-surveillance campaigns in Brazil. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work and Business Administration from the University of Washington in Seattle and a Masters’s Degree in Social Work from Columbia University in New York. Prior to his Ph.D, Kainen completed a Fulbright Research Fellowship in Brazil, and later lived in Recife for 3 years, working for a community-based non-profit organization. For his dissertation, Kainen will conduct a 4-month, exploratory study to capture the growing manifestations of resistance to digital surveillance technologies

in Brazil. More specifically, he will focus on learning how Afro-Brazilians collaborate to resist and prevent the abuse of facial recognition technologies in their communities. Starting in July, Kainen will travel between the Southeastern (São Paulo and Rio) and Northeastern regions (Recife and Salvador) of Brazil, interviewing 20-25 stakeholders including organizers of anti-surveillance campaigns, policymakers, and civil society organizations. He will follow organizers of a local anti-surveillance campaign in Recife, and a national anti-surveillance campaign (Tire Meu Rosto da Sua Mira) fighting to stop the installation of 20,000 facial recognition cameras in São Paulo. Kainen will also be a Global Policy Fellow at the Institute for Technology and Society (ITS) in Rio de Janeiro where he will participate in an intensive 4-week program and meet with ITS partners, fellow researchers, and policymakers in the area of digital privacy. To supplement his 4-month field experience, Kainen will return for two additional months starting in January to conduct follow-up interviews and observe the uses of facial recognition cameras at the 2025 Carnival celebration in Rio or Recife, depending on initial fieldwork and recommendations from the anti-surveillance campaign leaders. Using ethnographic and community-based research methods, he intends to support the design of frameworks for collaboration between academic scholars and impacted communities. As similar projects emerge, this study will be the foundation for a model for supporting anti-surveillance campaigns in Brazil.

# Student Fellowships



## THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES



**Luisa Fernandes V. da Ponte, Urban and Regional Planning**

***“Reframing Urban Sustainability through the perspective of socio-environmental insurgent Practice”***

Department of Urban and Regional Planning Reframing Urban Sustainability through the Perspective of Socio-environmental Insurgent Practice State planning initiatives in Latin America have been highly influenced by colonial-based urban policy and still rely on Western ideals of development and valorization of technical knowledge. Such an approach is insufficient to address the complexity of spatial issues in cities since it creates unequal opportunities to access urbanized land. Thus, this process forces urban low-income communities to occupy improvised spaces in improvised ways, often meaning the emergence of informal settlements in environmentally sensitive areas. As an urban planning practitioner working with organizations that advocate for the right to the city in Brazil, I have observed the consequences of institutional policy based on risk management, which often treats vulnerable groups illegally and provides alternatives detached from residents’ local realities.

My experience leaves me with the question of how urban sustainability policy can be rethought in a way to address the implications of informal occupation of environmentally sensitive areas while being attentive to local human-nature dynamics - something I’ve been investigating for the

past few years. Thus, through this research, I argue that urban environmental policy should be reframed to a more transformative sustainability framework, especially in a climate crisis context. This can happen through the visibility and empowerment of groups living in environmentally vulnerable areas and social movements building agendas around environmental justice, establishing practices from below as a learning paradigm. In my investigation process, focused in Fortaleza, Brazil, I will build and apply a conceptual framework to evaluate current urban policy and projects that aim to address environmental issues; conduct interviews with key community leaders and policy-makers; participate in and support activities organized by communities and social movements; and conceptualize insurgent environmental planning that will serve as lenses to conduct reflections and analysis. The ultimate goal of this work is to make theoretical and practical contributions capable of influencing policy while empowering residents.



**Larissa Migotto, Political Science**

***“Navigating the Political Landscape: Exploring the Impact of National-Level Polarization on Local Elections in Brazil”***

By investigating the interplay between national-level polarization and local elections in Brazil’s fragmented party system, this study aims to explain how polarization discourse propagated by national elites influences alliance dynamics and political discourse at the local level. The project centers on four key Brazilian capital elections—São Paulo, Rio

de Janeiro, Recife, and Porto Alegre—which are expected to witness heightened competition and polarization in the upcoming 2024 municipal elections. Through a comprehensive analysis of elite cues, framing strategies, and their impact on local dynamics, this research aims to provide insights into the complex relationship between national-level polarization and local electoral processes. Methodologically, the project will employ a combination of semi-structured interviews with political leaders and activists, content analysis of media sources, and quantitative assessments of party organization. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of polarization dynamics in multiparty systems and its implications for democratic governance in Brazil.



**Otavio Soares Barros, CLACS**

***“A Decade of Lei de Cotas in Brazil: An Analysis of its Effectiveness through Students and Critical Race Theory’s Lenses”***

My research aims to analyze the effectiveness of Brazil’s Lei de Cotas (Affirmative Action Law/Lei No. 12.711/2012) after its tenth anniversary of implementation as a federal law in the country. The study focuses on the policy impact on higher education institutions, particularly at the Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA), through the lens of Critical Race Theory (CRT). I seek to address key questions regarding the law efficacy and its implications for underrepresented students: Firstly, I examine the extent to which the Lei de Cotas has addressed the underrepresentation of black Brazilians in higher education. This involves assessing enrollment rates and demographic shifts over the past

ten years. Secondly, I explore how beneficiaries perceive the effectiveness of the Lei de Cotas. This qualitative aspect aims to center and capture the lived experiences and perspectives of students who have directly benefited from the policy. Thirdly, I investigate whether the Lei de Cotas has influenced students of color’s sense of belonging in historically white-dominated academic spaces. This aspect delves into the socio-cultural impact of the policy on marginalized students.

The research contextualizes the historical inequities in Brazilian higher education and the emergence of affirmative action policies to address them. It highlights the evolution of affirmative action from experimental phases to legislative consolidation, emphasizing the significance of Lei de Cotas in promoting equality and social transformation. Additionally, by centering marginalized voices and applying Critical Race Theory, the study aims to shed light on systemic inequalities and inform future policy discussions, ultimately seeking to advance knowledge in the field, as well as develop new theoretical perspectives grounded in Critical Race Theory to contribute to ongoing efforts in the promotion of inclusivity and equal representation in Brazilian education.



**Owen MacDonald, History (Continue from 23-24)**

***“Caribbean, Amazonia: Race, Migration, Labor, and Gender on the Madeira-Mamore Railroad”***

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Last year, I made great progress as a Spring/Summer Lemann Fellow towards my dissertation, “Caribbean Amazônia: Race, Gender, Migration, and Labor on the Madeira-Mamoré Railroad, 1877-1942.” I returned to Urbana-Champaign in January after spending 2023 in Porto Velho, Rondônia, and Rio de Janeiro conducting archival and oral history research. I spent the spring writing, presenting, and getting feedback on his work. He has recently finished a chapter of his dissertation, “They Just Bleat Like Goats”: Black Caribbean Labor Migration in the Bajan Town Neighborhood of Porto Velho, 1907-1942.” He presented this work in progress at the Biannual Congress of the Brazilian Studies Association in San Diego, California. I also received feedback at a workshop at UC Irvine, titled “Fugitive Histories and Migrant Knowledge in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Though yet to be determined exactly, the workshop will culminate with either a publication as a chapter in an edited collection or as an article in a special issue of a prominent peer-reviewed journal.

Over the summer, I wrote a second chapter of this dissertation, which explores the first attempt by a United Statesian industrialist to build the Madeira-Mamoré railroad during the first rubber boom. Coronel George Church’s expedition in 1878 brought immigrant workers from the United States to attempt the railroad construction project, but Indigenous resistance, tropical illness, and worker militancy made the project a brief, failed endeavor. I have likewise been collaborating with a historian in Barbados to explore the possibility of more collaborative research in the Caribbean this summer or at a later date.

Generously supported for a full academic year by the Lemann Center, I plan to finish my dissertation writing and explore the academic job market. Having participated regularly in the programming of the Lemann Center during the current fellowship term, I am also particularly excited to continue to be a part of the Brazilian Studies community at the University of Illinois. The weekly lecture series is, without fail, a highlight, cultural events to “matar as saudades” of Brazil, and the fellowship research presentation will present the opportunity to receive interdisciplinary

feedback from peers and scholars within and outside of my field of history. The Lemann Center has been an integral part of the work Owen has done in Brazilian Studies so far and will continue to be so for the next academic year as a Lemann Center graduate fellow.

## 2023-2024 Lemann Center Graduate Fellowship Reports



**Ana Laura Selzer Ninomiya, Kinesiology and Community Health**

### *“The long-term impacts of the Dona Francisca Health Study, a community-based research project”*

Thanks to the Lemann Graduate Fellowship, I was able to conduct this research in Brazil during the summer of 2023. It was of extreme importance to have this support since rural populations are oftentimes not prioritized in research for the added difficulty to reach, even with the fast development of technology in communication. This work was only made possible because of the support of the Lemann Center of Brazilian Studies in covering airfare and stipend during the summer for me to be fully dedicated to this project, col-

lecting data in-person in remote areas.

Using a qualitative approach, this research project aimed to investigate the long-term impacts of the Dona Francisca Health Study (2015-2018). Because of the success of the program, the thoughtful process of the study design, and being delivered by Community Health Workers (CHWs), we hypothesized that it would be possible that knowledge and materials from the program are still present and passed on, even though the research team is no longer involved. We aimed to examine the sustainability of this project and explore the maintenance of healthy habits proposed by the program, as well as possible facilitators for long-lasting behavior change.

Semi-structured, narrative interviews were conducted with 6 CHWs, 4 administrators, and 29 former participants. In an inductive thematic analysis, using the grounded theory, we were able to identify 3 main themes: acting agents, action into transformation, and the need to (re)act. The first theme was divided into sub-themes to reflect the personal and professional benefits CHWs had with participating in the Dona Francisca Health Study, the challenges associated with their roles as CHWs, and the importance of these professionals for healthy behavior maintenance. The second theme explains the changes in physical activity, eating habits and mental wellbeing that former participants adopted because of the program and maintained after six years of the completion of this program. It also reflects some possible facilitators and challenges for maintaining these habits in the past years. The third theme shows the importance of sustainable community-based interventions for community health, the interest of the population, administrators, and healthcare professionals in having similar programs in the city, and some of the facilitators for the success of such interventions.

These results suggest that the intervention delivered by CHWs in Dona Francisca had long-lasting effects on older adults’ health behaviors. After six years after the completion of the program, healthy behaviors such as avoiding processed food items and walking for leisure were still re-

ported by them. In addition, it corroborates with previous findings on the importance of CHW training for their professional and personal benefits and highlights the importance of these professionals in the promotion and maintenance of healthy habits. We expect that the findings from this study shed light on the necessity of training CHWs to improve public health and to inform future interventions of the importance of partnerships with administrators and community members as facilitators for the adoption and success of community-based interventions.



**Adriano Goio Lima, School of Music**

### *“The Bossa Nova Second-Generation Music – Today”*

As a fellow Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies graduate student, I could expand my studies of the bossa nova second generation during the year 2023. On November 6th, I presented my proposal (along with my supervisor, Prof. Chip McNeill) at the Graduate Student Forum and performed the music of the second bossa nova generation after the event.

As the director of the Brazilian Jazz Ensemble of the University of Illinois, I wrote around twenty arrangements of Brazilian tunes related to the second bossa nova generation, including some of my compositions that will be presented on my CD to be recorded this year. I performed at the Krannert Center for Performing Arts with the same group as part of the U of I Jazz Week. The same group was



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appointed as one of the positive experiences in the school of music on the research among students of the U of I. In February, I produced and arranged a concert with “Marchinhas de Carnaval” that was performed at the YMCA and the Krannert Center for Performing Arts.

With Prof. McNeill, I applied for and received a Lemann Center faculty grant to record a CD with my compositions inspired by the second bossa nova generation, which will be recorded this year. Bossa nova is the most well-known of all Brazilian music styles. It is a different version of samba, more elaborate, with more advanced music details. Bossa Nova first generation’s impressive international success from the early 60s was not experienced by its second generation. They built their songs on the high quality of the first generation music and achieved a level of excellence that should be better appreciated internationally. Unfortunately, due to its absence in the popular media, younger generations do not know this significant period of Brazilian popular music, and most of its singers and arrangers are unknown to new audiences despite being still active today.

My project is to compose and arrange twelve songs based on the aesthetics of the bossa nova second generation, with particular attention to its independence of foreign elements and its high musical quality, including harmonic interpolations and elaborate melodies. Regarding the arrangements, the project aims to use the bossa nova second-generation typical instrumentation of a rhythm section composed of piano, drum, bass, guitar, and percussion and an orchestra based on wind and string instruments.

### **Julia de Souza Campos Paiva, Urban and Regional Planning**

#### **“Assessing Minha Casa Minha Vida Housing Policy from a Racialized Perspective”**

Minha Casa Minha Vida (MCMV) is the major Brazilian housing policy subsidizing low-income homeownership. In this thesis, I discuss hidden mechanisms of racial exclu-



seemingly race-neutral housing policy is biased towards certain regions and cities in Brazil. I also demonstrate through the experiences of program stakeholders how program design incentivizes and favors certain population groups. This work contributes to the understanding of potential racial barriers in MCMV access and develops a framework that advances the conceptualization of racialization as an organizing feature for Brazilian housing policy.

For almost a century, Brazil was seen nationally and internationally as a racial paradise. The ideology of “racial democracy” hindered the acknowledgment of existing racial barriers in society and the possibility to propose policies to overcome them. Most policies are still focused on income – with this variable defining vulnerability and constituting the target group for State assistantship – which is the case of MCMV. Moreover, the literature review demonstrated that Brazil has been applying policies based on home ownership, and since the last decades of the 20th century, the “market social housing” typology proved to be lucrative in the real estate market. Following the interests of the market, MCMV consolidated this product as a policy choice, providing significant subsidies for the construction and acquisition of such units.

The analysis conducted focused on the sub-programs Faixa 2 and 3 and demonstrates that the uneven spatial distribution of units follows the existing regional disparities and reinforces racial inequalities: Cities with higher percentages of racial minorities received fewer units per inhabitant.

sion within the design and implementation of MCMV. This research applied a compound mix method to assess the outcomes of MCMV policy from a racialized perspective. Drawing from an analysis of program administrative data as well as interviews with the program’s stakeholders, I demonstrate how a

Moreover, the definition of eligibility, when disregarding racial inequalities and their relations to income, prioritizes White residents as lower percentages of racial minorities were verified amongst the eligible population than in the population at large. The qualitative analysis provided complementary results demonstrating nuances of non-economic barriers to MCMV program. The interviews showed that realtors become gatekeepers in the process of acquiring a house: incentivized to sell fast with salaries based on commission, they tend to select the clients that demonstrate a higher chance of being approved, in a filtering process that can be discriminatory.

As a conclusion, policies should be framed from a racialized perspective to avoid the reinforcement of existing racial inequalities. As MCMV eligibility is defined by income, it presents a mismatch with the racial inequalities present in the country and, thus, perpetuates the existing disparities, within cities and across regions. A market-oriented logic is incapable of solving these issues, which requires State intervention to guarantee equal opportunities to all citizens, despite their race. Outcomes that divert from this purpose, as shown for MCMV, indicate a policy that is not fulfilling its social intent.



### **Rafael Guimarães, Kinesiology and Community Health**

#### **“The role of nutrition apps in improving the management of diabetes and hypertension in a population with low socio-economic status in Brazil”**

According to the National Survey on Food Insecurity in the Context of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Brazil, more than 58% of the Brazilian population lives with some degree of food insecurity, an increase of 57% compared to the period of 2017-2018, when 37% of the Brazilian population experienced some degree of food insecurity. More than 33 million Brazilians are in a severe food insecurity situation, returning Brazil to the United Nations’ hunger map. Severe food insecurity is directly associated with risk factors for chronic non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure. According to the World Health Organization, about 75% of deaths in Brazil in 2022 were caused by those diseases. To minimize these risk factors, some studies show that mHealth (Mobile Health) technologies provide functionality for patients and health professionals, enabling the diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of chronic diseases. These technologies allow easier weight loss and self-management of chronic conditions; however, less is known about the use of mHealth in food-insecure populations. In response to these challenges, a qualitative study was conducted in Salvador, Brazil, in collaboration with the Bahiana School of Medicine and Public Health. This study aimed to assess the utilization of health apps by dietitians and adult patients with diabetes or hypertension who experience food insecurity and to analyze which components of health apps are most effective in supporting a change in the nutrition behavior of these individuals. Interviews were conducted with dietitians with more than 5 years of experience and with adult patients with hypertension or diabetes who are between 18 and 60 years and live with food insecurity. Data collection included sociodemographic questionnaires and the application of the Brazilian Scale of Food Insecurity Measurement (EBIA). Expected results include insights into how health apps are utilized by both dietitians and patients facing food insecurity, as well as identification of the components within these apps that effectively support positive changes in nutrition behavior. These findings are anticipated to inform strategies for improving the management of diabetes and hypertension in vulnerable populations, leading to better health outcomes and quality of life.

## THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

### Werner Baer Doctoral Fellowships

*Created in memory of Werner Baer, renowned economist of Brazilian development who taught at the University of Illinois, thanks to gifts from the family of Professor Baer's sister, Marianne Kilby, and from Jorge Paulo Lemann, the Werner Baer Fellowship supports social scientific doctoral work on Brazil. The Werner Baer Fellowship provides support for incoming Brazilian doctoral students whose studies engage Brazil in the social sciences, and for doctoral students of any nationality and from select departments conducting social scientific dissertation research on Brazil.*

#### 2024-2025 Werner Baer Doctoral Fellow



##### **Érika Vieira, History**

My first research project and undergraduate thesis at the Federal University of Rondônia explored the racialized experiences of minority workers in the Amazon, while my master's thesis investigates the penetration of the Brazilian legal system into the Brazilian north, focusing specifically on legal cases involving rubber plantations at the start of the twentieth century. One chapter looks at legal cases involving women as workers, mothers, and owners on rubber plantations. For the PhD, using a range of sources from legal records, newspapers, governor reports, and more, I aim to write the histories of women's experiences in the social and legal world of northern Brazil during the rubber boom at the turn of the twentieth century.

I was born and raised in Porto Velho, Rondônia. I have a bachelor's degree in history from the Federal University of Rondônia, where I have recently finished my master's degree in History of the Amazon. I have been specializing in the First Rubber Boom and its relations to migration, labor, power, state, justice, and women. It is on these two points, women, gender, and the justice system, that I intend to develop in my doctoral research at the University of Illinois, with the support of the Lemann Center. My life experiences have given me a unique insight into the imperative of studying history through the lens of northern Brazilian women's experiences, given that I grew up in a household of Black and mixed-race women. My mother works in the public health system in Brazil, connecting working-class women and families in our neighborhood with the resources they need to receive medical treatment. My father was away working on construction projects throughout northern and western Brazil my entire life, so my mother, my twin sister, and I ran our household together, supporting ourselves through my mother's work and our own work as teachers and restaurant workers.

##### **Henrique Hernandes, Anthropology**

Born in Santo André, near the city of São Paulo, Brazil, I was raised in Brasília, where I developed a keenness for understanding topics related to society, language, and culture. I returned to my home state to study at the University of São Paulo (USP), where I pursued a bachelor's with a teaching certificate in Social Sciences. During my academic trajectory, I have been committed to interdisciplinarity—crossing the fields of sociology, political science, history, psychology, anthropology, linguistics, and education. During my time at USP, I had the opportunity to publish papers about the life and work of Carolina Maria de Jesus



and about the University of São Paulo's 2017 decision to approve affirmative action (ethnic-racial quotas) for black, brown, and indigenous students. I was also fortunate to be selected as a finalist in the poetry category in USP's 30th Nascente (the yearly cultural contest). My current research interests revolve around Linguistic & Semiotic Anthropology, Anthropology of Music & Ethnomusicology, traditional communities & identities, and vernacular expressive practices.

Moved by questions of how shared forms of musical and performative expression – and their embeddedness in people's everyday lives – can shape identity, communication, and language use in community settings, my research will be focused on the practice of jongo, which was proclaimed Intangible Cultural Heritage at the national level in 2005, by communities in the southeast region of Brazil. Academic inquiry about Jongo spans different fields of knowledge and is generally centered on how its practice constitutes specific black communities in Southeast Brazil, or centered on historical recordings of jongo performances. For most of these works, academic interest in this practice comes in the context of a broader interest in Afro-Brazilian popular culture, Samba history, and folklore. More recent works about jongo deploy an Afro-diasporic lens, for instance, to destabilize essentializing notions of identity and underscore its constitution through practice, or to open dialogues between jongo and other forms of expressive culture in the African diaspora to the Americas, particularly the Caribbean. Though the literature about jongo does refer to issues of meaning and language, especially when addressing the role of metaphor in the songs, a comprehensive investigation of semiotic practices and a centering of language and communication in jongo, like the one I am interested in, is yet to be done. Therefore, at the University of Illinois, one of my goals is to constitute an interdisciplinary conceptual and methodological framework – drawing from linguistic anthropology, ethnomusicology, and related disciplines – in order to advance our understanding of vernacular expressive practices in Brazil and to strengthen knowledge production at the crossroads of anthropology, linguistics, and music/performance studies.

#### 2023-2024 Werner Baer Doctoral Fellowship Report

##### **Daniel Fonseca, Department of Economics**



During the 2023-24 academic year, the Werner Baer Fellowship provided crucial support that enabled me to successfully navigate the first year of my Ph.D. in Economics. This year was foundational for solidifying fundamental knowledge essential for all economics researchers, encompassing six courses spanning Microeconomics, Econometrics, and Macroeconomics. The first semester commenced with a comprehensive exploration of statistics, laying the groundwork for understanding econometrics and its applications. In Microeconomics, we delved into classic theories concerning consumer behavior, firm dynamics, and general equilibrium, providing a robust framework for analyzing individual economic agents. Concurrently, macroeconomics equipped us with tools to tackle dynamic programming and a diverse array of economic models.

As the year progressed, the second semester saw a deep dive into specialized areas of study, further expanding our analytical toolkit. Econometrics emerged as a powerful tool for modeling economic relationships and evaluating causal effects, bridging theoretical concepts with empirical analysis. In Microeconomics, Game theory introduced strategic decision-making processes, shedding light on complex scenarios ranging from market structures to bargaining dynamics. Moreover, macroeconomics continued to broaden our horizons, traversing a spectrum of economic models such as Asset Pricing, Incomplete Markets, Search and Matching Models, Real Business Cycles, and New Keynesian Models.



## THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

### Werner Baer Post-Doctoral Position

The Werner Baer Fellowship from the Lemann Center has been crucial in laying a robust foundation for my doctoral research in Economics. Armed with a multifaceted understanding of economic principles and methodologies, I am poised to embark on advanced research endeavors that contribute to advancing knowledge in the field.

#### 2024-2025 Werner Baer Post-Doctoral Position



**Fabio Rezende Braga, Political Science**

***“Vulnerability from Oppression to Resistance: A Comparative Constitutional Analysis of Vulnerability and Power in Brazil and the United States”***

Fabio Rezende Braga is a Visiting Researcher at Oklahoma University at Center for Brazil Studies. PhD in Human Rights and Democracy at the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR/PR). Master in Social and Environmental Law and Sustainability from the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUC/PR). Specialist in Environmental Law from UFPR/PR. Bachelor of Law from Tiradentes University (Unit/SE). Member of the Center for Studies on the Constitution (CCONS) at UFPR and the Observatory for monitoring electoral risks in Brazil (DEMOS). He experience in the area of Constitutional Law, working mainly on the following topics: Law and Social Justice; Law and Gender; Philosophy of law; Human Rights;

Environmental Law and Law and Literature. Fabio will begin his postdoctoral training at the Department of Political Science at UIUC and he proposes to study the idea of vulnerability from the perspective of resistance, inspired by the theories of the North American political scientists Judith Butler and Martha Fineman, who develop the idea of the vulnerability of life and the conditions of access to rights.

**Francisco Filipe C. L. Viana, Civil Environmental Engineering**

***“Promoting the Safety of Pipelines Subject to Landslides”***

Francisco Filipe Viana, originally from Coelho Neto, Maranhão, earned his bachelor’s degree in Production Engineering from the State University of Maranhão and a master’s degree from the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE). He is currently pursuing his doctoral studies in Production Engineering at UFPE, focusing on Risk Analysis for critical infrastructures. His research involves developing Multicriteria Decision Making and Aid models that integrate human, financial, and environmental risks information, along with expert knowledges from engineers and decision-makers, for natural gas and hydrogen pipeline systems.

This research is particularly vital as Brazil’s pipeline infrastructure rapidly expands, impacting public safety and efficient production. Filipe will begin his postdoctoral training at the MAE Center (creating a Multi-hazard Approach to Engineering) in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UIUC, where he is challenged to develop mathematical models that consider landslide mechanisms to predict pipeline catastrophic failures.



#### 2023-2024 Werner Baer Post-Doctoral Position



**Thaís Zappellini, Legal History**

***“The Lipstick Lobby and the Letter of Brazilian Women to the Constituent Assembly: Engendering Democracy and Rethinking Feminist and Women’s Movements to Shape Law and Society.”***

I am a scholar from São Paulo and completed my PhD in August 2022 in the field of Politics and Economic Law. The Werner Baer Postdoctoral Position enabled the development of my research on feminist and women’s movements, supporting the promotion of initiatives to include women in the legal history of Brazil. My interdisciplinary research entitled “The Lipstick Lobby and the Letter of Brazilian Women to the Constituent Assembly: Engendering Democracy and Rethinking Feminist and Women’s Movements to Shape Law and Society”

has been supervised by Professor Jerry Dávila, Jorge Paulo Lemann Chair in Brazilian History and Executive Director of the Illinois Global Institute at the University of Illinois.

The main objective of the research is to address a mobilization carried out in the late 1980s, that became known as the “Lipstick Lobby”. With the support of the National Council for Women’s Rights (CNDM), 26 female deputies were elected in Brazil in 1986, who managed to approve 80% of their demands in the National Congress, incorporated into the body that drafted the 1988 Constitution of Brazil. The analysis provide evidence to support a fundamental and unprecedented participation of Brazilian women in a project to rethink the law and democratization.

A literature review was carried out taking as a starting point the concept “engendering democracy”, used by Sonia Alvarez in 1990. The female parliamentarians’ strategies were selected based on a comprehensive analysis of primary sources, consisting of the 65 volumes of the Jornal da Constituinte newsletter (1987-1988), the CNDM newsletter Informe Mulher (1986-1988), and speeches given by female deputies in the Constituent Assembly.

As the main takeaways from the research, we can point out that the constitutional process was seen as a unique opportunity for creative work. Besides that, the Lobby’s strategies may have positive results in the context of legislative processes. Its greatest weapon was unity, which highlights the importance of maintaining dialogue between parliamentarians and social movements as a powerful instrument to multiply spaces for women, to engender democracy.

During my appointment, I had the opportunity to be part of the academic life at the Lemann Center and other departments of the University of Illinois, attending to events and participating in debates related to my research interests. I collaborated in the preparation of a handbook for fellows and visiting researchers at Lemann, recording my experience and significant information that could be useful for adaptation in Urbana-Champaign.

After having contact with the “Women in Red Movement”, through a workshop carried out by Women & Gender in Global Perspectives Program (WGGP), I updated new entries for the Lipstick Lobby and its members in Wikipedia database, to remedy the lack of references to women, which appear in red because they do not have biographical information. I was also

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able to collaborate with scholars affiliated with the Center of Latin America and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), taking part in discussions and round tables on the work of undergraduate students.

I shared the partial results of my research at the Lemann Graduate Forum in November 2023. The conclusions were presented at the Lemann Lecture Series in March 2024, and it was very helpful to have feedback from other scholars and colleagues. The outcomes of the research were gathered in an 14,000 words academic article entitled “Here it comes, the Lipstick Lobby”: Engendering Democracy and Rethinking Feminist and Women’s Movements to Shape Law in Brazil,” submitted to a distinguished journal

Throughout the study conducted, important information was found about Queering legal cultures in the late 20th century in Brazil. A talk was held on an academic article proposal on the topic at the Congress of the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA) in April 2024. I was Chair at the event, for the Fight for Citizenship Rights: Race and Gender I Panel, facilitating dialogue between participants and moderating the debate.

I participated in FAPESP Week 2024 in Chicago, which brought together more than 20 researchers from the State of São Paulo and the U.S. Midwest and featured the launch of the Brasillinois initiative from the University of Illinois System. I was part of a group of young researchers who prepared a report on the event, with an intervention in the final panel. I was recently invited to collaborate on a Critical Racial Theory course with Duke University, FADISP (Faculdade Autônoma de Direito, São Paulo) and UFRRJ (Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro).

It was a great pleasure to be part of the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies and discuss crucial topics for the contemporary academic debate in Brazil and the U.S. I feel grateful to contribute to research aimed at greater democratization of society with the support of the Lemann Center, which certainly made all the difference.



**Victor Hugo S. Souza, Animal Science**

***“Evaluation of the growth and behavior of piglets in the nursery phase at different densities and sex per pen using computer vision technology.”***

Weaning piglets at twenty-one days presents considerable challenges in swine production due to the substantial physiological and environmental changes these animals endure. This critical developmental period, extending up to 63 days of age, entails a significant transition from a liquid (milk) to a solid diet (feed), separation from the mother, and mixing of litters from different sows. Such changes are stressful and are often associated with reduced feed intake and intestinal disorders, which can lead to an increased incidence of diarrhea, poor growth performance, heightened susceptibility to diseases, and, consequently, higher

mortality rates. These complications result in notable economic losses for swine producers, underlining the importance of improving management practices and enhancing animal welfare.

The performance of piglets during this period—measured in terms of average weight gain, feed intake, and feed conversion rate—has been the focus of extensive research over the last three decades. Studies have consistently shown that in the first-week post-weaning, piglets often exhibit a marked disinterest in solid foods, which directly impairs their growth and overall development. A thorough understanding of piglet behavior during this initial adaptation phase is crucial for devising

effective interventions that minimize negative impacts on their future growth and ensure the sustainability of swine production.

In response to these challenges, recent advancements in technology have introduced imaging technology as a tool to monitor exploratory consumption patterns in swine production. The field of computer vision, which involves the automatic extraction, analysis, and understanding of useful information from digital images, is increasingly being applied to study and improve livestock management. Researchers are deploying systems equipped with cameras and artificial intelligence (AI) to monitor feeding behavior, aiming to identify functional feeding areas and analyze the feeding behaviors of piglets during the nursery phase.

An innovative study conducted at the Imported Swine Research Laboratory (IRSL) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign highlighted the potential of these technologies. The study involved observing 80 piglets, categorized by different densities and sexes per pen, who were allocated in 16 pens monitored by 16 cameras during the critical first week after weaning. This approach integrated computational imaging technologies with detailed performance measurements, providing an in-depth view of the behavioral and performance patterns during this crucial time.

The experiment was executed in a nursery room, outfitted with pens that measured 1.2 meters in length, width, and height, each equipped with a slatted floor, a dual dry feeder, a nipple-type water drinker, and cameras installed at a height of 198 cm in the central region of each pen. Throughout the experiment, the piglets had unrestricted access to feed and water, and environmental conditions such as temperature were meticulously controlled. The continuous video recording was conducted 24/7, with high-resolution images subsequently extracted from these videos for analysis.

The analysis targeted three specific periods: the beginning, middle, and end of the first post-weaning week, amassing a total of 4,147,200 images. To accurately model and analyze feeding behaviors, the latest version of Ultralytics YOLOv8,

an advanced deep-learning framework, was used. It was trained on a custom dataset specifically created for this study. The Python programming language was employed to code and manage the AI and computer vision components.

Statistical analysis of performance metrics such as weight gain, feed consumption, and feed conversion utilized ANOVA to determine the effects of the density and sex of the piglets on these outcomes. The results highlighted a significant interaction between the density of animals per pen and their sex, affecting their feeding behavior. Notably, males and groups housed at higher densities exhibited increased feed consumption, suggesting that pen density is a crucial factor in post-weaning management. The system’s cameras and AI algorithms demonstrated exceptional accuracy, with minimal confusion between the behavioral categories evaluated.

This study underscores the effectiveness of using computational imaging technologies and AI in monitoring the post-weaning behavior of piglets. By providing detailed insights into the behavioral patterns of these young animals, such technologies not only help optimize management practices and improve animal welfare but also reduce economic losses and promote a more sustainable and efficient approach to caring for piglets during this critical developmental phase. This integration of advanced technologies into traditional farming practices represents a significant step forward in the quest to enhance animal welfare and productivity in swine production.



## THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

### Lemann Empower Brazil Program 2023-2024



**Jonathan D'Alcantara, College of Law**

I am extremely honored to share my transformative journey as a recipient of the Empower Brazil Fellowship. Completing the Master of Laws (LLM) program at the University of Illinois College of Law was an impacting achievement, only made possible by the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies. This opportunity not only brought a dream to reality but also equipped me with the tools to envision positive changes within Brazil's legal system.

During the last three semesters, I was able to explore the intersections of Law, Justice, Courts, Culture, Business and Commerce, enabling myself to obtain the knowledge and expertise necessary to navigate the world's evolving legal landscape. I am extremely grateful for all the support provided by the College of Law, through top-notch professors and excellent faculty members.

