

# Liliana Gil

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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2023- **Assistant Professor of Comparative Studies (STS), Ohio State University**  
Affiliations: Anthropology; Center for Latin American Studies; Global Arts and Humanities; Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

2023 **Lecturer, NUS College, National University of Singapore**  
Arts & Design Impact Experience Cluster

## EDUCATION

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2022 **PhD in Anthropology, The New School for Social Research**  
Dissertation: "Beyond Make-do Innovation: Practices and Politics of Technological Improvisation in Brazil" | Committee: Hugh Raffles (chair), Miriam Ticktin, Mara Mills, Ivan da Costa Marques

2015 **MA in Anthropology, The New School for Social Research**

2011 **MSc in Medical Anthropology, University of Coimbra**  
Thesis: "Exhibiting Irritations: Experimenting Inside Art and Science" | Advisor: Luís Quintais | Research Visit: Fulbright Program at UC Berkeley, hosted by Paul Rabinow

2008 **Licenciatura in Anthropology (Bio and Sociocultural), NOVA University Lisbon**

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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design, innovation, and repair; critical perspectives on computing and development; work, skill, and infrastructures; industrial ethnography; art-science intersections; postcolonial and feminist theories

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Journal Articles

2023 "Becoming a Repair Entrepreneur: An Ethnography of Skills Training in Brazil." *Third World Quarterly*, 45, 4: 640-657. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2023.2207006>

2022 "A Fablab at the Periphery: Decentering Innovation from São Paulo." *American Anthropologist*, 124, 4: 721-733. <http://doi.org/10.1111/aman.13769>

2016 "Method as Responsibility in Applied Research." *Vis-à-vis: Explorations in Anthropology*, 13, 1: 97-113. (Co-authored with Filipa Queirós, refereed graduate student journal) <https://vav.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/vav/article/view/27058>

2014 “A Relevância das Narrativas de Experiência da Doença: Desafios Concretuais e Metodológicos.” *Sociologia Online – Revista da Associação Portuguesa de Sociologia*, 7: 81-97. (Co-authored with Filipa Queirós and João Arriscado Nunes)  
<https://revista.aps.pt/pt/a-relevancia-das-narrativas-de-experiencia-da-doenca-desafios-concretuais-e-metodologicos/>

2010 “«A Arte Pós-Darwin»: Política dos Artefactos e da Tecnologia a Partir de uma Experiência Etnográfica.” *Antropologia Portuguesa*, 27-28: 97-120.  
[http://dx.doi.org/10.14195/2182-7982\\_27\\_6](http://dx.doi.org/10.14195/2182-7982_27_6)

#### **Book Chapters**

Forth. “Social Lives of Repair.” York, Emily et al. (eds.). *An STS Teachbook*. Lever Press.

Forth. “The Making Together Kit.” VandenBroek, Angela and Taylor, Nicole (eds.). *Kits for Digital Methods: Doing Sociotechnical Research*. Routledge.

2025 “Becoming a Repair Entrepreneur: An Ethnography of Skills Training in Brazil.” Brown, Trent and De Neve, Geert (eds.). *The Social Life of Skills in the Global South*. Routledge.  
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003618393-3> (Reprint of *Third World Quarterly* article)

#### **In Preparation**

*Improvised Tech: Tactics for an Unequal World* (book manuscript)

“Improvisation from the South: Kaleidoscopic Snapshots of Everyday Tech-Making.” (Submitted to *Configurations*, special issue on Improvisation and STS)

“Factory Lunch” (short documentary film, in production)

#### **Author Interviews and Book Reviews**

2025 Interview with Luis Felipe Murillo about *Common Circuits: Hacking Alternative Technological Futures* (Stanford University Press 2025). New Books Network podcast.  
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/common-circuits>

2025 Interview with Laurie Denyer Willis about *Go with God: Political Exhaustion and Evangelical Possibility in Suburban Brazil* (University of California Press 2023). New Books Network podcast. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/go-with-god>

2025 Interview with Chloe Ahmann about *Futures After Progress: Hope and Doubt in Late Industrial Baltimore* (University of Chicago Press 2024). New Books Network podcast.  
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/chloe-ahmann-futures-after-progress-hope-and-doubt-in-late-industrial-baltimore-u-chicago-press-2024>

2024 Interview with Héctor Beltrán about *Code Work Hacking Across the US/México Techno-Borderlands* (Princeton University Press 2023). New Books Network podcast.  
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/code-work>

