2015 Urban Forum

Cities and Spectacle in Modern Brazil
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Participant Bios

Dain Borges is Associate Professor of History, Faculty Director of the Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS), and Deputy Dean for MA Programs in the Graduate Social Sciences Division at the University of Chicago. Borges is a historian of Latin America, specializing in modern Brazilian social and cultural history. He is the author of The Family in Bahia, Brazil, 1870–1945.

Courtney J. Campbell is currently a Past & Present Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute of Historical Research of the University of London. She researches Brazilian social and cultural history through an international perspective, focusing on the Northeast. She received her Master’s in Education from the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco in 2008 and her PhD in History from Vanderbilt University in 2014. She is also director of the British Library Endangered Archives Programme Project Digitising seventeenth to nineteenth century ecclesiastical and secular sources in São João do Cariri and João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil—a two-year project aimed at digitizing the oldest, most endangered historical documents in the Brazilian state of Paraíba.
Ignacio Cano got his joint PhD in sociology and social psychology at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain). He has worked in attention to refugees and war-stricken populations in El Salvador and he was a member of the United Nations Truth Commission for El Salvador. Since 1996, he has been based in Rio de Janeiro, carrying out research at NGOs and at several universities on topics related to violence, human rights, public security, and education. He holds a permanent position on research methodology at the Department of Social Sciences of the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, where he is now Associate Professor. He is a founder and current coordinator of the Laboratory for the Analysis of Violence (LAV) of the same university. Over the last 15 years, he has published on different issues related to public security and human rights and he has been a consultant and an evaluator for various projects related to these areas in several countries in the region.

Bruno Carvalho’s research and teaching interests range from the early modern period to the present, and include literature, culture, and the built environment, with a focus on Brazil. He has published widely, and is the author of Porous City: A Cultural History of Rio de Janeiro. He was recently promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Cultures at Princeton University, where he is co-director of the Princeton-Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism & the Humanities, and Associated Faculty in the School of Architecture, Center for African American Studies, Department of Comparative Literature, Princeton Environmental Institute, and Program in Urban Studies.

Mariana Cavalcanti (PhD in Social/Cultural Anthropology, University of Chicago) is Associate Professor at the Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Politicos at the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro and at the School of Social Sciences and History/CPDOC-FGV-RJ. She specializes in urban anthropology, and is particularly interested in questions related to housing, urbanism and public policy. She recently co-directed the documentary film Favela Fabril (2012) and is co-founder and board member of Casa Fluminense, a civil society association aimed at deepening democracy and reducing inequalities in the Metropolitan Area and the State of Rio de Janeiro.

Robert J. Chaskin is the Faculty Director of the University of Chicago Urban Network, and Associate Professor and Deputy Dean for Strategic Initiatives at the School of Social Service Administration. A sociologist by training, his research focuses primarily on neighborhood organization, neighborhood intervention, and the dynamics of participatory planning and neighborhood democracy in the context of urban poverty, with particular attention to the role of community-based nonprofits in neighborhood governance and the relationship and shifting division of labor among state, market, and community actors.

Gabriel Feltran is Professor of Sociology at the Universidade Federal de São Carlos. He is Coordinator of Research for the Centro de Estudos da Metrópole (Center for the Study of the Metropolis) and a researcher in the Nucleus of Urban Ethnography at the Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (Brazilian Center for Analysis and Planning). He also coordinates NaMargem, which oversees research projects on “The Margins of the City” and “The Management of Conflict in the Production of Contemporary Cities.” He holds a doctorate in the Social Sciences from the State University of Campinas, during which he pursued joint study at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. He currently researches the social, political and market dynamics of Brazil’s urban peripheries, focusing especially on marginalized groups and “the world of crime” in São Paulo.
Edésio Fernandes is a Brazilian lawyer and city planner based in London, where he is a part-time lecturer at the Development Planning Unit of University College London. He is also coordinator of the International Research Group on Law and Urban Space, a partner of United Nations/HABITAT. His research and teaching interests include urban and environmental law, planning and policy; local government and city management; and constitutional law and human rights in developing countries. Fernandes has lectured and taught in courses at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy for several years and he coordinates the Institute’s Latin American Network on Urban Land Regularization.

Brodwyn Fischer, Professor of History at the University of Chicago, is a historian of Brazil and Latin America with a special interest in cities, citizenship, law, migration, race, and social inequality. Her research focuses on the historical dynamics of Brazilian racial inequalities, criminal law, Brazil’s 20th century great migrations, and the relationship between the urban poor and the country’s political left. Her current project, “Understanding Inequality in Post-Abolition Brazil,” looks at some of the paradoxical ways in which struggles for survival and social mobility have historically reinforced rather than disrupted larger inequalities in Brazilian society. Her first book, A Poverty of Rights, examined how weak citizenship rights and residential informality came to define urban poverty, popular social struggles and the political dynamics of inequality in modern Brazil. Fischer is also a co-editor of Cities from Scratch, a book that explores the many ways in which poverty and informality have shaped the Latin American urban experience.

Bianca Freire-Medeiros is Professor of Sociology at the Universidade de São Paulo and has been a research fellow at the Latin American Studies Center at the University of Texas at Austin, Colégio de México (COLMEX), Center for Mobilities Research (CeMoRe) at Lancaster University, and Center for Development and Migration Studies at Princeton University. Her latest book, Touring Poverty, probes the material, aesthetic, and ethical dimensions of poverty tourism in city spaces, social interactions, and global imaginaries.