As part of my program, I am currently gaining practical experience by assisting attorneys in Illinois, who are also members of the University of Illinois Alumni active community. This hands-on training has provided me with invaluable insights into the application of law in real-world scenarios, enriching my academic journey.

This whole experience allowed me to dive into the complexity of the U.S. judicial system, establishing a detailed and direct comparison to Brazilian Courts, often known to be inefficiently handling an excessive number of lawsuits, creating obstacles to access to justice.

My experience in Illinois, which wouldn't be possible without the Empower Brazil Fellowship, shined light on the future of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods in Brazil, such as arbitration, mediation, conciliation, and negotiation, seeking the concept of Multi-Door Courthouse and a shift in the litigious culture.

Throughout my academic and professional endeavors, the University of Illinois also allowed me to actively cultivate a global network of lawyers and legal professionals. This network spans across continents and encompasses diverse perspectives, enriching my understanding of legal systems and practices worldwide. Engaging with a diverse community from different cultural backgrounds has broadened my horizons and reinforced my commitment to fostering cross-border collaboration.

I cannot stress how important programs such as the Empower Brazil Fellowship are to effectively promote diversity, enriching learning environments by bringing together people from various backgrounds, cultures, and experiences.

I am certain to affirm that increasing diversity in academic and professional fields helps ensure that a wider range of voices are represented, leading to more comprehensive research, policies, and solutions that benefit society as a whole. The work done by the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies is essential and should be nurtured.

As I embark on the next phase of my academic and professional trajectory, I acknowledge that the commitment to learning, evolving, and teaching is continuous and necessary. I am determined to carry the ethic, competency, and respect that was taught to me at the University of Illinois, and I hope to impact the future generation of legal practitioners.

### Brazil Leadership Training Program

*The Brazil Leadership Training Program began with the establishment of the Lemann Center at Illinois in 2009. The program continues to support staff in Brazil's Central Bank to study in the Master of Science in Policy Economics (MSPE) Program at Illinois. In 2016, the Lemann Center at Illinois and the Lemann Foundation in São Paulo joined forces with the University of the Central Bank of Brazil (Unibacen) and the National School for Public Administration (ENAP) in order to enroll a broader range of Brazilian civil servants at Illinois. In this enlarged program, between 2016 and 2023, some twenty public servants have enrolled and graduated from Master's programs in Accountancy, Finance, Law, as well as MSPE.*

#### 2022-2023 Fellow



**Adriano Sekita, Central Bank of Brazil**

**Master of Science in Policy Economics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

It is a great privilege to have been awarded with the Scholarship from the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies.

The scholarship is an invaluable support provided by the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies that allowed me to pursue and successfully complete my Master of Science in Policy Economics at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign.

The opportunity to study in the MSPE program has been remarkable. Throughout this two-year program, I specialized in three areas, Monetary Economics, Development Economics, and Advanced Econometrics, which have significantly enhanced my capabilities as a federal public servant at the Central Bank of Brazil. The combination of economic theory with cutting-edge data analysis and coding technologies in the MSPE curriculum has equipped me with practical tools essential for my responsibilities in financial market supervision on a daily basis. The hands-on projects required in the program have enabled me to apply my acquired knowledge to real-world scenarios, making the learning experience even more rewarding.

The high academic standard and quality of education at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign have been exceptional. The professors' dedication and expertise have inspired me to strive for excellence, leading to academic achievements and practical insights that I will be able to apply in my professional role at the Central Bank of Brazil.

On a personal perspective, the experience of studying in the United States with my family has been truly enriching. The exposure to a diverse cohort of international students and the cultural immersion have broadened our perspectives and strengthened our resilience to face challenges, making us better prepared for our return to Brazil.

I am profoundly grateful to the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies for their support and belief in my potential. The financial assistance provided by the Center has alleviated the financial burden of tuition fees, allowing me to fully engage in my studies and maximize this invaluable educational opportunity. The skills, knowledge, and global perspective gained through this program have equipped me to be a more effective and impactful professional in economic policy development in Brazil. Furthermore, the events and seminars held by the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies at the University of Illinois broadened my views and understanding in areas beyond my knowledge and previous experiences as they allowed me to get in contact with other graduate students from various areas of studies.

Overall, it has been a transformative and rewarding ex-

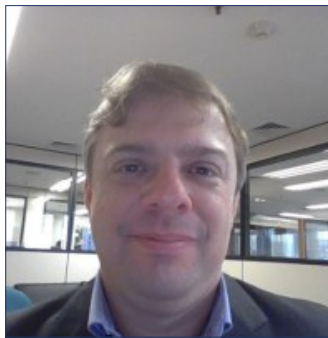


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perience from a professional, academic, and personal perspective. I am glad to have completed the MSPE program with good performance and putting all the effort to participate and contribute with all the academic activities. Finally, I express my deepest gratitude to the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies for investing in my education and future. I am eager to leverage the knowledge and experiences gained during the MSPE program to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of economic policies in Brazil.

Thank you once again to the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies for all the support and for being a crucial part of my academic and professional journey.

### 2023-2024 Fellow



**Carlos Henrique Zanatta, Central Bank of Brazil,**

**Master of Science in Policy Economics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

I have recently concluded the first year of the course of Master of Science in

Policy Economics (MSPE) at the Department of Economics. It has been an incredible experience so far, both in terms of gaining academic knowledge and developing interpersonal skills.

I have been a government employee at the Central Bank of Brazil for the past 17 years. During this period, I have worked with topics of banking regulation and banking supervision, specially concerning agricultural loans. My undergraduate major was in chemical engineering, and even though I've learned many concepts of economics and finance on the job, I still felt that I lacked the theoretical foundations that can only be gained at academic level. So, it was a personal dream as well as a professional ambi-

tion to specialize in economics at graduate level. Also, as a personal perspective, I desired to live abroad and immerse myself in another culture. The Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies, through the scholarship provided by its Brazil Leadership Training Program, has enabled that dream to come true.

At the MSPE program, I have been able to study the latest trends and the most advanced scientific theories and experiments in areas such as development economics, international economics and econometrics. Additionally, the program has a strong emphasis on the analytical side, with courses on modern tools for coding, data analysis and machine learning. As a policy economics program, theory meets practice through the study of benchmark cases of economic policies adopted by countries and the assessment of the efficiency of those policies through analytic tools that are based on rigorous academic principles. MSPE also provides contact with academics, policy makers and financial specialists through periodic field trips to visit public and private institutions as well as weekly seminars with visiting scholars and representatives of multilateral organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Overall, the experience has been fantastic so far. Not only have I been able to develop a sound theoretical framework in economics, but also a keen sense of analysis of real-world economic problems and possible policies to measure and address them. As a bonus, the vast majority of my colleagues in class are also international students from very different backgrounds, some of them also public employees in their home countries, which fosters an environment for sharing experiences and building networks. As a policy maker back in Brazil, those experiences and networks could be helpful in developing new, creative solutions to regulatory challenges.

Upon my return to the Central Bank of Brazil, I know I will be a better person and a more capable policy maker, ready to contribute even more to helping solve the many problems that affect Brazilian society. I thank the Lemann Center for that opportunity.

## Study Abroad Undergraduate Scholarships – Summer 2024

“While in Brazil I and my peers visited many healthcare facilities to learn about Brazil’s public health system. I became greatly intrigued while visiting different healthcare centers and learning about their healthcare processes and how they handled the care of their patients. There is the use of alternative medicine, consisting of natural herbs and products that can heal the patient if they prefer this way. I applauded this approach because it has not been discussed as much in the United States. I was interested in our visit to Centro De Saúde Itacorubi in Floripa, which had a fresh garden at the back of their facility that housed many fresh herbs, including basil and sage, which are available for patient use and act as a healer. One of my favorite visits in Florianopolis was UPA Forquilha, this is an urgent care healthcare facility that is open 24 hours. We received a tour and were given a presentation on how their system operated and what they wanted to improve on.

They gave us a project to implement a new protocol for pediatric patients who suffer from upper respiratory problems, which was probably one of the most complex I ever completed. This project exposed me to different problem-solving approaches and innovative ideas, which enhanced my creativity and ability to think outside the box, which is important for my future role as a healthcare provider. This experience equipped me with leadership, collaboration skills, and skills for working in diverse teams and leading projects with international stakeholders. I also enjoyed the many attractions we visited in Rio de

Janeiro including the Christ the Redeemer, the Sugarloaf Mountain, and Escadaria Selarón. Overall, this study abroad experience was amazing and empowering, not a day has gone by that I don’t think about Brazil and the wonderful memories I made there.”

**Ayannia Douglas, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences**



“During our 2-week faculty led program in Brazil, we visited 2 cities, Florianópolis and Rio de Janeiro. The Public Health program in Brazil was an enlightening experience, where we learned about community health issues, and the intersection of culture, environment, and education among diverse communities in Brazil. For example, it was impactful to learn about how Project Haja symbolized the potential that lies in the community, despite negative perceptions of the community.

Additionally, visiting the primary and secondary health centers was motivating to learn about the different aspects of alternative medicine, which is different forms of holistic healing, utilizing herbs, yoga, community garden, acupuncture and more, alongside traditional medicine.

In Brazil, alternative medicine is referred to as complementary medicine because it shows how both can be used to benefit a per-



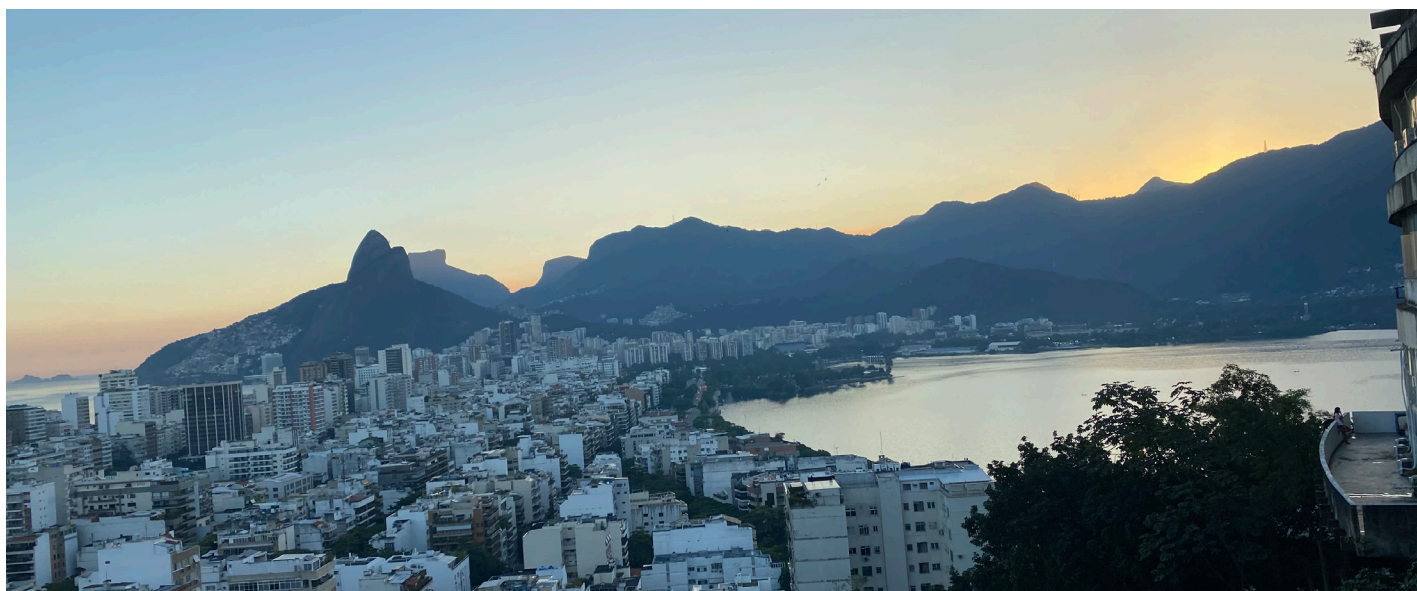
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### Study Abroad Undergraduate Scholarships – Summer 2024

son's health. Additionally, it was interesting to see how the Community Health Workers (Health Agents) in Brazil have built a community of trust among the people in the neighborhood that they serve, so much so that they would be welcomed into people's homes for routine check ups, especially before the pandemic and the new implementation of healthcare clinics. This is another difference in the U.S. and may reveal underlying issues in the U.S. and things that have people questioning our healthcare system.

This motivates me when returning to the U.S. to incorporate values and structures that have shown to work and build trust, and reflect on what doesn't. Additionally, visiting Fiocruz was interesting to see the development of research with vaccines and the historical presence of science and health innovations, and the history of African, indigenous, and portugul influences forms of healings. Moreover, throughout the tours of the cities Florianópolis and Rio de Janeiro, we learned about the disparities among the upper class and high prices of living versus those in lower income communities being forced to live in houses in the mountains, and the access to healthcare may be different. Additionally, visiting the Favela community was eye opening in terms of getting to understand people from different backgrounds and hear about their life experiences and integration of the community, despite the stereotypes of foreigners and Natives of Brazil alike. Sometimes, Favelas and parts of Brazil tends to have negative connotations of it being dangerous or ridden with violence. Although addressing issues of violence and danger that exist in communities is definitely important and can be viewed through a public/community health standpoint. Moreover, this got me to reflect on issues of violence in Chicago and across the U.S. and the importance of building community and giving people a voice to share their perspective. I am very grateful to have taken this trip and gained a unique perspective on addressing community health issues, which I could not have gained while remaining in the U.S. I am excited to bring back new perspectives and ideas, and continue to learn and respect new cultures and their perspectives of healing, reflecting on what works and doesn't work."

**Savannah Guzman, Kinesiology**



"Studying abroad in Brazil was one of the best experiences in my life. I am beyond grateful to have gotten the opportunity to travel out of the country and learn about their public healthcare system. In the city of Florianópolis I was able to truly grasp the concept of how the SUS a government-run public health care system works by the lectures provided in the UPA clinics and UFSC, which was truly interesting in learning how their primary care clinics work and how they are able to provide the necessary healthcare resources to their citizens. I found it really amazing how SUS is able to provide free healthcare to their country and how well organized they are by the cities and even smaller regions of the country. It really made me reflect on how the United States healthcare works and how expensive it tends to be for those who are underserved and underrepresented. I really gained a lot of knowledge and ideas I would like to see be implemented in our healthcare system to provide equity and equality of healthcare resources to our citizens. Learning about the difference between primary and secondary health intervention clinics was really important as we were able to see the distinction on the types of services they provide to their patients and how their protocols work. Overall Florianópolis was a beautiful city that was truly magical from the sweet and loving locals to the breathtaking beaches.

When arriving in Rio I was taken aback by the gorgeous attractions and vast amount of history that it holds. Learning about project HAJA in Rio was one the my highlights of the whole trip as we were able to observe how children from underserved communities live and get educated on basic academic skills like math and reading but as well as lifestyle skills like knowing how to protect themselves from pregnancy or how to compost food scraps. I was really moved by the project HAJA as it reminded me to always be grateful and appreciative of what we have and to understand the privilege we have as U.S citizens. Having an interaction with the girls from the HAJA project truly warmed my heart and even brought me to tears as they seemed happy to meet us and thankful for the food donations we brought. Lastly, visiting Fiocruz was such an amazing campus where we learned about their research and influences in the healthcare system in Brazil. Fiocruz was really beautiful due to their architecture and their vast amount of books, articles and artifacts that date back to hundreds of years and something I found to be really amazing was seeing the signature of Albert Einstein in one of their books that was kept in their library. Overall Brazil's culture was very welcoming, colorful and supportive and I was thankful enough to have two amazing professors that guided and protected me throughout this trip. I will never forget this trip and I will always be thankful for this amazing opportunity."



**Leslie Quezada, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences**



## Faculty Research and Collaborative Grants 2024-2025

### Research Grants for U of I Faculty

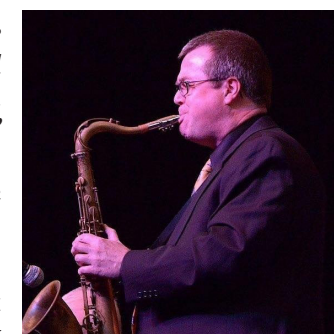
***“Brazilian Popular Music and the Second Bossa Nova Generation Music.”***

**Chip McNeill, Music**

The research for the Lemann Faculty Grant awarded will be about how Brazilian popular music during the late 70s and early 80s achieved a point of maturation and created its own stylistic characteristics different from the hegemonic model of US music. In the late '70s, the second generation of Bossa Nova composers, arrangers, and singers created a music style that included all innovations from the first generation with a twist of originality.

The project intends to introduce a new generation to the relevance and high quality of the music produced by the bossa nova second generation in Brazil. By inviting young singers and senior ones from both Brazil and the US, the project also wishes to highlight how fresh and contemporary this music still is both in Brazil and around the globe. The young singers will also provide a connection with a younger generation of listeners.