2023 Interview with Nettrice Gaskins about *Techno-Vernacular Creativity and Innovation* (MIT Press 2021). New Books Network podcast. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/techno-vernacular-creativity-and-innovation>

2023 Interview with Elizabeth Reddy about *Alerta! Engineering on Shaky Ground* (MIT Press 2023). New Books Network podcast. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/alerta>

2018 "Teresa Caldeira on Urban Practices and Ethnographic Intimacy." AnthroPod: The SCA Podcast, *Cultural Anthropology* website. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/teresa-caldeira-on-urban-practices-and-ethnographic-intimacy>

2017 "To Build This Other World Upon: An Interview with Stefanie Graeter." Dialogues, *Cultural Anthropology* website. (Co-authored with Marianinha Villavicencio) <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/to-build-this-other-world-upon-an-interview-with-stefanie-graeter>

2017 "Ethnography and Design." AnthroPod: The SCA Podcast, *Cultural Anthropology* website. (Executive Producer for Tariq Rahman and Katherine Sacco; episodes 1, 2, and 3) <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/ethnography-and-design-1-disability-design-and-performance>

2012 "Medical Anthropology, Activists and Intellectuals. An Interview with Nancy Scheper-Hughes." *Antropologia Portuguesa*, 29: 205-214. [https://doi.org/10.14195/2182-7982\\_29\\_13](https://doi.org/10.14195/2182-7982_29_13)

2008 Book review of *Picturing Personhood: Brain Scans and Biomedical Identity*, by J. Dumit. *Antropologia Portuguesa*, 24-25: 197-201. [http://dx.doi.org/10.14195/2182-7982\\_25\\_14](http://dx.doi.org/10.14195/2182-7982_25_14)

#### Other Selected Work

2024 "Ecologia do reparo." Interviewed about my research on repair in São Paulo (Portuguese). Oxigênio podcast. <https://www.oxigenio.comciencia.br/176-ecologia-do-reparo-a-producao-tecnologica-no-santa-ifigenia-parte-1>

2021 "A FabLab at the Periphery – Fieldwork Photo Essay." ADX: Anthropology & Design, VR exhibition organized by the ADX Student Working Group. New School for Social Research and Parsons School of Design, New York, USA. <https://sites.google.com/newschool.edu/adx/adx-exhibition/>

2016 "ISRO: On Resourceful Science." Contribution to The New School India China Institute Website. <https://www.indiachinainstitute.org/2016/07/14/isro-on-resourceful-science/>

2017 "Palliative Care/Cuidados Paliativos." *Facta – Revista de Gambiologia*, 4: 117-120. <https://issuu.com/gambiologia/docs/facta4/117>

#### AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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Awards

2025 **Margaret Lynd Faculty Teaching Award, Department of Comparative Studies, OSU**  
Awarded annually to a Comparative Studies faculty member for excellence in teaching.  
Nominated by students for work in the undergraduate and graduate programs

2020 **David Hakken Graduate Student Paper Prize, CASTAC, GAD, AAA**  
 Awarded by the Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Computing of the American Anthropological Association for "A Fablab at the Periphery"

2020 **Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, New School for Social Research**  
 Awarded to six NSSR graduate student instructors. Nominated by students for work done as a Teaching Fellow at Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts

2009 **Merit Scholarship Award, University of Coimbra**  
 Top fourteen students (<1%) at the Faculty of Sciences and Technology

2007 **Merit Scholarship Award, NOVA University Lisbon**  
 Top six students (<1%) at the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences

#### External Grants and Fellowships

2021-22 **Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship**  
 for dissertation write-up, awarded by the American Council of Learned Societies

2019-20 **National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant**  
 for fieldwork in Brazil, awarded by the Science, Technology, and Society Program with co-review by the Cultural Anthropology Program

2019 **Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant**  
 for fieldwork in Brazil

2013-17 **Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology Doctoral Fellowship**  
 for graduate studies at The New School

2010-11 **Fulbright Program Research Grant**  
 for master's thesis research on sci-art at the University of California, Berkeley

#### Selected Internal Grants and Fellowships

2025-27 **Faculty Research Grant, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, OSU**  
 to support completion of manuscript for publication

2024-26 **Educator Abroad Accelerator Fund, ASC Dean's Innovation Fund, OSU**  
 to develop study abroad course in Lisbon, Portugal

2024-25 **International Research and Scholarship Grant, Office of International Affairs, OSU**  
 for summer research project "Colonial Threads of Technological Improvisation"

