

Conference

A horizon of (im)possibilities: Reflecting on the social implications of recent political upheaval in Brazil



Date: 22 February 2019, 9.45am - 6.15pm

Venue: The Court Room, First Floor, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

Description

With crucial political events occurring at a dramatic pace (from President Dilma Rousseff's impeachment and her succession by Michel Temer, to the imprisonment of former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and the election of former military officer Jair Bolsonaro), the political landscape in Brazil has shifted rapidly, confronted with realities considered unimaginable only a few of years earlier. Indeed, depending on the perspective from which one looks at these events, it can be argued that the limits of what is politically possible have expanded (or contracted).

Tapping on the notion of possibility, and acknowledging that the recent presidential elections are but the end result, or culmination, of a series of social and political changes that have been taking place over several years, this conference invites researchers to consider and critically reflect on contemporary political events and their social implications.

A key question that will guide the discussions is: What may appear to be the possibilities and impossibilities for active citizenship, democratic values, and violence prevention in the aftermath of the latest presidential elections?

This is an inter-disciplinary conference and papers are welcomed from a wide variety of disciplines and practice areas. Some key questions that we would like to consider are:

What may have motivated citizens to opt for far-right political alternatives in the Brazilian context? What is the role of mobile social media in influencing voting behaviour? How do groups, such as 'ethnic', religious, gender and sexual minorities, deal with growing hostility against them and threats against constitutionally guaranteed rights? How to conciliate deepened social and political divisions that were accentuated ahead of the 2018 national elections?

9.45 - 10.00: **Registration**

10.00 - 11.30: 1st session

Leticia Marques Camargo (UERJ and University of Manchester) – ‘How did Bolsonaro win?’
Dr Silvia Stefani (University of Turin) – ‘Before Bolsonaro: Rio de Janeiro transformation during the Big Events’

Michele Diana da Luz (UFPEL and University of Brighton) and **Guilherme Figueredo Benzaquen** (UFPEL and University of Brighton) – ‘Bolsonaro’s election and the historic disputes between right and left in Brazilian politics’

David Simblser (EHES) - ‘Pentecostals, Landless Movement and grassroots politics: remarks on recent fieldwork in Pernambuco’

Chair: Dr Maya Mayblin (Edinburgh)

11.30 - 11.45: **coffee/tea break**

11.45 - 13.30: 2nd session

Dr Eduardo Dullo (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul-UFRGS) - ‘Beyond the “*tempo da política*”: exception as exemplarity’

Dr Marta Magalhães Wallace (University of Cambridge) - ‘Insecurity once again: violence and the (im)possibility of care in contemporary Brazil’

Dr Graham Denyer Willis (University of Cambridge) ‘Politics gone missing’

Chair: Dr Malu Gatto (UCL)

13.30 - 14.15: **lunch break**

14.15 - 16.00: 3rd session

Dr Andreza de Souza Santos (University of Oxford) ‘Politics from below and the hijack of social movements’

Dr Jeff Garmany (Brazil Institute, King’s College) ‘Politics and collective mobilisation in post-PT Brazil’

Dr Julia Sauma (University of Bergen) ‘Race, Land and the Constitution of 1988: White supremacy and the Quilombo case’

Chair: Prof. David Lehmann (University of Cambridge)

16.00 - 16.15: **tea/coffee break**

16.15 - 18.15: 4th session

Dr Christian Schwartz (Positivo University) – ‘The educational gap in the ongoing events in Brazil: a socio-literary inquiry’

Dr Michele Wisdahl (University of St Andrews) – ‘Education and indignation: from liberation to indoctrination’

Dr Leila Bijos (University of Brasília-UnB) – ‘Bolsonaro era 2019: social policies and the young generation’

Dr José Loureiro – ‘Gender and power in Brazil: tackling gender ideology in the times of far-right’

Álvaro Bartolotti Tomas (PUC-SP) and **João Vitor Cardoso** (Observatory of Civil Conflict and Access to Justice in Brazil) – ‘Nascituro Statute’

João Carlos Magalhães (LSE) – ‘Voice as silencing: algorithmic visibility, recognition costs and the erosion of civic voice in the Brazilian political crisis’

Chair: Dr Larissa Boratti (King’s College)