The final goal of this project is to record a CD with a list of songs composed and arranged by Adriano Fagundes “Goio” Lima (a DMA candidate in the jazz area of the School of Music at U of I and a student of mine) based entirely on the aesthetics of the Bossa Nova second generation in Brazil. The music will be performed by a large orchestra of students from the U of I jazz area in the School of Music. This project is connected to “Goio” Lima’s proj-



ect, where he will compose and arrange the songs that will be recorded using the resources of this Lemann Faculty Grant.

Some of the decisions concerning the pre-production of the CD will include: 1. The formation of orchestra; 2. The repertoire; 3. The arrangements; 4. The recording; 5. The physical CD; 6. Launching the CD; 7. Special guest artists; 8. The final report of findings: The report on the findings of the research and the completion of the CD project that supports the research of this music from the rich Brazilian heritage of music and arts will be presented at the conclusion of this Lemann Faculty Grant research.

To reiterate the purpose of the research project is to introduce a new global generation to the relevance and high-quality of the music produced by the bossa nova second generation in Brazil and by Brazilian popular music during the late 70s and early 80s through the production of a new CD of material that is based entirely on the aesthetics of the bossa nova second generation and Brazilian popular music.

Timeline:

May-June 2024 Formation of the orchestra and repertoire

July-November 2024 Revision of the arrangements/guest artists

December 2024 Recording

January 2025 Mixing and mastering

February 2025 Confection of the physical CD

March 2025 Launching the CD

# Faculty Research Grants



## THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES



***“A Brazilian Cultural Adaptation of Family-Centered Motivational Interviewing.”***

**Douglas Smith, Social Work**

Motivational Interviewing is an empirically supported intervention that helps people resolve ambivalence about making changes. Yet, there are very few adaptations of MI for use with families, and there exists limited information on how MI may need to be culturally adapted for Brazilian families.

The aims of the project are to 1) recruit between 10-20 Brazilian families where one member experiences a substance use problem, 2) deliver an MI intervention in family sessions, and 3) collect extensive feedback from the families about the intervention in order to inform a larger trial. Sessions will be recorded and transcribed, and the collaborators will develop a new process coding instrument suitable for coding family sessions of MI. There are no coding instruments for family-delivered MI where multiple change behaviors are considered (e.g., reduce substance use, increase communication, spend more recreational time together), but Dr. Smith has developed a novel conceptual model and will be published in his forthcoming book (2024), entitled “Motivational Interviewing with Families.” Furthermore, this project would rekindle a collaboration between Dr. Douglas C. Smith (UIUC, Social Work) and Heloísa Garcia Claro (Brazil, UNICAMP), which went inactive for a few years due to the Global Covid 19 pandemic.

***“Unlocking and Accelerating Physical Activity Opportunities for Vulnerable Children in Brazil: A Path Toward the Sustainable Adoption of School-Based Policy.”***

**Rafael Tassitano, Kinesiology**

Given the benefits of physical activity in life domains (i.e., health, social, and economic), promoting regular opportunities from an early age is considered a vital investment for sustainable societies. Unfortunately, global South countries have limited capacity and resources to respond to the global call for promoting physical activity. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, vulnerable children are only accumulating 15 minutes of physical activity during school hours. The main goal is to address the critical issue of physical inactivity among vulnerable children in Brazil and support adopting and implementing a school-based physical activity policy within the educational system of Arapiraca City, located in one of Brazil’s least developed states. By partnering with local stakeholders and utilizing evidence-based frameworks, the project seeks to bridge the gap between research evidence and real-world practice in promoting physical activity. The scientific aims are: (1) To evaluate the association between school organizational characteristics and physical activity and (2) To identify the barriers and facilitators for policy adoption through the lens of the policymakers and school representatives. We hypothesized that children’s physical activity is associated with the characteristics of school physical elements (i.e., number and quality of facilities), the curricular and extracurricular activities, and the school routine in terms of what is planned and executed.

The project employs a comprehensive approach, integrating policy development, implementation science, and qualitative research methods. Following the establishment of a partnership between the principal investigator and the educational secretary, a committee was formed to develop the school-based physical activity policy. Drawing upon the



whole-of-school approach and the theory of expanded, extended, and enhanced opportunities for physical activity, the policy was designed to address the complex factors influencing physical activity among children. To facilitate the translation of policy into practice, the project follows the Practical, Robust Implementation and Sustainability Model. This framework considers how implementation and sustainability infrastructure impact the context and influence policy acceptance. There are two phases that will be developed during the Fall 2023 (scientific aim 1) and Spring 2024 (scientific aim 2).

Insights into the association between school context and physical activity levels among children. Identification of tipping points for policy acceleration through the identification of barriers and facilitators for policy adoption and implementation. Recommendations for enhancing the school environment, curriculum, and routine to promote physical activity among vulnerable children. Contribution to the evidence base on effective strategies for promoting physical activity in low-income settings, with implications for policy and practice. We expect to present the initial results by the end of the second semester of the 2024-2025 academic year.

wildfires form a complex web of interactions that influences ecosystems, climate patterns, and human societies. It is essential to understand the interconnected dynamics of these factors to face the challenges posed by changing environmental conditions. This study is an initiative aimed at understanding in more detail the association between atmospheric dynamics related to South America monsoon precipitation, soil moisture (SM) and fire activity. We are in the process of analyzing different datasets. We have begun to analyze: ERA5 (fifth generation ECMWF reanalysis), GLEAM (Global Land Evaporation Amsterdam Model), GLDAS (Global Land Data Assimilation System), and CCI SM (Climate Change Initiative Soil Moisture) for surface soil moisture data and ERA5 precipitation data from January 1990 to December 2020. CCI SM and GLEAM are satellite-based datasets, GLDAS is blended data with observations and modeled reanalysis.

Remotely sensed soil moisture data in the Amazon region has many uncertainties due to the dense vegetation cover of the Amazon, which can interfere with the accuracy of soil moisture data obtained by the satellite, making data interpretation more difficult or requiring specific processing methods.

Currently, we are applying several objective methods to analyze climatological conditions of soil moisture and precipitation. We are using Empirical Orthogonal Function (EOF) and Harmonic Analysis. The first identifies spatial patterns of variability and their associated temporal evolution, and the second decomposes a time series into its constituent harmonic components, which include amplitude, phase, and variance. The Mann-Kendall Trend Test has been used to identify significant trends in spatial patterns over time in the results obtained in EOF analysis. The Autoregressive Vector Correlation (AVC) was used to correlate precipitation/soil moisture and the oceanic indexes TAV (Tropical Atlantic Variability), ENSO (El Niño-Southern Oscillation) and SAM (South American Monsoon).

Initial analyses indicate that SM is highly variable in the central part of Brazil, with a dominant seasonal cycle,

## Faculty Collaborative Grant



***“Disentangling the Triad of Soil Moisture, Precipitation, and Fires in Brazil: A Comprehensive Analysis of Climate data, Remote Sensing, and Modeling.”***

**Francina Dominguez, Agriculture**

The relationships between precipitation, soil moisture, and



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but it does not exhibit reasonable changes along coastal regions and the Amazon basin. Moreover, based on EOF analysis, a dipole pattern dominates the interannual SM variability, which shows out-of-phase characteristics between southern and northeastern Brazil. This dipole is, however, dependent on the dataset chosen.

Additional analyses should be conducted to clarify the differences related to precipitation and soil moisture, and the potential impact of fire activity in Brazil. It may be added that those climate variables are also related to oceanic conditions occurring in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, allowing for the possibility of identifying the impact of oceanic modes in leading environmental changes in Brazil. Anticipated outcomes include a nuanced understanding of spatial and temporal variability in soil moisture, identification of dominant patterns, detection of trends, exploration of associations with precipitation, and a comprehensive analysis of how these factors correlate with fire events in Brazil. The opportunity provided by the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies is fundamental to carry out the study with a higher degree of scrutiny.



***“Climate-Adaptive Soil Management for Enhanced Coffee Production in Brazil’s Cerrado”***

**Jorge A. Guzman Jaime, Agriculture**

The Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies awarded a Research Grant to the collaborative effort

led by the Watershed-Ecosystem Research Laboratory (WERL) in the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department, UIUC, and the Organic Matter and Residues Laboratory (OMRL), Soil and Plant Nutrition Department, UFV. This collaborative effort investigates the dynamics of the stocks of C, N, P, and S under the adoption of conservation cultivation systems in coffee growing in the Alto

Paranaíba region, Minas Gerais, Brazil, under present and future climate scenarios.

Adopting soil conservation management, has been an option to reduce the adverse effects of agriculture intensification, minimize soil organic carbon degradation, and sustain crop productivity. However, evaluating their effectiveness on large scales is challenging as different conservation practices target competing ecosystem services. Furthermore, data collection and experimentation on large scales is cost-prohibited and, in some cases, impossible due to the heterogeneity of soil-water-plant physical processes and the necessary data from farmers. On the other hand, simulation models, especially models aimed at assessing carbon dynamics in soils, have provided an effective tool for future trend evaluations, including nutrient and soil health assessment. To gain a better insight into these problems in Brazil, we propose a collaborative effort to use a soil organic carbon model to quantify the impacts of conservation management practices to (a) quantify the total and labile contents of C, N, P, and S in the soil organic matter fractions, (b) quantify the total and labile stocks of C and total stocks of N, P, and S in the soil particulate organic matter and mineral-associated organic matter fractions, (c) quantify the natural abundance of the 13 C and 15 N isotopes and then analyze the P fractions in terms of their lability and potential availability, and (d) model the stocks of C, N, P and S in conservation coffee cropping systems under climate change scenarios.

The proposed project is extensive across data collection, community engagement, contextual engineering, analysis, and computational modeling. UIUC PIs will provide their expertise and resources in sustainability (Dr. Chu) and computing (Dr. Guzman), including climate change and ecosystem services, to advance the research tasks.

They will co-supervise two Ph.D. students from the UFV and collaborate closely with Dr. Oliveira and other scientists from the Organic Matter and Residues Laboratory, FUV. Furthermore, Dr. Oliveira’s unique expertise in oxic soils, soil structure dynamics, and agricultural practices in Brazil will enrich UIUC researchers with a broader view

of the challenges of impact mitigation on tropical agriculture. Hence, this research aims to bridge crucial knowledge gaps regarding the impact of various agricultural management practices on soil health, particularly in coffee cultivation, a critical sector for Brazil’s economy and global coffee supply.

The collaboration is poised to deliver nuanced insights into soil nutrient dynamics, organic matter turnover, and the broader soil-plant-atmosphere continuum. At the same time, equip new investigators with solid foundations and expertise across fields and computational experimentation, including machine learning, artificial intelligence, and community engagement. This project aims to contribute knowledge supporting the transition towards sustainable and ecologically sound agricultural practices.



***“An Input-Output Analysis of the Key Drivers in CO2 Emissions from a Regional Supply Perspective: An Application to the Brazilian States.”***

**Geoffrey Hewings, Economics**

There is rarely a simple path between production and emissions, complicated by increasingly fragmented production chains that have resulted in economies becoming more dependent on transportation systems – a further and increasing source of CO2 emissions. Hence, the contribution of the diverse, productive sectors to CO2 emission will be established, considering the technological structure of the economy, the interrelations among sectors, and the sectoral capacity of generating value-added (especially income to employees). The nature and structure of the production interdependence, as well as income and consumption, will be important factors in determining the economic dynamics of a region. Further, In Brazil, there are significant income and production inequalities that ex-

ist in the country, both within regions (intraregional) and between regions (interregional).

The research project will build a model capable of simulating the impact of different policies on the Brazilian economy, focusing on dimensions such as spatial (national, regional), social (income distribution), and sectoral (different industries). The primary value-added of the research will be the identification of the “key” agents responsible for CO2 emissions. To achieve this goal, the environmental components (initially, with a focus on CO2 emissions) will be harnessed to an inter-regional input-output matrix (showing the links between the 27 states of the Federation) that differentiates between 68 productive sectors for 2015.

The economic model is nearing completion; attention is now focused on harnessing environmental data, especially emissions, to the economic sectors in the model. The primary sources of emissions data will come from the Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals Estimation System (SEEG), an initiative by the Climate Observatory that involves the production of annual estimates of greenhouse gas emissions in Brazil, analytical documents on the evolution of emissions, and a digital platform hosting the system’s data and methodology. Over the next several months, the integration of the economic and emissions data will be the primary focus of attention.

Once the model integration is complete, the combined system will be used to identify the “key” agents (i.e. productive sectors, households) responsible for CO2 emission. We will focus on the impact of an increase in the value-added of the different productive sectors on total CO2 emissions and identify the productive sectors and regions responsible for the increase in CO2 emissions when there is an increase in the income of the economy. The approach shows the contribution of the various agents and regions to C2 emission from a production perspective and allows us to identify the agents and regions that deserve more consideration for investment in mitigation policies. The analysis will identify whether the notion of a pollution haven (location of more polluting activities in less developed regions) has operated in Brazil. The final phase of the

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project will explore the impact of policies such as carbon taxes not only on the production system but also their impacts on different sectors and regions. The final initiative will explore the impact of income inequality at the regional and personal levels.

**“Data-driven Visualization of Climate Change in the Brazilian Amazonian: Revealing the Impact of Amazonian Agrarian Systems on Environmental and Epidemiological Changes.”**

**Juan Salamanca, Art & Design**



Scientific data on agricultural practices in the Amazon, such as large-scale crop cultivation, extensive livestock farming, and intensive agriculture, appear to be significant contributors to global climate change because they correlate with deforestation, habitat loss, and other environmental degradation. However, understanding the exact impact of these activities has been hampered by fragmented data. The launch of the Trajetórias dataset in 2023, as published in Nature, marks a pivotal moment in the field. This dataset provides comprehensive environmental, epidemiological, and social indicators for the Brazilian legal Amazon, providing researchers with a valuable resource for exploring the linkages between agricultural systems and their impacts.

The collaborative research project, led by Dr. Juan Salamanca of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Dr. Tobias Mulling of the Federal University of Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, aims to harness the power of data-driven visualization to explore the complex relationships among agricultural systems, environmental change, and epidemiological shifts in the Brazilian Amazon, particularly in the context of climate change.

The primary objective is to develop a data-driven visualization tool that integrates the Trajetórias dataset and facilitates a deeper understanding of the environmental and epidemiological consequences of Amazonian agricultural practices. By visualizing relationships between various indices, such as deforestation rates, burned areas, pasture coverage, and vector-borne disease incidence, the tool aims to provide valuable insights for policymakers, researchers, and the public. Using a visual analytics methodology, the project aims to create a user-friendly platform that enables stakeholders to understand the current state of the Amazon and inform policy decisions aimed at mitigating climate change in Brazil.

To achieve these goals, the project methodology emphasizes the importance of the Trajetórias dataset as a rich source of information and proposes the extension of an interactive visualization tool prototyped by Dr. Salamanca that allows users to explore relationships between different variables and dimensions. The canvas of the visualization tool is a multidimensional spatial structure that allows operations such as overlapping, scaling, transposing, and zooming on data points or clusters, revealing associations between data points or clusters.

The year-long collaboration between the School of Art and Design at Illinois and the Design Department of the Universidade Federal de Pelotas, State of Rio Grande do Sul, includes research visits and collaborative activities. These visits will include meetings, workshops, and collaborative work sessions designed to advance the goals of the project and foster cross-cultural exchange between the collaborating institutions. Potential benefits and outcomes of this research project include increasing public awareness and discourse on climate change in the Amazon and providing evidence-based support for policymaking not only in the Brazilian Amazon, but in the entire Amazon basin. In addition, the project aims to contribute to the generation of knowledge in the field of data visualization and digital design, paving the way for future research and innovation.

## Faculty Research and Collaborative Grants 2023-2024 Report

### Research Grants for U of I Faculty



**“The Music of Antonio Carlos Jobim and Heitor Villa-Lobos: a confluence of two geniuses of Amazonian Proportions.”**

**Iura Resende, School of Music**

The project I spearheaded was titled “Tribute to Villa Lobos and Jobim.” This tribute took shape through recitals, outreach initiatives, and thematic lectures focusing on the life and work of Brazilian composers Heitor Villa Lobos and Tom Jobim. My intention was to maximize the potential of this grant by adopting a comprehensive approach, integrating various facets of my work at the university, including research, teaching, outreach, and recruitment.

As all activities related to this project revolved around music performances, I personally curated the repertoire for the main events, namely the recitals on March 6th and 7th 2024, featuring faculty, students, guest artists, and myself as performers. Focusing on my role as a performer, I presented the pieces Choros no.2 for clarinet and flute alongside my colleague Dr. Jonathan Keeble and the piece Trio for oboe, clarinet, and bassoon with colleagues John Dee and Dr. Ben Roidl-Ward.