2024-25 **Undergraduate Research Access Innovation Seed Grant, Ohio State University**  
 for undergraduate experiential learning project "Social Lives of Repair (and other overlooked tech practices in Columbus)"

2023-25 **Humanities Institute Collaboratory Grant, Ohio State University**  
 for Feminist Science and Technology Studies & Social Justice Working Group

2023-24 **Faculty Travel Grant, Center for Latin American Studies, Ohio State University**  
 for summer fieldwork in Brazil

2017-19 **Janey Program in Latin American Studies Fellowship, The New School**  
 for summer research and year-round participation in the Janey Workshop

2016 **India China Institute Starr Summer Travel Research Grant, The New School**  
 for exploratory research in India (Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore)

## PRESENTATIONS

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### Invited Talks and Guest Lectures

2025 "Design Beyond the Board: Improvisation, Inequality, and Everyday Tech-Making." Going Back to the Drawing Board: A Workshop on the Anthropology of Design, Humanities Center, University of Rochester, USA.

2023 "Becoming a Repair Entrepreneur: An Ethnography of Skills Training." Sensibilidad y Representación, Departamento de Antropología, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia.

2023 "Ethnographic Methods for Unboxing Tech." Smart Cities: History of Urban Data in Urban Planning, Urban Studies, Yale-NUS College, Singapore.

2022 "Studying Tech in/from Latin America." Labor Tech Research Network Launch. ESOCITE/Society for Social Studies of Science Joint Meeting, Cholula, Mexico.

2022 "Can the Innovation Tools Dismantle the Innovation House?" Code-X Machina: Prácticas de Código Crítico en las Artes, MedialabMx and Centro Multimedia - CENART, Mexico.

2021 "The Brazilian 'Electronics Paradise': Repair Work and Skill in Santa Efigênia." Anthropology of Work, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Lucerne, Switzerland.

2019 "Um Fab Lab na Periferia: Modelos em Trânsito e Inovação Inclusiva em São Paulo." Alberto Luiz Coimbra Institute for Graduate Studies and Research in Engineering (COPPE), Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

2019 "Uma Etnografia sobre Improviso Tecnológico: Partilhando Estratégias de Pesquisa." GEICT – Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Study Group, Department of Science and Technology Policy, University of Campinas, Brazil.

2011 "The Work of Art in the Age of Biotechnology. An anthropological consideration of BioArt." Portuguese Studies Lecture Series, University of California, Berkeley, USA.

### Selected Conference Presentations

2026 "Traveling Tactics: Traduzindo Práticas Tecnoativistas entre Brasil e Portugal." Congress of the Brazilian Studies Association. Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil.

2025 "Make-Do Cyberpunk and the Politics of Improvised Contraptions." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, USA.

2024 "Tecno-ativismo: Circulações Sul-Norte." IV Encontro Latino-americano de Antropologia Digital, Red Latinoamericana de Antropología Digital, Mexico/Argentina/Venezuela.

2024 "Urban Lives of Minor Electronics: A History of Santa Efigênia." El Laboratorio Seminar, Virginia Commonwealth University and University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA.

2024 "Social Lives of Repair: A Pedagogical Experiment." AES/APLA Spring Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

2023 "Improvisation as Praxis in Brazilian Techno-Art and Activism." Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Honolulu, USA.

2022 "Tropicalizing Electronics: Forest, Factories, and Techno-Adaptation." ESOCITE/Society for Social Studies of Science Joint Meeting, Cholula, Mexico.

2022 "Tropical Factories: Histories of Tech Production in Manaus, 1960s-present." Society for the History of Technology & SIGCIS, Special Interest Group for Computing, Information & Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, USA.

2022 "The Uses of Improvisation in Techno-Art and Activism." Congress of the Brazilian Studies Association. Georgetown University, Washington, USA.

2021 "An Urban History of Electronics: Hobbyists, Dealers, and Repairers." Histories of Maintenance and Repair Workshop. Centre for Contemporary and Digital History, University of Luxembourg, Esch-Belval, Luxembourg.

2021 "Learning to Fix: Brazilian Lessons for an Obsolete World." The Social Life of Skills Workshop, University of Melbourne, Australia.

2020 "The Brazilian 'Electronics Paradise': Repair Work, Expertise, and Global Connections in Santa Efigênia." Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Annual Graduate Student Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, USA.

2019 "A FabLab in the Periphery: Reconfiguring Innovation from São Paulo." Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, New Orleans, USA.