Daniel Gough will receive his PhD in Ethnomusicology this June from the University of Chicago, where he is a Dissertation-Year Fellow at the Franke Institute for the Humanities. His research focuses on cultural finance and musical performance in São Paulo.

Isabel Cristina Martins Guillen holds an undergraduate degree in history from the Universidade de São Paulo, and completed her master’s and doctoral degrees in history at the Universidade Estadual de Campinas. She held a post-doctoral fellowship at the Universidade Federal Fluminense. Before joining the faculty at the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco in the early 2000s, her research focused on the labor and environmental histories of the Brazilian erva-mate and rubber extraction industries. Her more recent work explores Black culture in metropolitan Recife, especially that of the maracatus nação and the region’s Black Movements.

Beatriz Jaguaribe is Associate Professor at the School of Communications of the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. She has been a visiting professor at Stanford University, Dartmouth College, New School for Social Research, Princeton, and NYU. She has published essays and books on urban culture in Brazil, inventions of the self in literature and visual culture and the rhetoric of national modernities in Latin America. Among her books are O choque do real and Rio de Janeiro: Urban Life through the Eyes of the City.
**Loren Kruger** is Professor of English, Comparative Literature, Theater and Performance Studies, and African Studies at the University of Chicago. Kruger’s research and teaching focus on theatre performance and theory in Europe, Africa, and the Americas, South African literature and visual culture, and on cultural theory, mostly the Marxist tradition in German, English, and other languages, and its transnational legacy. She is also affiliated with the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture and the Urban Network. Kruger’s most recent book, *Imagining the Edgy City*, brings together film and fiction, public art, architecture, and history with previous work on theatre and other performances in Johannesburg.

**Erika Robb Larkins** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Studies and Anthropology at the University of Oklahoma. Her work focuses broadly on the study of violence and inequality in urban Brazil. Her book, *The Spectacular Favela*, explores the connection between the production of violence in Rio de Janeiro and its commodification and consumption, locally as well as internationally. She will be in Rio for the 2015–16 academic year working on an ethnography of the private security industry.

**Benjamin Lessing**, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, studies “criminal conflict”—organized armed violence involving non-state actors who do not seek formal state power. His current book project, *Making Peace with the Drug War*, examines cartel-state conflict and state policy in Colombia, Mexico, and Brazil. He also studies prison gangs’ pernicious effect on state authority throughout the Americas; and how paramilitary groups in Brazil and Colombia use territorial control to influence electoral outcomes. Prior to his graduate work, Lessing conducted field research on arms trafficking in Latin America and the Caribbean for international organizations including Amnesty International, Oxfam, Small Arms Survey, ISER, and Viva Rio. He was a Fulbright Grantee in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay.

**Aiala Levy** is a PhD candidate in Latin American History at the University of Chicago interested in the history of urban development and the arts. In her dissertation, "Forging an Urban Public: Theaters, Audiences, and the City in São Paulo, Brazil, 1854–1930," Levy examines a wide range of theater producers to understand how an urban public was imagined and created in a rapidly growing city. Her work has been published in *Planning Perspectives* and *Istor* and has been supported by the Mellon Foundation, Institute of International Education, Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, and the University of Chicago's Urban Network.

**Bryan McCann** is Professor of Latin American History at Georgetown University. He has published extensively on Rio de Janeiro, particularly on the political history of that city's favelas. He has also published on Brazilian Popular Music, radio, and culture.

**Ben Penglase** is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Latin American Studies at Loyola University Chicago. He is a cultural anthropologist who studies violence, race and inequality in urban Brazil. His book, *Living with Insecurity in a Brazilian Favela*, was recently published by Rutgers University Press.

**Keisha-Khan Y. Perry** received her BS in Spanish and Women’s Studies from Georgetown University and her PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently an Associate Professor of Africana Studies at Brown University where she specializes in race, gender, and politics in the Americas, urban geography and questions of citizenship, intellectual
history, and disciplinary formation, and the interrelationship between scholarship, pedagogy, and political engagement. Her most recent work, *Black Women against the Land Grab: The Fight for Racial Justice in Brazil*, is an ethnographic study of black women's activism in Brazilian cities, specifically an examination of black women’s participation and leadership in neighborhood associations, and the re-interpretations of racial and gender identities in urban spaces.

**Mariza de Carvalho Soares** is Professor of History at the Universidade Federal Fluminense, presently Tinker Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago’s Center for Latin American Studies, with research focusing on slavery and the Catholic Church in Brazil and pre-colonial Western Africa.

**Mauricio Tenorio** is Professor of History and Director of the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Chicago. He works on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Mexico. His most recent book, *'I Speak of the City': Mexico City, 1880–1930*, connects the realms of literature, architecture, music, popular language, art, and public health to investigate the city in a variety of contexts.

**Kari Zimmerman** received her PhD in Latin American History from Stanford University in 2010 and also holds a Masters in Latin American Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. She is currently revising her book manuscript *Women of Independent Means: Female Entrepreneurs and Property Owners in Rio de Janeiro, 1869–1904*. Her research and teaching areas include Modern Latin America with a particular emphasis on Brazil, the social and economic history of Brazil, African slavery in the Americas, and women and gender in the Atlantic World.