As I curated the pieces for presentation, I recognized the need for adequate coaching for the student ensembles. I took on this responsibility myself and, when necessary, sought the collaboration of colleagues. I coached the fol-

lowing chamber music works performed by the students listed below:

Choros No. 2 / Audrey Conklin, clarinet; Jae Hyun Moon, flute

Choros No. 7 / Yuyuan Yang, flute; Natalie Myers, oboe; Peter Varga, clarinet; Shelby Cook, saxophone;

Michael Deresz, bassoon; Dante Freund, violin; Wilson Curtis, cello.

Duo for Oboe and Bassoon / Kaitlyn Dunn, oboe; Ethan Ault, bassoon.

Professors Daniel McDonough, Denise Djokic, and Yvonne Gonzalez Redman assisted in coaching the piece “Bachianas No. 5” for the cello ensemble and voice. Pianist Elisa Galeano, a guest artist at the event and a specialist in Brazilian solo and chamber repertoire, offered a masterclass for two student ensembles performing “Choros No. 7” and “Duo for Oboe and Bassoon.”

Beyond the contributions from my colleagues in the string and voice departments, this grant facilitated collaboration with peers in musicology. I actively participated in their lectures for two courses: MUS 110 - Introduction to Art Music: International Perspective (instructed by Michael Silvers); and MUS 133 – Introduction to World Music, led by Jonathan Smith, PhD. Additionally, guest lecturers Ricardo Averbach, Eduardo Sato, and Kaleb Goldschmidt made significant contributions by sharing their expertise, offering musicology students the opportunity to engage with them and delve deeper into the proposed subject matter.

Outreach has been a cornerstone of this project since its inception. The efforts in this sense are intended to have various impacts, including providing additional options



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for meaningful cultural and educational activities, assisting K-12 schools in the Urbana/Champaign area with project development, fostering mutually beneficial activities, facilitating the recruitment of prospective students for the university, and potentially yielding other positive outcomes.

I attended meetings organized by Stacy Gross, the K-12 visual arts coordinator in Champaign, with art teachers from both Champaign and Cara Maurizi, the Elementary Fine Arts coordinator of Urbana. The purpose was to introduce the project and brainstorm potential collaborations for this specific initiative, as well as for future endeavors. Following these discussions, the idea that resonated best with the group was to curate an art exhibition of paintings and drawings inspired by elements of Brazilian culture. The artwork would be created by students in elementary schools in Urbana and Champaign, guided by their teachers. I assisted in putting together a “package” with videos demonstrating different aspects of Brazilian culture to be presented to the students during class to inspire their creativity. This art exhibition was held at the Urbana Free Library and was open for students, their families, and the public to appreciate from March 1 – March 3, 2024. Along with the art exhibition, on Saturday, March 2, a recital featuring works by Villa Lobos was presented by faculty and students of the School of Music. The warm and relaxed atmosphere, along with the presence of families from the community, art teachers, and school students, made for a special occasion.

The final activity of this project aimed to introduce the music of Villa Lobos, through performances in the public high schools of Chicago. These performances not only exposed the target audience to the richness of an artistic expression rooted in cultural diversity, but they also served as a means of recruitment. In addition to the performances, I contacted band directors to offer clinics, sectionals, and masterclasses customized to the requirements of each program.

After contacting the largest music programs in the Chi-

cago area, three high schools responded to my outreach: Vernon Hills, Libertyville, and York High Schools. All of these are renowned music programs in Chicago, and a significant number of prospective students are attending the University of Illinois. Through these events, students had the opportunity to witness potential future professors performing and to engage with them personally through sectionals, master classes, and individual lessons.



*“Creative collaboration between Lyric Theatre @ Illinois and composer João Ripper for the world premiere of the opera Candinho at Teatro Guaira, Curitiba, Brazil.”*

**Olga Maslova, Theatre (Extended till Fall 2024)**



Planned Activities and Participation in the Candinho Opera Opening in Brazil In September 2024, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) will engage in a pivotal cultural initiative—the world premiere of Candinho at the Teatro Municipal in Rio de Janeiro.

Spearheaded by UIUC faculty members Olga Maslova, Associate Professor of Theatre, and Julie Gunn, Professor of Accompanying, Co-director of Lyric Theatre (SOM), in collaboration with Brazilian composer João Ripper have been aiming to enrich the operatic traditions of both the United States and Brazil, bridging cultural narratives through the arts.

Candinho, a creative endeavor by composer João Guil-

herme Ripper, vividly portrays the youth of Candinho Portinari, one of Brazil’s most celebrated painters. By interweaving historical facts with creative narratives, Ripper recreates the social dynamics and daily life in Brodosqui, the village that shaped Portinari’s early years. Supported by a grant from the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies at its developing stages, this opera serves as a cultural conduit, allowing deep faculty engagement across its developmental and performance phases.

The journey began with a costumed and semi-staged workshop in May 2023 at UIUC Lyric Theatre.

Directed by Olga Maslova with musical direction by Julie Gunn, this early presentation of Candinho featured UIUC students performing selected sections of the opera. This workshop was not only a creative incubator for the students but also a vital step in reinforcing UIUC’s ties with Brazilian theatrical and musical traditions. It highlighted the University’s commitment to international collaboration and set the stage for bringing the works of Brazilian composers to global audiences. It also helped the composer envision the opera and fine-tune it for orchestration.

Our activities in Brazil are designed to be both educational and collaborative, deepening our understanding of Brazilian culture and strengthening international ties. We will be strengthening the existing collaboration with João Ripper and João Candido Portinari and developing new connections with Teatro Municipal and Beaux Arts School of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Professor Desirée Bastos, the head of the Costume Design department, has enthusiastically embraced the project and is looking forward to broadening the creative and academic exchange between the two colleges.

Museum Visits for Costume Research: Olga Maslova will explore key cultural institutions such as the Museu Nacional de Belas Artes, the Museu Histórico Nacional, and the Museu da República. These visits will enable her to gather authentic insights into the evolution of Brazilian costumes from prehistory to the present, essential for accurately depicting the era in the opera’s costumes.



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**Educational Outreach:** Julie Gunn will conduct master-classes at the School of Music and Teatro Municipal. These classes will aim to refine the vocal techniques and interpretative skills of young singers, directly contributing to the professional growth of Brazil's future opera talents.

**Workshops on Costume and Cultural Representation:** Collaborating with Desirée Bastos, Olga will facilitate workshops that delve into the sociology of clothing in theatrical settings, targeting students and professionals interested in the intersections of fashion, history, and theater.

**Rehearsal Engagement:** Participation in the final rehearsals at the Teatro Municipal will provide our team with opportunities to offer input and assist in the artistic and technical refinement of the production. **Premiere Performances:** The opening of the Candinho is planned for September 12 and 13, 2024, and we are planning to attend both performances.

**Further Cultural Exploration:** The team's cultural engagement will extend to Belo Horizonte with a visit to Abertura Cartagena at Sala Minas, further enriching our understanding of Brazilian performing arts.

Olga Maslova is scheduled to present a series of lectures and workshops. One of them will be a talk on adapting European opera classics to Brazilian themes. Based on Olga's several classical productions, this session will explore the methodologies and creative challenges involved in in-

corporating local cultural elements into traditional opera frameworks.

These engagements are expected to significantly impact UIUC students and the broader community by preparing them for future professional productions and fostering a deep appreciation of Brazilian opera.

This project is poised to significantly enhance academic and cultural exchanges between the UIUC and Brazil. Our ongoing efforts aim to integrate Brazilian operatic works into the UIUC curriculum, thereby fostering long-lasting academic and professional exchanges. We anticipate that these activities will not only broaden our students' artistic horizons but also pave the way for future collaborations with Brazilian institutions. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies for their generous support.



***“The Impact of Schooling on the Acquisition of “Little Words” in Brazilian Portuguese.”***

**Silvina Montrul,  
Linguistics**

Brazilian Portuguese has been undergoing language change and exhibits variation in the morphosyntax of the spoken and written registers. Our study examines the linguistic knowledge of adult Brazilian native speakers, and the impact of schooling on their language development. Through a series of short language tests with speakers of different ages (with and without school experience), our study investigated the acquisition of “little words”—object clitics (me, te, o, a), articles (o, a), and pronouns (ele, ela). These grammatical words, which are critical in sentence and discourse comprehension and processing, are largely acquired early (in pre-school) but not fully mastered in discourse until after adolescence. Our results will make theoretical contributions on the role of literacy in native language acquisition and will inform interventions to decrease the rate of illiteracy, reduce inequality and improve the academic, economic and overall well-being of the Brazilian population.

The purpose of this research is to investigate the grammatical development of younger and older Brazilian school-age children (ages 5-17) and Brazilian adults (ages 30-60) with varying levels of literacy/education. We investigated the impact of schooling on syntactic knowledge and on referential properties of little words, such as pronouns, clitics and articles in oral/ written comprehension and oral/ written production tasks. We proposed to study the following groups of participants in Brazil: 84 monolingual children (ages 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17, with 12 children per

age group) and 72 adults (ages 30-60) with different levels of education and SES. We proposed to use an oral narrative task, a sentence repetition task, and a picture-matching task for language comprehension.

Discussion of recent studies related to our project led us to rethink the types of tasks used and we had to add a Brazilian vocabulary test and the Raven's Progressive Matrices (non-verbal IQ test) to compare the children and adults in our study. All the tests needed to be done before filing for IRB approval in Brazil and in the United States. Without IRB clearance we cannot collect any data from human subjects. Once we received the IRB approval from Brazil on October 31, 2023 (Opinion number 6478503), we filed for IRB approval at our own University. The UIUC protocol was approved on December 20, 2023 (IRB23-0220). Prof. Silvina Montrul traveled to São Paulo in December. During that time, Prof. Grolla, Prof. Montrul and Caio Albernaiz Siqueira met with the Department of Linguistics at the University of São Paulo to continue working on the testing protocol and the specific design of one of the tasks (the comprehension task with pictures). Prof. Montrul and Caio Albernaiz Siqueira went to visit one of the schools, EE Prof. Roque Passarelli, in Capacava, SP, where data collection with children would take place and met with the school director, Sidnei Sanita to discuss the logistics of the recruitment and testing. That same week, Prof. Montrul gave two talks in the Department of linguistics, one on “Intervention Research in Second Language Acquisition” and the other one on her 2023 book, *Native Speakers, Interrupted*.

During the months of January and February we continued to work on getting the materials ready for testing. The first participant in the study was enrolled and tested on March 7, 2024. To date, we have recruited and tested twenty-three participants total (fifteen adults and eight 11-year-old children) and testing is ongoing until all data are collected. We have received funding from the Campus research Board for 2024-2025 to continue with the project because it will take more than a year to get all the data



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we need. Prof. Elaine Grolla came to Champaign-Urbana from São Paulo and stayed for a week: April 28-May 5. During this week Prof. Ionin, Prof. Montrul and Prof. Grolla met in G70, the Second Language Acquisition and Bilingualism lab directed by Prof. Montrul to discuss the preliminary results and future directions. Caio Albernaiz Siqueira joined via zoom. Prof. Grolla gave a talk about her current work on our project during a lab meeting attended by several graduate students. The title of the talk was “Confronting Spontaneous and Experimental Data in Child Brazilian Portuguese: Competence vs. Performance Issues.” As planned, Prof. Grolla’s visit coincided with the Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition Conference (GASLA 17) that Profs. Ionin and Montrul organized on May 4-6 at the Levis Faculty Center (<https://publish.illinois.edu/gasla17uiuc/>). The whole team attended the conference and continued to discuss the future directions of our collaboration regarding funding and dissemination of our results.



## “Building from the Bolsa: The Urban Politics of Basic Income Programs during and after the Covid-19 Pandemic.”

**Marc Doussard, Urban and Regional Planning**



The Lemann Center’s support for my collaborative research project with Fabio Waltenberg of Universidade Federal Fluminense succeeded far beyond expectations. The Lemann Center funded three important activities, all of which have already spilled into additional

collaboration and research. As a result of Lemann’s support, Professor Waltenberg and I have secured additional grant funding, collected data for at least three academic articles, and built a network of scholars and students focused on the development of municipal cash-transfer programs.

First and most important, the grant initiated my research partnership with Fabio Waltenberg, his students, and collaborators. Prof. Waltenberg plays a key role in cash transfer programs in Rio state, many of which are run or evaluated by his former students. As an economist, Prof. Waltenberg understands the technical components of cash transfer programs well. I am a scholar of urban politics, which makes this an ideal partnership. The rapid diffusion of municipal cash transfer programs to at least 12 municipalities in Rio state is a globally significant event in the surprising and rapid popularization of this policy. Together, our skills and adjacent areas of research expertise blend perfectly, allowing us to link the policy of cash transfers to important questions about urban politics and the two-way relationship between La Bolsa Familia and municipal cash-transfer programs.

Second, the Lemann Center’s support allowed me to

conduct a two-week research trip to Rio State with Prof. Waltenberg. The research trip included several visits with solidarity economy ministers and other parties involved in the development of cash-transfer programs in municipalities in Rio state.

This immediately led Prof. Waltenberg and I to outline multiple research papers and to bring his PhD supervisee, Jessica Maldonado, into the project as a researcher. Since my visit in August 2023, Maldonado has conducted and coded 15 long-form interviews with policy actors in Maricá and surrounding municipalities and set up several additional interviews to be realized in the coming months. These interviews are globally significant: They provide answers to the important question of how the Bolsa Familia, a national-level welfare policy, was adopted municipally as an economic development and anti-precariousness strategy. The findings from these interviews add to common questions about the mechanics of policy adoption by addressing practical and important questions about the role national-level standards play in supporting municipal policy development.

Significantly, many of our interview findings consider the small-p, non-ideological politics of cash transfers, which appear to be spreading through Rio state as a result of municipalities seeking to compete with and emulate Maricá.

Third, Lemann brought Prof. Waltenberg and Ms. Maldonado to Champaign-Urbana in April 2024 for an extremely productive visit to present the project’s research findings. This visit played several important roles in the long-term development of our research project. It provided the three principal researchers with time, space, and opportunity to reflect the research findings and map out the next steps and proximate publications. The visit also connected Dr. Waltenberg and Ms. Maldonado with Brazilian scholars and students on campus. Universities work by convening.

Coalitions of experts with complementary expertise. The connections that surfaced on this trip were substantial.



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They include new connections between Waltenberg, Maldonado and several Brazil-focused scholars whose research centers on anti-poverty programs and cash transfers. Furthermore, Waltenberg and Maldonado connected extensively with graduate students in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, many of whom are extensively engaged in either anti-poverty policies related to cash transfers or in urban politics in Brazil. This portion of their visit played the important role of building longer-term, more durable connections between the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the Lemann Center. Equally significant, Waltenberg's and Maldonado's well-attended lecture at Lemann introduced the developments in Maricá to a range of Brazilian and Brazilianist scholars and students who previously knew only surface-level details about cash transfers in the municipality.

Professor Waltenberg, Ms. Maldonado, and I have already succeeded in extending this research. In January 2024, we



received a multi-year grant from the Freiburg Institute of Basic Income Studies to support an expanded network of scholars studying cash transfers in twelve municipalities in Rio State. Professor Waltenberg and I will additionally present two research papers at the Basic Income Earth Network conference in Bath, England, in August 2024. In addition to these and other papers, we have already mapped out presentations for the 2025 Basic Income Earth Network Congress in Rio and begun to apply for ad-

ditional grant support for the project. These are excellent returns from the Lemann Center's initial investment in the project, which has successfully seeded what should be a very long joint research initiative on these important policy developments.



*“Biofuels in Brazil and in the U.S.: policies, economic and environmental impacts.”*

**Madhu Khana, Agricultural & Consumer Economics**

The US and Brazil are the two largest producers of biofuels in the world and the biofuel and land use policies in each country have bilateral impacts. Both countries also trade in biofuels and agricultural commodities with each other and globally. Biofuel policies in these two countries have economic, land use and environmental impacts within and across borders. The objective of this project is to collaborate on analyzing the economic, land use and environmental impact of biofuel policies in Brazil and the US within each country and across the two countries. We are collaborating on developing a global general equilibrium model to project the economic and environmental effects of biofuels policies on deforestation, GHG emissions and land use in various Brazilian regions and biomes as well as their consequences for land use change in the US. We are analyzing the effects of more stringent policies for ethanol and biodiesel production on the production of their key feedstocks, sugarcane, corn and soybean in Brazil and on corn and soybean production in the US. We are comparing the implications of biofuel policies in the context of various other programs in Brazil for reducing deforestation to determine the intended and unintended consequences of these policies.