2019 "Desafios de um Estudo Empírico sobre Improviso e Tecnologia." GEICT Workshop/LE-E Seminar, University of Campinas and Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil.

2018 "Technological Improvisation: Reinventing Innovation from Brazil." Speculative Futures Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA.

2017 "Quick-fix as Innovation? Thoughts from Brazil." Maintainers II: Labor, Technology, and Social Orders, Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey, USA.

2016 "Geographies of Improvisation." Chat n' Chai Student Fellows, The New School India China Institute, New York, USA.

2013 "The constitution of subjects in health literacy. Theoretical considerations from narrative-based research." Beyond Biosocialities in Med Anthropology, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

2012 "Letting stories breathe: narrative and experience of asthma." Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark. (with Filipa Queirós, João Arriscado Nunes, Carlos Barradas, and Rita Serra)

2011 "Affect from a blossom: art, ethics and nature." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

2011 "Contemporary Moral Uncertainties of BioArt." Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial Meeting, Los Angeles, USA.

2010 "Arte e Ciência: política dos artefactos e da tecnologia a partir de uma experiência etnográfica." III Seminário de Memória e Cultura Visuais, Cabeceiras de Basto, Portugal.

#### EVENTS ORGANIZED AND MODERATED

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2025 Organizer, STS Book Talks - Spring 2025 Series with Amit Prasad (*Science Studies Meets Colonialism*, Polity 2022), Nessette Falu (*Unseen Flesh*, Duke 2023), and Alexander Dent (*Digital Pirates*, Stanford 2020). Department of Comparative Studies, OSU, Columbus, USA.

2025 Invited Chair, "Exploring Race, Folklore, and Feminist Ethnography." Panel at the Annual Folklore and Ethnomusicology Student Conference. Folklore Student Association, OSU and Indiana University, Columbus, USA.

2024 Co-organizer, "Knowing & Doing: training at the human/non-human intersection." Panel at 4S Annual Meeting, Amsterdam, Netherlands. (with Alexios Tsigkas)

2024 Invited Discussant, "Tropical Materialities." Panel at 4S, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

2024 Invited Chair, "Movements and Shifts." Panel at Race and Data Symposium, OSU Translational Data Analytics Institute, Columbus, USA.

2024 Chair, "Reparative Technopolitics, Part I." Panel at AES/APLA Spring Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

2023 Co-organizer, "Technologies from the South as Method and Challenge." Roundtable at AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada. (with Verónica Uribe del Águila)

2022 Chair, "Circulation of Knowledge." Panel at ESOCITE/4S Joint Meeting, Cholula, Mexico.

2020-21 Coordinator, "FICT x Sing." Anthropology and speculative fiction project with Yale-NUS students and alumni in Singapore, organized at Osaka University in Japan.

2019 Invited Moderator, "O Fim das Salas de Informática? E agora?" Panel at Campus Party Brasil, Municipal Secretary of Innovation and Technology, São Paulo, Brazil.

2018-19 Organizer, Workshops on DIY Microscopy, FabLab Livre SP, São Paulo, Brazil.

2014-15 Co-organizer, "Out of Sight" Film Series, New School for Social Research, NY, USA.

## TEACHING

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### Courses Taught

2026 **Interdisciplinary Methods and Collaborative Practices, Ohio State University**  
Professor. Foundational graduate seminar in Comparative Studies

2025 **Seminar in Technology and Culture, Ohio State University**  
Professor. Advanced graduate elective

2023- **Introduction to Cultures of Science and Technology, Ohio State University**  
Professor. General Education undergraduate course

2022 **Artificial Intelligence, Creativity & Social Justice, The New School**  
Teaching Assistant for Jeongki Lim and Andrew Shea. Parsons undergraduate course

2020 **Modern Social Thought, Yale-NUS College**  
Adjunct Lecturer, instructor of record. Social Sciences undergraduate course

2020 **World Histories of Anthropology, The New School**  
Teaching Fellow, instructor of record. Anthropology undergraduate course

2018 **Critical Foundations of Anthropology, The New School**  
Teaching Assistant for Abou Farman. Anthropology graduate course

2015-17 **Introduction to Cultural Studies, The New School**  
Guest Lecturer for McKenzie Wark. Media Studies undergraduate course

### Advising and Examination

2025 PhD Committee Member (Brittany Halley), English, OSU

2025 Undergraduate Research Mentor (Ryan Sivakumar), STS Minor, OSU

2024 PhD Defense Jury (Vitor Chiodi), Institute of Philosophy and Human Sciences, Unicamp  
2024 PhD Committee Member (Deanna Holroyd), Comparative Studies, OSU

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#### OTHER SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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##### Interdisciplinary Research Collaborations

2024-25 **Visual Scholarship Initiative, Emory University**  
Participant in regular meetings to discuss visual methodologies and works in progress.

2024 **Race and Socio-Environmental Knowledge ERG, OSU Sustainability Institute**  
Participant in exploratory research group led by Becky Mansfield and Maria Miriti

2023-25 **Feminist STS and Social Justice Working Group, OSU Humanities Institute**  
Co-organizer of working group with Maya Cruz

2023 **Speculative Eco-Futures ERG, OSU Sustainability Institute**  
Participant in exploratory research group led by Jake Boswell and Amy Youngs

2012-13 **Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra**  
Junior Researcher to João Arriscado Nunes in project about public knowledge on health and health information, funded by the Harvard Medical School – Portugal Program

2011 **International Ocean Institute, University of Malta**  
Research Intern to Alicia Said and Alan Deidun in project on marine protection, supported by the European Union Leonardo da Vinci Program

2010 **Centre for Research in Anthropology, NOVA University Lisbon**  
Junior Researcher to Maria Cardeira da Silva in project about Africanist Jill Rosemary Dias' collection, funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology

##### Administrative Appointments

2015-17 **Graduate Institute for Design, Ethnography & Social Thought, The New School**  
Program Assistant to Hugh Raffles at GIDEST, an experimental institute for research at the intersection of social theory, art, and design, funded by the Mellon Foundation

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#### SELECTED WORKSHOPS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

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2024 Faculty Success Program, National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity

2022 Feminist Research Methodologies and Digital Feminist Research. Seminar. University in Exile Consortium and the Gender and Sexuality Studies Institute, The New School

2019 Maker Culture, Science(s) and Technological Trends: Contemporary Creative Experiences with Tech. Mini-course, VIII Esocite.Br Symposium, CEFET-MG

2014 Biotechnology, Biosocialities and Governance of Life Sciences. Summer School, Unicamp

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#### SERVICE

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##### Selected Committee and Leadership Roles

2025-26 Committee Member for Digital Cultures and Ethnography Search, OSU

2024- Program Coordinator and Advisor, STS Minor, Department of Comparative Studies, OSU

2024-25 Advisory Committee Member, Global Arts + Humanities Research Exchange, OSU

2023-25 Graduate Studies Committee Member, Department of Comparative Studies, OSU  
2016-17 Treasurer, Anthropology Student Association, New School for Social Research  
2013-15 Student Representative, Dean's Advisory Council, New School for Social Research

#### External Refereeing

2025 Referee for *Science, Technology, & Human Values*  
2025 Referee for *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education*  
2024 Referee for Routledge, 'The Anthropology of Now' Book Series  
2024 Referee for *Visual Studies*  
2023 Referee for *IJURR – International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*  
2023 Referee for *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*  
2018 Referee for *Design and Culture*

#### Editorial Work and Outreach

2023- Host on the New Books Network Podcast Anthropology Channel  
2017-19 Contributing Editor, AnthroPod: The SCA Podcast, *Cultural Anthropology* website  
2009-12 Assistant Editor, *Antropologia Portuguesa* journal and website

#### LANGUAGES

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Portuguese (native), Spanish (intermediate), French (basic)

#### REFERENCES

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**Hugh Raffles** Professor of Anthropology, The New School  
[rafflesh@newschool.edu](mailto:rafflesh@newschool.edu)

**Miriam Ticktin** Associate Professor of Anthropology, Graduate Center, City University of New York  
[mticktin@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:mticktin@gc.cuny.edu)

**Mara Mills** Associate Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University  
[mmills@nyu.edu](mailto:mmills@nyu.edu)

**Ivan da Costa Marques** Professor of History of Science, Techniques and Epistemology, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro  
[imarques@nce.ufrj.br](mailto:imarques@nce.ufrj.br)

**Becky Mansfield** Professor of Social and Environmental Geography, Ohio State University  
[mansfield.32@osu.edu](mailto:mansfield.32@osu.edu)

**Miranda Martinez** Associate Professor of Comparative Studies, Ohio State University  
[martinez.475@osu.edu](mailto:martinez.475@osu.edu)

**Nick Kawa** Associate Professor of Anthropology, Ohio State University  
[kawa.5@osu.edu](mailto:kawa.5@osu.edu)