*“Innovating Separation Technologies for Sustainable Biomanufacturing and Natural Product Valorization in Brazil.”*

**PI: Xiao Su, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Brazilian Co-PI: Fabio Galetto, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina**

Brazil is the ninth largest producer of pharmaceutical chemicals in the world along with registered sales of over US\$ 17B. Brazil is also home to a vast wealth of natural products and medicinal sources, with currently more than 3,400 natural product species being used for over 150 applications in pharmaceuticals and healthcare. However, current methods for separating enantiomers are costly due to the waste generated, lack of efficiency, and limitations for complex natural products. Electrochemical separation technologies are energetically efficient and environmentally benign due to the direct use of renewable electricity and low waste. Coupling highly tunable redox materials possessing a high degree of chirality with electrochemical technologies can lead to a promising chiral purification technology.

The project was conducted under a collaboration between the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC). The goal of this project was to tackle fundamental challenges in developing sustainable electrochemical chiral purification technology by designing new chiral materials that can purify a wide variety of enantiomer drugs of econom-



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ic and biological interest for Brazilian biomanufacturing. Researchers under the guidance of Prof. Xiao Su and Prof. Fabio Galetto worked together closely to leverage their expertise in chemical engineering, electrochemistry, and organic chemistry.

Our approach was, first, to design new polymer adsorbents with enantioselectivity. These adsorbents were tested against model amino acid and carboxylic enantiomers of general interest to healthcare and pharmaceuticals, in both aqueous and organic media. Next, to impart high stereoselectivity onto our adsorbents, we explored point or planar chirality at our redox-centers for natural products of Brazilian relevance. Both approaches required collaboration with Prof. Galetto to enable the synthesis of the chiral molecules. The new designs of chiral redox molecules with the adaptation of planar chirality enabled the electrochemical enantioselective separation of model enantiomeric targets. The synthesized planar chiral molecules demonstrated their enantioselective recognition higher than that of non-planar chiral selectors in organic media where most pharmaceutical synthesis processes take place. Planar chiral polymers were further synthesized, and chiral redox electrodes proved highly enantioselective adsorption from racemic amino acid solution with enantiomeric excess up to 43.2%ee. The combination of control experiments and electronic structure calculations further indicated that planar chirality played a key role in enantioselective recognition. Successful completion of our proposed work holds great promise to revolutionize process synthesis purification of the pharmaceutical industry in Brazil, by assisting in the valorization of natural products. Our findings from the project may provide not only a fundamental impact in electrochemistry and separations science, but also new insights into supramolecular recognition, materials design, and even asymmetric catalysis.

The researchers are currently working on publishing the findings from this project, seeking another collaboration to bring forth the electrochemical chiral purification technology. As a part of the joint educational partnership between UIUC and UFSC, two researchers from UIUC (Dr. Yuri Giovane Kappenberg, a Postdoctoral Research Asso-

ciate, and Jemin Jeon, a PhD Candidate in the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department) visited the UFSC campus in March 2024. The UFSC Chemistry Department held a seminar where the researchers presented the collaborative project funded by the Lemann Institute Collaborative research grant as well as other projects conducted at Su Group in UIUC to foster a potential partnership between UIUC and UFSC. They also discussed electrochemistry-related research with professors of the Chemistry Department and graduate students of the “AMPERE - Laboratório de Plataformas Eletroquímicas” group to seek opportunities to catalyze and expand collaboration between UIUC and UFSC. Additionally, seeking to extend the collaboration with other universities in Brazil, Yuri Giovane Kappenberg visited the Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM), hosted by Professor Helio Gauze Bonacorso, where he presented the results obtained in the project to professors and students of the UFSM Graduate Program in Chemistry.



# Programming



# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

## Lemann Lecture Series

Each year the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies invites distinguished scholars, faculty, and graduate students from UIUC and other institutions to present lectures on the foremost issues regarding Brazil's culture, economy, environment, and society. There were fourteen lectures during the 2023-2024 academic year.



**Emily E. LB. Twarog, University of Illinois**  
**Elisa Frühauf Garcia, Federal Fluminense University**

***“A Comparative Approach to Understanding Gender Violence in the Workplace: Women Workers in Brazil and the U.S.”***  
**September 19th, 2023**

This talk discussed the categories and conceptions of workplace gender violence from a global long-term perspective. The speaker's research seeks to explore: how have concepts such as sexual harassment, rape, and domestic violence been applied at different moments? How has society framed the relationship between body, gender, and race in colonial and postcolonial societies?

Emily E. LB. Twarog is an associate professor of history and labor studies at the University of Illinois' School of Labor and Employment Relations – Labor Education Program and Co-Director of the Regina V. Polk Women's Labor Leadership Conference. She earned her doctorate in American History at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a master's in Labor Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Labor Resource and Research Center.

Her book *Politics in the Pantry: Housewives, Food, and Consumer Protest in 20th Century America* (Oxford University Press, 2017) examines the ways in which housewives in America used food protests as political tools to gain political influence both locally and nationally.

Elisa Frühauf Garcia is a professor of Latin American Colonial History at the Federal Fluminense University (UFF), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, since 2009, having completed post-doctoral research at the University of Campinas (2007-2009) and the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC/Madrid) (2015-2016). Her first book, based on her dissertation, “As diversas formas de ser índio” was published in 2009. She has also authored many articles in books and reviews about the ethno-history of the Native Peoples in the River Plate basin and their relationship with Iberian colonial powers. Her research was supported by many institutions, including the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (Capes); the National Counsel of Technological and Scientific Development (CNPq); and the Carlos Chagas Filho Foundation for Research Support of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Faperj) – Brazil; Fundación Carolina – Spain; and the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History – Germany.



**Jose Vicente Caixeta Filho, University of São Paulo**  
***“Optimization models applied to Agri-Logistics in Brazil”***  
**September 26th, 2023**

The primary objective of this talk was to present the logistics applied to Brazilian agribusiness, involving both the understanding of the different logistical activities (transport, storage, and information) as well as the practical use of tools applied to the logistics management of this chain (mathematical models of optimization, mainly using linear programming). It was shown that the primary motivation for the search for such optimization is the need to augment the competitiveness of specific products, which may imply an apparent reduction of costs in the related exporting operations.

Jose Vicente Caixeta Filho has a Civil Engineering degree from the Polytechnic School of the University of São Paulo (1984), Master in Economics - University of New England (Australia, 1989), Ph.D. in Transport Engineering from the Polytechnic School of the University of São Paulo (1993), Postdoctoral studies at Christian-Albrechts Universität zu Kiel (Germany, 1994) and at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (United States, 2017). He has been a Full Professor at the Department of Economics, Administration and Sociology at the “Luiz de Queiroz” School of Agriculture (ESALQ) from the University of São Paulo as well as Emeritus Coordinator of the Research and Extension Group in Agroindustrial Logistics (ESALQ-LOG). He was

Dean of ESALQ in the period between 2011 and 2014. His area of expertise in terms of teaching, research, and extension is focused on themes and analytical instruments related to Agroindustrial Logistics, with emphasis on works focused on the following themes: transport, storage, and operations research (linear and integer programming). In 2016, he received the 61st Fundação Bunge Award “Life and Work”, “Transport Infrastructure” Category.



**Guilherme Lichand, Stanford University**  
***“An Education Inequity Index”***  
**October 3rd, 2023**

One of the leading reasons behind social inequities is that elite groups have had access to more widespread and higher-quality educational opportunities much earlier, often when their economic returns were much higher. Nevertheless, measures of education inequities tend to focus exclusively on current differences within the school-age population. This talk was based on a paper that proposed a new measure – the education inequity index (EII) – that captures historical and contemporary differences in access to the economic returns of education across different groups. Concretely, the EII is the share of the cumulative wage premium appropriated by the elite over time in excess of that accrued by other groups. The paper advances a methodology to compute different versions of the EII using national household survey data. Then, the researchers illustrate its applications by computing the EII along the wealth, racial and gender dimensions for multiple countries since 1980, separately for primary, secondary and



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post-secondary education. They also showcase the new insights that the EII brings relative to other measures when it comes to monitoring inequities and informing policies to address them.

Guilherme Lichand is an Assistant Professor of Education at Stanford University (effective September 2023). Currently, Assistant Professor of Economics of Child Well-being and Development at the University of Zurich, and Chairman at CCWD. He is interested in the sources of education inequities in low- and middle-income countries and in interventions with the potential to overturn them.



**Mary Arends-Kuenning, University of Illinois**  
**“Women’s empowerment: evidence from rural Western Paraná, Brazil”**  
**October 10th, 2023**

The Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) has been applied widely in low-income settings, but rarely in middle-income settings such as Southern Brazil. The talk was based on an article that explores the participation of women in agriculture in the western region of the state of Paraná, Brazil. We measured the empowerment of members of an agricultural cooperative operating in this region and analyzed whether this empowerment is related to participation in activities of the cooperative’s Women’s Leadership Development Program (WLDP). We adapted the Abbreviated WEAI (A-WEAI) to reflect women’s empowerment in this setting. Women who participated in WLDP scored at a high level on our A-WEAI, whereas women who did not participate had a medium score.

Women’s empowerment is associated with WLDP participation, participation in non-gender-specific training offered to cooperative members, an income range of 9.1 to 12 minimum wages, and age. The training provided by the Cooperative might be an effective way to develop human and social capital, promote the empowerment of male and female participants, and bridge the gender gap.

Mary Arends-Kuenning is Acting Associate Dean of International Programs in the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, and former Interim Director of the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies at the University of Illinois. She is an economic demographer who focuses on household decisions. Her research areas include children’s schooling and child labor, household consumption, family planning, and international migration. She examines the implications of household decisions for household members’ present and future well-being. Her work has been published in *World Development*, *Demography*, and *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, among other journals and is widely cited by other researchers and policymaker.



**Eric Morgan, Joana Colussi, Gary Schnitkey, Nick Paulson, University of Illinois**  
**“Telling the Story of Agriculture in Brazil: Technology Adoption, Communication, and Economics”**  
**October 17th, 2023**

Brazil is an agricultural superpower in the world, and this talk recounted the experience of four researchers who

traveled to Brazil to investigate the rapidly expanding agricultural sector. Eric Morgan (Agricultural Communications and Natural Resources and Environmental Science), Joana Colussi (Agricultural & Consumer Economics), Gary Schnitkey (Agricultural & Consumer Economics), and Nick Paulson (Agricultural & Consumer Economics) visited several locations in Brazil from May 1, 2023 to May 12, 2023. The purpose of the research trip was to investigate how Brazilian soybean farmers make sense of a rapidly changing communication context as well as to understand how farming practices have changed with the advent and diffusion of new digital communication technologies. The presentation focused on preliminary findings from this research with a discussion of implications for international agricultural communications and agricultural economics.

Eric L. Morgan, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science. His research focuses on cultural discourses of environment and agriculture as well as science communication within the agricultural sector. He currently directs the science communication initiatives for the recently funded NSF Science and Technology Center in Quantitative Cell Biology housed in the Beckman Institute at UIUC. He is also an affiliate with the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology in the Infection Genomics for One Health (IGOH) group.

Dr. Joana Colussi is an instructor and postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She pursued her graduate education following a 10-year career as an agricultural journalist in Brazil. She holds a master’s in Agribusiness and a Ph.D. in Management from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul. Joana is also a member of the Farmdoc team, an extension group from the University of Illinois.

Dr. Gary Schnitkey is the Soybean Industry Endowed Chair in Agricultural Strategy within the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois. His activities focus on farm and risk management

on Corn Belt grain farms. He analyzes factors causing differences in profitability across farms, and develops ways of mitigating risk on farms. He writes the *Weekly Farm Economics* article that appears each Tuesday on the *farmdocDaily* website.

Dr. Nick Paulson holds the Gardner Hinderliter Professorship in Farm Management in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois. He also currently serves as the Associate Head and Director of the award-winning *farmdoc* extension project in ACE. Paulson’s appointment includes teaching, research, and extension responsibilities. He currently teaches small business finance at the undergraduate level, and agricultural finance and econometrics at the graduate level. He has received Department, College, and national awards for teaching quality and innovation. Paulson’s applied research program focuses on agricultural finance, farm and risk management, and agricultural policy. Paulson has contributed more than 500 extension articles to the *farmdoc* daily website over the past 12 years. In 2019 he served as the Senior Economist for agriculture and trade on the Council of Economic Advisers at the White House.



**Luciano Pereira Soares, Insper São Paulo**  
**“Exploring the Innovative Engineering Programs at Insper College, São Paulo and the Evolution of Virtual Reality Technologies”**  
**October 24th, 2023**

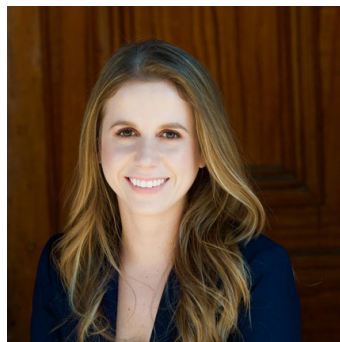
This talk began with an introduction to Insper College, a



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pioneering institution located in the city of São Paulo, Brazil. Specifically, the focus was on the cutting-edge Insper engineering programs meticulously crafted to adopt the most effective pedagogic strategies known to date. Moving forward, Luciano shifted to the world of virtual reality technologies. He presented the trajectory of virtual reality, bringing its profound evolution over the years. His focus revolved around one of the most influential breakthroughs in the field - the inception of CAVEs (Cave Automatic Virtual Environment) at the University of Illinois in 1992. These remarkable creations drastically transformed the landscape of virtual reality, leaving an indelible mark on the domain.

Luciano Soares is a professor at Insper since 2013. He played a key role in creating and implementing innovative engineering programs at the institution. Luciano currently leads the Engineering Capstone Project and the Virtual Reality and Digital Games laboratory. With a Ph.D. from Escola Politécnica da USP and a post-doctorate from IN-ESC/IST, ADETTI/ISCTE, INRIA Grenoble, Luciano's expertise spans Virtual and Augmented Reality, Digital Games, Computer Graphics, and Engineering Education. Previously, he was a professor at PUC-Rio and served as the president of the Special Committee on Virtual Reality of the Brazilian Computer Society. In fall 2023, Luciano Soares will be a visiting professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



**Julia Fonseca, University of Illinois**  
**“Financial Inclusion, Economic Development, and**

## ***Inequality: Evidence From Brazil”*** **October 31st, 2023**

We studied a financial inclusion policy targeting Brazilian cities with low bank branch coverage using data on the universe of employees from 2000–2014. The policy leads to bank entry and to similar increases in both deposits and lending. It also fosters entrepreneurship, employment, and wage growth, especially for cities in banking deserts. These gains are not shared equally and instead increase with workers' education, implying a substantial increase in wage inequality. The changes in inequality are concentrated in cities where the initial supply of skilled workers is low, indicating that talent scarcity can drive how financial development affects inequality.

Julia Fonseca is an Assistant Professor of Finance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She received her PhD in Economics from Princeton University in 2019. Her research interests include household finance, development finance, and labor and finance. Her work focuses on topics like financial development, consumer financial markets, and inequality.



**Edson Paulo Domingues, Federal University of Minas Gerais**  
**“Green Growth and Zero Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon: scenarios and economic impacts”**  
**November 14th, 2023**

Agriculture accounts for 10% of the Brazil's GDP, and gri-

cultural expansion can take place at the expense of native vegetation. But Brazil has ambitious targets for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) mitigation and deforestation reduction, facing a possible trade-off between environmental conservation and economic growth. The main objective of this presentation was to discuss a scenario of environmentally sustainable economic growth, called “Green Growth”, through strategies that can reduce deforestation while increasing production and social welfare.

Edson Paulo Domingues is a Full Professor at the Department of Economics, Federal University of Minas Gerais (Brazil). Ph.D. in Economics from the University of São Paulo, with a “Sandwich Doctorate” at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar. Visiting Professor at the Center of Policy Studies at the Victoria University (Australia) in 2018-19. Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (2022). He has experience in Applied Economics, with emphasis on computable general equilibrium models, working mainly on the following topics: regional economics, environmental economics, deforestation, climate change, and carbon markets



**Eduardo Sanguinet, Austral University of Chile**  
**“Skill-based functional specialization in trade: an input–output analysis of multiscalar value chains in Brazil”**  
**December 05th, 2023**

A Sophisticated spatial labor markets can promote better

opportunities for functional upgrading in value-added trade. The talk was based on a paper that estimates the skill-based functional specialization in Brazilian labor factor content in trade in value-added (LTiVA), considering different geographical scales. We combined an interregional input–output model for Brazilian states with occupational data to identify the skill intensity embedded in LTiVA based on the hypothetical extraction method (HEM) technique. Our findings show that the largest Southeastern economic area specializes in highly sophisticated functions, while the rest of the country embodies low skills in value-added trade for domestic and global trade levels. Furthermore, the results reveal a central role for the São Paulo state in governing the subnational value chains and reinforcing the uneven international spatial functional division pattern at the subnational level.

Eduardo Sanguinet is a Professor at the Institute of Agricultural Economics, Universidad Austral de Chile - Chile, and the Graduate Program in Economics at the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul - Brazil. Ph.D. in Development Economics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS, Brazil) and Ph.D. in Applied Economics with a focus on Regional Studies from Universidad Católica del Norte (UCN, Chile) under a joint supervision agreement with dual degree recognition. He holds a Master's degree in Rural Development from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS, Brazil) and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM, Brazil). He completed doctoral and post-doctoral internships in Economics at the Center for Regional and Urban Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Administration of the University of São Paulo (NEREUS - FEA-USP), funded by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq). Has expertise in research and extension projects in the areas of regional economics, rural and environmental economics, and agrarian policies. Researches topics related to interregional and international trade, trade policies, and value chains using multi-sector models.



## THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES



**Dana Johnson, University of Illinois**  
**“Graduate Student Workshop: Writing Effective  
 Fellowship Proposals”**  
 January 23rd, 2024

In preparation to apply for our center’s upcoming fellowships and others, students joined us to learn more about how to write fellowship proposals that will help them accomplish their academic and life goals. This workshop was conducted by Dana Johnson, Assistant Director of External Fellowships. She contributes to the Graduate College’s efforts to help Illinois graduate students compete for national and international fellowships and grants. She conducts proposal-writing workshops and individual advising sessions for graduate students and serves as the point person for the American Association of University Women, Ford Foundation, and Boren Fellowship competitions. Johnson earned a B.A. in international studies with high honors from DePaul University and a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has published on youth, education, and the “brain drain” phenomenon from Serbia in *Social Anthropology and History and Anthropology*.

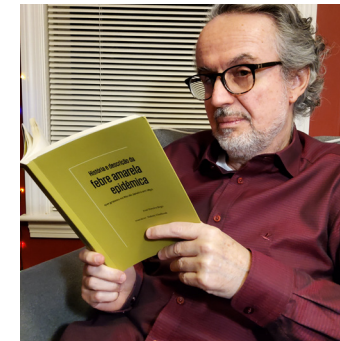


**Gana Ndiaye, Beloit College**  
**“How Can One Be an African Sufi Muslim?: Senegalese Migrants and Brazil’s New Racial Politics”**  
 January 30th, 2024

Senegal began its “Large Infrastructure Projects” in early 2000. Through this economic development plan, the state sought to build a modern nation capable of attracting foreign investment and tourists. In the process, it brutally displaced many informal workers. In this talk, Gana traced the trajectories of some of these informal workers from Senegal to Brazil, a lesser-known destination for French-speaking West African migrants. Drawing on twenty-one months of archival research and participant observation, He offered an ethnographic exploration of everyday life among young Senegalese followers of the Muridiyya Sufi order (the Murids) in three Brazilian state capitals: Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, and São Paulo. He showed how these African Sufi Muslim migrants adjust their professional skills and religious rituals to strategically bring Islam into the Brazilian public sphere amidst a global climate of Islamophobia and the rise of right-wing politicians. He also highlighted the dilemmas these young Black Muslims grapple with as they seek to live an ethical life under capitalism and against Brazil’s racial politics.

Gana Ndiaye is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Beloit College, WI. Ndiaye holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Boston University and an MA in French from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (class of

2017). His current research project examines the public expressions of Muslim identity among Senegalese informal workers in Brazil. Ndiaye’s research and teaching interests include migration, race and ethnicity, informal economies, Muslim market ethics, and the ‘Ajamī (modified Arabic script) literary traditions of Muslim Africa.



**Sidney Chalhouh, Harvard University**  
**“Fiction as Archive: Slavery in Literary and Legal Texts”**  
 February 8th, 2024

How is historical imagination embedded in the writing of fiction? In his novels, Machado de Assis depicts narrators who are white men, often wealthy owners of slaves and real estate, who imagine themselves as controllers of a vast network of dependents –free, freed, and enslaved people. These fictional authors represent the worlds of labor according to visions and writing protocols pertaining to their position in society. In regard to slavery, a cursory examination of Machado’s novels suggests its scant presence in his literature. I argue that such impression, totally justified from the perspective of 21st-century readers, fails to grapple with how slavery figured in the imagination and the expectations of both Machado’s fictional authors and the alleged nineteenth-century readers of his novels. In order to detail the argument and make it plausible, I will explore, in parallel, passages from novels and legal documents –in the latter case, a trove of appeals for freedom filed by people once enslaved by the prominent conservative politician Bernardo Pereira de Vasconcellos.

Sidney Chalhouh is Professor of History and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. He taught at the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil, for thirty years before moving to Harvard in 2015. He published five books. He co-edited six volumes on Brazilian history and literature and has served as main advisor to 33 Ph.D. dissertations at UNICAMP and Harvard.



**Bianca Kremer, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro**  
**“Facial Recognition Technologies in the Brazilian Public Sector: Between Regulation and Racial Discrimination”**  
 February 13th, 2024

The history of facial recognition in Brazil dates to major events that took place during the 2010s, when different technologies and surveillance architectures were experimented with for security purposes at events such as World Youth Day (2013), FIFA World Cup (2014) and the Olympics (2016). Those events left Brazil a legacy of substantial fiscal crisis and a wave of violence at the end of the 2010s when Brazil reached a level of more than 60,000 violent deaths recorded. The common feeling of increased violence and insecurity were factors that the Brazilian extreme right made use of at the 2018 presidential elections, aligned with a punitive agenda and the violation of rights as public policy, especially for ethnic minorities. The victory of far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro enhanced the elections of governors and parliamentarians aligned with these agendas in the following years. Some of these legisla-



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tures were marked by international trips to China to learn about and acquire surveillance technologies, especially facial recognition cameras for public security purposes. Rio de Janeiro and Salvador are some of its most expressive examples. Since 2018, the widespread use of facial recognition technologies has begun in Brazil. Despite the promises of expanding the disciplinary power of the State, Brazil still undergoes a historically severe human rights violation record for minority groups. The increase of surveillance technologies in public spaces has intensified exclusion for marginalized populations. Digital technologies based on artificial intelligence have escalated in public and private spaces in a way that facial recognition and other biometric technologies are being used as powerful tools of mass surveillance and incarceration under an alleged discourse of modernization and collective security. It has led to several episodes of discrimination against our historically vulnerable and marginalized population: the African descent. Several cases of improper detention, especially of the afro-descendant population, have been mapped. In 2019, 90,5% of those arrested by facial recognition systems in Brazil were black and brown (“pardos”), a number that only increases progressively and is a matter of great concern. Artificial intelligence systems have been presented by public authorities as an expressive solution for some of the oldest cyclical problems, such as poverty, educational gap and violence in Brazil. However, discrimination dynamics have been reproduced, reinforced, and hidden in surveillance policies and governmental programs.

Bianca Kremer holds a Ph.D. in Law from Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. She is an assistant professor and project leader in the Department of Digital Law at the IDP University. Her research focuses on the mitigation of algorithmic bias and anti-discrimination law. She is a member of the Brazilian Internet steering committee, and a digital rights activist at the Rights in Network Coalition.



**Mateo Farina, University of Texas at Austin**  
**“Understanding How Early Life Conditions Impact Age-Related Health Among Older Brazilians”**  
**February 20th, 2024**

Studies have shown the importance of early life conditions on physical and cognitive health among older adults. Research often describes this association as the “long-arm of childhood.” However, these studies have largely been developed on populations in high-income countries. Less is known about how childhood conditions are associated with later life health in low- and middle- income countries. Differences may arise from larger contextual factors that influence life course processes and pathways to healthy aging. This research investigates how the long-arm of childhood is associated with several cardio-metabolic conditions among Older Brazilians and examine the different pathways that contribute to these differences.

Mateo Farina is an Assistant Professor in Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin. His research interests include life course origins of cognitive and biological aging, examining race inequalities in later life health and aging, and evaluating social determinants of health (especially education). His work has been supported by extensively by the NIH with a MOSAIC K99/R00 award to evaluate epigenetic mechanisms of cognitive aging. Leveraging his MA and his cultural background, he is also currently working on several studies evaluating aging in Brazil and Colombia.



**Jennifer Eaglin, Ohio State University**  
**“Greening an Alternative Energy: The Rise of the Brazilian Ethanol Industry”**  
**February 27th, 2024**

Today, Brazilian sugarcane ethanol is the most efficient biofuel on the global fuel market, and Brazil is the largest biofuel exporter in the world. Although Brazil has gained international renown for its sugarcane ethanol, few scholars have explored how it achieved this reputation. In fact, the military dictatorship that ruled Brazil from 1964-85 pioneered the ethanol boom through the National Ethanol Program, which it launched in 1975. This talk traced the Brazilian ethanol industry from its inception under state tutelage in 1933, through a state-led ethanol program (Proálcool) under the dictatorship, to the industry’s demise in 1990 and its 2003 rebirth with the launch of the flexible fuel engine that runs on any combination of ethanol and gasoline. Through her discussion of this Brazilian example, Eaglin more broadly explored the social and environmental implications of transforming sugarcane into a large-scale domestic fuel option as part of one of the most advanced alternative energy initiatives in the world.

Dr. Jennifer Eaglin is associate professor of environmental history/sustainability at Ohio State University. Her research examines the history of alternative energy development in Brazil. She is currently a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, where she is working on her next book project on the Brazilian nucle-

ar energy industry. Eaglin received her BA from Spelman College, her MA from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and her PhD in History from Michigan State University.



**Thaís Duarte Zappellini, University of Illinois**  
**“The Lipstick Lobby and the Letter of Brazilian Women to the Constituent Assembly: Engendering Democracy and Rethinking Feminist Movements to Shape Law and Society”**  
**March 05th, 2024**

The “Lipstick Lobby” was a 1980s political mobilization to elect Brazilian women to Congress as participants of the Constituent Assembly. This talk addressed the gains of the Lipstick Lobby and analyzed its strategies to take advantage of the political opening created by the transition from dictatorship, raising awareness among parliamentarians and civil society about Feminist and women’s agendas. This was an unprecedented mobilization of Brazilian women to rethink rights and shape democratization. The Lipstick Lobby worked to change the legal status of women at the constitutional level, even though ordinary law continued to limit civil acts and self-determination to Brazilian women.

Thaís Duarte Zappellini was a postdoctoral research associate at the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. With a Ph.D. and master’s degree in politics and economic law from Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie (São Paulo, Brazil),



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her interdisciplinary research focuses on gender relations and the role of law in late 20th century Brazil.



**Suzel Ana Reily, State University of Campinas**  
**“Musical Artivism and social media in the Bolsonaro Era”**  
**March 19th , 2024**

The paper presented at this talk focuses on a mainly amateur musicians from various parts of Brazil who, in response to the rise of “Bolsonarismo,” began to produce carnival marches, or marchinhas, lampooning Bolsonaro and his followers, which they posted to social media. Marchinhas have historically been seen as arenas for the expression of social critique, through humorous song lyrics and double meanings. After samba became the primary rhythm to accompany carnival, however, marchinhas became somewhat forgotten. Since the early 2000s, street carnival, spearheaded by blocos carnavalescos (organized street carnival associations), the marchinha has made a glorious comeback, many following the tradition of targeting politicians and public policies. In effect, then, many marchinhas could be viewed as modes of musical activism. Following conversations with various marchinha composers, particularly those with social media profiles, the paper addresses their understanding of their activities and their effectiveness as a political tool.

Suzel Ana Reily is Titular Professor of Ethnomusicology at the State University of Campinas. She recently coordinated the FAPESP Flagship Project “Local Musicking: new

trajectories for ethnomusicology”. Her publications include *Musical local: trilhas para a etnomusicology* (with F. Toni and R. Hikiji, forthcoming); *The Routledge Companion to the Study of Local Musicking* (with K. Brucher, 2018), which was awarded the 2019 Ellen Koskoff Prize; *The Oxford Handbook of Music and World Christianities* (with J. Dueck, 2017).

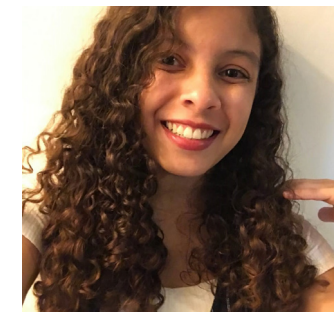


**Alan Knuth, Federal University of Rio Grande**  
**“Physical Activity as a Social Right in Brazil: challenges and opportunities”**  
**April 2nd, 2024**

Physical activity and health have become an important area on the public agenda. In the last 20 years, the National Health Promotion Policy has prioritized physical activity in the Brazilian Unified Health System. However, access to physical activity is still a challenge, with marked inequalities, especially in terms of class, race and gender. Increasing access to leisure-time physical activity and promoting a critical examination of the different domains of physical activity and their social interfaces should be on the public agenda.

Alan Knuth holds a tenured position at the Federal University of Rio Grande (FURG, Brazil) since 2011 in the Education Institute (IE-FURG). He teaches in the Physical Education course and Multiprofessional Residency Health Programmes at the Brazilian Unified Health System. Prof. Knuth also participates in the Post-Graduate Programme in Public Health at Medicine School (FAMED-FURG) and

the Post-Graduate Programme of Physical Education at the Federal University of Pelotas (UFPeL). He has worked as a consultant for the Ministry of Health in Brazil (2009-2010), and his main research areas are Collective Health, Health Promotion, Physical Activity, and the Brazilian Unified Health System. In 2022, Prof. Knuth received a grant from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to coordinate a physical activity and health promotion document. He has conducted 90 productions between articles, chapters, and books and supervised 40 students in undergraduate and graduate programs.



**Marc Doussard, University of Illinois and Fábio Waltenberg and Jéssica Maldonado, Federal Fluminense University**  
**“10 years of cash transfers paid in a local currency in Maricá, Brazil: origins, evolution, diffusion, and preliminary evidence”**  
**April 16th, 2024**

We talked about the Citizens’ Basic Income, an uncondi-

tional cash transfer scheme paid in a local currency that benefits almost 50% of the 200,000 inhabitants of Maricá, Brazil. We described the origins and the evolution of the program, as well as its diffusion to neighboring cities and its influence over national policies. We also presented preliminary results from studies conducted by partner research groups and our team - including firsthand results from “Building from the Bolsa”, a project funded by the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies.



**Joaquim J.M. Guilhoto, Senior Economist at the IMF**  
**“Linking environment and economy, contributions of input-output analysis”**  
**April 23rd, 2024**

Nobel laureate Wassily Leontief introduced input-output (I-O) models in the 1930s as a decision-making tool, providing a comprehensive understanding of economic processes such as production, income generation and consumption. These models go beyond economic applications and are valuable in environmental studies by linking economic and environmental variables. The presentation began by describing the fundamental aspects of input-output theory and its relevance to environmental concerns. It then provided a detailed but non-exhaustive exploration of various applications of input-output models in environmental modeling, addressing limitations and suggesting potential extensions of the model. The presentation concluded by providing an overview of the future direction of input-output models in the field of environmental analysis.



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Joaquim J.M. Guilhoto is a Senior Economist at the IMF. He worked at the OECD and as Professor at the University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil, where he also held positions as Head of the Department of Economics and as Associated Dean of the School of Economics, Management and Accounting (FEA). He has also held visiting professorships at MIT, University of Illinois, University Paris-Dauphine, and University of Lisbon. He specializes in applying input-output analysis to environmental analysis and sustainable development.



**Horrara Moreira, Getúlio Vargas Foundation**  
**“Take My Face Out of Your Sight - Strategies to Ban Facial Recognition in Brazil”**  
 April 30th, 2024

It is scientifically proven that facial recognition technologies discriminate against people based on their color and gender. Furthermore, their use in public security violates civil rights such as equality, privacy, and data protection. While countries in the Global North discuss the risks of implementing facial recognition in public spaces and ban the technology, in Brazil, the government invests public resources in acquiring equipment and expanding systems in all its states.

In 2022, the “Take My Face Out of Your Sight” Campaign emerged. A civil society mobilization for the banning of facial recognition technologies in public security. Over nearly two years of coordination, activists, researchers, artists, and workers come together to promote awareness actions,

popular education, political pressure, and cultural demonstrations with the radical idea that it is possible to have a free future where our data is not used to pursue and incarcerate us. During this conversation, we discussed how the advocacy strategy of the Campaign was developed and how the regulation of artificial intelligence in Brazil can legalize facial recognition as a tool approved by the state.

Horrara Moreira is an educator, writer, lawyer, and researcher who is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Regulatory Law at Getúlio Vargas Foundation. Previously, she served as the consultant and coordinator for the Tire Meu Rosto da Sua Mira Campaign, advocating for the ban of facial recognition for public security in Brazil. Currently, she works as a researcher at Data Privacy Brazil and as an Executive Assistant at Advocacy Hub.

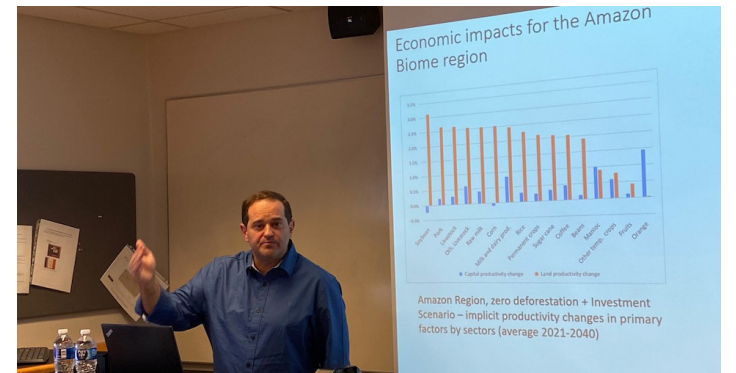


**Victor Hugo Silva Souza, University of Illinois**  
**“Evaluating Piglet Growth and Activity in Clean and Dirty Nursery Settings Using Computer Vision Technology”**  
 May 7th, 2024

Environments with higher sanitary challenges can impact piglet productivity negatively. Using imagery to monitor this influence offers an innovative and precise approach to assessing environmental effects on animal performance. Through camera surveillance, it’s possible to capture and analyze piglet behavior in challenging environments, enabling the identification of interaction patterns, stress levels, feeding habits, and general activities. This continuous

and detailed monitoring provides valuable insights into how the sanitary environment affects piglet productivity, enabling the implementation of more effective and adaptive management strategies to optimize the performance and welfare of these animals.

Victor Hugo Silva Souza was a postdoctoral research associate at the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. With a Ph.D. in Phytotechnics and a master’s degree in Agricultural Engineering, both from the Federal University of Lavras (Minas Gerais, Brazil). He is an Agronomist and Animal Science and focuses his research on the plant/animal production system and the various challenges found in the environment.





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## Lemann Graduate Forum 2023

The 6th annual Lemann Graduate Forum was held on November 6, 2023. This annual event showcases the multidisciplinary breadth of University of Illinois graduate students who received Lemann Center Graduate Fellowships, Werner Baer Doctoral Fellowships, Werner Baer Post Doctoral Fellowships, Lemann Empower Brazil Fellowships, and Lemann Leadership Fellowships.

### Opening Remarks

Flávia Andrade, Professor of Social Work and Acting Director of the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies

### Session 1: Post-doctoral Fellows

Victor Hugo Silva Souza, Agronomy (Werner Baer Postdoctoral Fellow): “Analysis of Performance, Ambience, and Characterization of Effluents from Weaned Pigs at the Nursery Phase Supplemented with Nutritional Additives”

Thaís Duarte Zappelini, Politics and Economic Law (Werner Baer Postdoctoral Fellow): “The Lipstick Lobby: Women’s and Feminist Movements Shaping Law and Society in Brazil”

### Session 2: Werner Baer Fellows and Lemann Center Graduate Fellows

Beatriz Carvalho, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) (Lemann Graduate Fellow, ‘22-’23): “My Challenge in Politics Is to Exist’: Violence against Women in Brazilian Politics (2018-2022)”

Comment: Gisela Sin, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of CLACS

Deanívea Mendes Félix, Spanish & Portuguese (Lemann Graduate Fellow, ‘22-’23): “Poster Children of

Public Health: Visualizing HIV Campaigns in Brazil, 1990-2018”

Comment: Andriara Schwingel, Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Community Health

Marcelino Batista Guerra Junior, Werner Baer Fellow, ‘22-’23 (via Zoom): “Neighborhood Intervention, Crime, and School Achievement: Evidence from Football Fields Construction in Fortaleza, Brazil”

Comment: Marcelo Cunha Medeiros, Jorge Paulo Lemann Chair of Economics

Júlia de Souza Campos Paiva, Urban & Regional Planning (Lemann Graduate Fellow): “Assessing Minha Casa Minha Vida Housing Policy from the Perspective of Racial Justice and Equity”

Comment: Siân Butcher, Geography & Geographic Information Science

Adriano (Goio) Fagundes Oliveira Lima, Music (Lemann Graduate Fellow): “Brazilian Popular Orchestras and the Second Bossa Nova Generation”

Comment: Chip McNeill, Professor and Chair of Jazz Performance

### Session 3: Roundtable

Johnatan D’Alcantara, College of Law

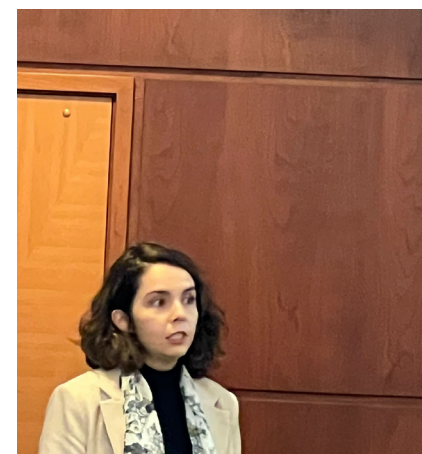
Carlos Zanatta, Economics and the Central Bank of Brazil

Adriano Sekita, Economics and the Central Bank of Brazil

### Posters Exhibition

Rafael Guimarães, Kinesiology & Community Health (Lemann Graduate Fellow): “The Role of Nutrition Apps in Managing Chronic Diseases for Individuals Experiencing Food Insecurity in Brazil”

Ana Laura Selzer Ninomiya, Kinesiology & Community Health (Lemann Graduate Fellow): “Community Health Workers (CHWs) as Leaders in the Promotion and Maintenance of Healthy Habits: Perspectives from a Rural Area in Brazil”





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## Partnerships and Cosponsorships



# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

## Portuguese Language Program



**Raquel Castro Goebel**  
Senior Instructor, Portuguese Language Program Director

As the Director of the Portuguese Language Program, my role involves supervising student teachers and overseeing the daily operations of the program. I'm tasked

with promoting, developing, and supporting the Portuguese Program, serving as a liaison with other campus units such as the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies, the Center for Latin America and Caribbean Studies, and the European Union Center. During the 2023-2024 academic year, I taught a total of 8 courses, covering a range of levels and topics, including beginner, intermediate, and advanced Portuguese, as well as courses focusing on Brazilian and Lusophone cultures.

Continuing to enhance our curriculum was a priority, with a focus on accessibility, affordability, and relevance to societal needs. Collaborating closely with our teaching assistants, we integrated post-instructional activities into our learning management system for all basic Portuguese courses, eliminating the need for expensive subscriptions for students. We also provided extracurricular opportunities, such as Portuguese conversation tables and access to the Portuguese-English virtual exchange program in partnership with the Federal Institute of São Paulo.

Throughout the year, I engaged in various collaborations across campus to promote the Portuguese Program and support-related units. This included offering cultural workshops in partnership with organizations. These workshops provided professional development opportunities for K-14 Illinois teachers while showcasing Brazilian culture through food, celebrations, and discussions. The first workshop:

“Food and Culture in Latin America: Brazilian Bobó de Camarão,” reviewed the influence of African slaves in Brazilian culinary traditions. It exemplified how teachers can incorporate experiential learning into their lesson plans to engage students. The second workshop, Food and Culture in Brazil: “Coxinha,” delivered a Brazilian cooking experience. “Carnivals in Brazil & in the Andes” sought to educate people on the origins of Carnival. The presentation was followed by a discussion on the importance of Carnival as a cultural manifestation that also has a great impact in the local economies.

We recently held our first Brazilian “Carnaval” since the pandemic, which served as both a celebration of Brazilian culture and an effective recruitment strategy. The event was a resounding success, drawing in 350 participants at the Campus YMCA, Latzer Hall. Attendees enjoyed live music, traditional Brazilian cuisine, and guaraná, providing an authentic immersion into the vibrant spirit of Brazilian culture.



Overall, the event beautifully showcased the richness and diversity of the Portuguese-speaking world. Regarding professional development, I presented at conferences such as the XII EMEP International Conference on the Teaching of Portuguese. I delivered the presentation: “Os desafios do ensino de português para falantes de espanhol: Pontos críticos” addressing difficulties Spanish-speakers experience more frequently in their journey learning Portuguese. During the event, I also moderated the discussion about the use of gen-

der-neutral language in Portuguese. I attended events like the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Annual Convention. Additionally, I contributed to academic publications, including a chapter on collaborative efforts to expand advanced Portuguese courses. Sharing Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTLs) in Higher Education: Collaboration and Innovation “The Case of the Portuguese Language Working Group – A Successful Partnership,” published by Routledge Publishing, describes the collaboration between the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Chicago, and Michigan State University to create novel advanced courses in Portuguese to be offered to students from all Big Ten Academic Alliance Institutions.

I also facilitated transformative experiences for students, such as attending the Mostra Brazilian Film Festival and organizing the Illinois Portuguese Language Connection, which focused on the Indigenous peoples of Brazil. These events provided opportunities for students to engage with Brazilian culture and language in meaningful ways. The



opening night at the XIV Mostra Brazilian Film Festival, the largest Brazilian film festival in the Midwest, allowed students to listen to Brazilian music by Dill Costa, sample Brazilian food by Sinhá Elegant Cousine, meet Brazilian Ambassador Reinaldo Salgado, Consul General of Brazil in Chicago, watch the movie “Paloma,” and participate in a discussion about social issues. Another highlight of this academic year was the XI Illinois Portuguese Language Connection, XI IPLC, “Indigenous peoples of Brazil.” During this event, Portuguese students learned about the culture of the Yawalapíti community, part of the upper Xingu National Park in the Brazilian Amazon. Students practiced native body painting, watched a demonstration of a Huka-Huka wrestling match (luta corporal indígena), and learned about indigenous traditions- rituals, such as the Quarup, and festivities- through photography. Our guest speaker, Chief Tapi Yawalapíti, who holds a Masters in Linguistics from the University of Brasília, shared his personal experiences fighting to promote the survival of Yawalapíti language - “uma língua que não deve morrer.” This was an incredible opportunity for students to become familiarized with the challenges native populations experience in modern Brazil while interacting in Portuguese with college students from participating institutions.

Outside of teaching and academic activities, I served in various advisory and committee roles, including advising the student association, reviewing journal submissions, and participating in selection processes for fellowships. I also provided language services, including interpretation and translation, for university events and community members.

Overall, the 2023-2024 academic year was marked by significant accomplishments and contributions to the Portuguese language community at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It's been a rewarding experience staying connected with Brazilian culture in the Midwest through service and learning opportunities.





# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

## Academic Events and Cultural Programming

### List of events of the year at a glance

#### FALL 2023

- ◇ Fall 2023 Reception/CLACS - August 28, 2023
- ◇ Yamandu Costa - ELLNORA THE GUITAR FESTIVAL/Krannert Center for the Performing Arts - September 09, 2023
- ◇ Sounds Methods for a New World with Samuel Araujo/School of Music - September 14-15, 2023
- ◇ Bate Papo (Portuguese Conversation Group)/ Luso Brazilian Student Association – August to November, 2023
- ◇ Department of Atmospheric Sciences' talk with Professor Flavio Justino from the Federal University of Viçosa - October 19, 2023
- ◇ New Generation School and UNI High School- Mark Hertzman – Lecture: Palmares - October 23, 2023
- ◇ Word is Seed - A Celebration of International Voices through Poetry and Languages at Salaam Middle East & North Africa Cultural Center - October 26, 2023
- ◇ Special Seminar: Learning Clinical Reasoning in the AI ERA/Professor Mara Rubia A. A. de Lima (UFCSPA) - October 26, 2023
- ◇ Brazilian Jazz Ensemble & Arts Impact Panel at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts - November 2, 2023
- ◇ Graduate Student Workshop - November 3, 2023
- ◇ IGI - International Music Night 2023 - November 8, 2023
- ◇ Multicultural Night at Leal Elementary School - November 14, 2023
- ◇ Undergraduate Instructional Workshop - November 14, 2023
- ◇ Gender Violence and the Woman Worker in Brazil and the United States - November 15, 2023
- ◇ The Latin American and Caribbean cities collective: Dra Priscila Ferreira “The economics of abolition and community-engaged scholarship.” - November 29, 2023
- ◇ Food & Culture in Brazil “COXINHA” - November 30, 2023
- ◇ Lemann Center End of the Year Reception with Choro das 3 - December 02, 2023
- ◇ Latin American Story Time & Crafts: Portuguese - December 9, 2023

#### SPRING 2024

- ◇ Lecture Series: Gana Ndiaye “How Can One Be An African Sufi Muslim? Senegalese Migrants and Brazil’s New Racial Politics - January 30, 2024
- ◇ Brazil Carnaval at YMCA - February 10, 2024
- ◇ Lecture Series: Bianca Kremer “Facial Recognition Technologies in the Brazilian Public Sector: Between Regulation and Racial Discrimination - February 13, 2024
- ◇ Carnaval! at Krannert Center - February 13, 2024

- ◇ Tribute to Villa-Lobos and Tom Jobim - March 6 and 7, 2024
- ◇ The Starship’s Multicultural Night at South Side School - March 6, 2024
- ◇ Westview Heritage Night - March 28, 2024
- ◇ Lecture: Arturo Galindo: “Economic Outlook of Latin America and the Caribbean” - April 9, 2024
- ◇ “China and the Middle East through the Lens of Halal Diplomacy”/ Prof: Zaynab El Bernoussi April 9, 2024
- ◇ Film “QUILOMBO” – Introduction Dr Marc Hertzman - April 11, 2024
- ◇ Jose Gobbo e trio Featuring Raphael Ferreira at Allerton Park - April 13, 2024
- ◇ “A Special Brown Bag: Perspectives on the Politics of Indigeneity” - April 17, 2024
- ◇ Coffee, Tea & IP- “Indigenous Knowledge, Intellectual Property, and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR): Challenges and Opportunities for Africa” - April 18, 2024
- ◇ Villa-Lobos Goes to School - April 17 and April 24, 2024
- ◇ Way Beyond Samba - Brazilian Cinema Film Series at Normal Theater - April 4, 11, 18, 19 and 21, 2024
- ◇ 19th Annual International Conference of Capoeira Angola: “Meu Mestre , Meu Tesouro” - April 21, 2024
- ◇ “Discovering Latin American and the Caribbean: “Caranguejo nao e peixe” - April 23, 2024
- ◇ Musicology Colloquium: “Ten Chapters, Fifty Authors: Musicking through Collaborative Writing”
- ◇ Professor Suzel Ana Reily - April 26, 2024
- ◇ Brazilian Jazz Ensemble at Krannert Center - April 28, 2024
- ◇ Lecture Series: Horrara Moreira’s “Take My Face Out Of Your Sight.”
- ◇ Strategies to Ban Facial Recognition in Brazil - April 30, 2024
- ◇ International Night at Carrie Busey Elementary School - May 2, 2024
- ◇ Luso Brazilian Association: End of the year Celebration: Festa Junina and Brazilian Churrasco - May 4, 2024
- ◇ Alumni Event of ACES, GIES and LAS in Sao Paulo – May 5, 2024
- ◇ “Europe – Integration and Fragmentation” - Launch Seminar of the Center for Global Studies at University of Brasilia - May 10, 2024

#### SUMMER 2024

- ◇ Memory of Brazilian Poetry/National Library Foundation in RJ - May 27, 2024
- ◇ 60th Reunion UI Orchestra Tour - June 4, 2024
- ◇ Conference: III CICSH: An Exploration of Brazilian Constitutionalism at the University of Salamanca - June 26-28, 2024
- ◇ IGI Summer 2024 Virtual Global Educators Workshop “Critical Thinking in the Technological World” - July 17-18, 2024



# THE LEMANN CENTER FOR BRAZILIAN STUDIES

We would like to thank all the Centers, Universities, Institutions, Individuals, Organizations, Schools and Libraries that partnered with us this year and we hope to have you with us in the future!

ILLINOIS GLOBAL INSTITUTE  
 LEMANN CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION IN BRAZIL AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
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 CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES  
 UFRJ – FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO  
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 WOMEN AND GENDER IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM  
 LEAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
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 THE CAPOEIRA ANGOLA CENTERR OF MESTRE JOAO GRANDE – ILLINOIS  
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# About the Center

Established in 2009, the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies promotes teaching and research about Brazil by faculty and students at Illinois and their Brazilian counterparts, who take advantage of the extensive resources available at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC).

Building on long-standing collaboration with Brazilian scholars in economics and agriculture, as well as nearly a half-century of teaching and research in Brazilian literature and history, the Center fosters knowledge and understanding of Brazil across disciplines and colleges. It does this by offering fellowships to UIUC and Brazilian students at graduate and undergraduate levels, funding faculty research, organizing international conferences on Brazilian topics, and supporting cultural activities.

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