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International Symposium

The Conservative Backlash: Brazil in Comparative Perspective

Lateinamerika-Institut, FU Berlin

Rüdesheimer Str. 54-56, Room 201, Berlin 14197

Registration is required: leander.badura@fu-berlin.de

17 Feb 2020: 2pm-8pm

18 Feb 2020: 9am-7pm

INTRODUCTION

Social scientists failed to predict the conservative turn which culminated in Brazil with the 2018 election of a far-right president and several extreme right governors and parliamentarians. Different factors explain the analytical blindness to the conservative counterattack. First of all, the hyper-specialization in disciplinary subfields has created an obstacle to grasp multicausal and socially multisituated transformations as in the case of the conservative moves in different countries. There has also been a lack of methods enabling the following of politics within both virtual bubbles and everyday interactions. Additionally, insufficient attention to similar movements in different world regions has obfuscated common developments as well as right-wing transnational alliances. Finally, the oligarchization of political systems sweeps apace across the world and has had contradictory relations with the emergence of the far-right, stimulating as well as reinforcing it. This nexus has also been overlooked by social scientists.

In the face of these limitations, we decidedly want to discuss the Brazilian case in this symposium from an interdisciplinary, encompassing and comparative perspective. For this endeavor, we have invited experts who have been dedicated to the study of the Brazilian case as well as colleagues who have leant on similar developments in different parts of the world. All in all, we aim to construct both a broader diagnosis of the conservative backlash as observed in different countries, and a common research agenda to further analyze the development and also the political debilities of contemporary far-right actors.

The symposium takes place within the framework of the Anneliese Maier Research Prize awarded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to the Brazilian sociologist José Maurício Domingues and is co-organized by the NETSAL/IESP/State University of Rio de Janeiro, the Institute for Latin American Studies of the FU Berlin, the Hamburg Institute for Social Research and Mecila, Maria Sibylla Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America.

PROGRAM

17 February 2020

2:00 pm

Welcome address

Verena Blechinger-Talcott (FU Berlin)

Organizers

2:30 – 4:30 pm

The Conservative Backlash as Challenge for Social Sciences and the Humanities

J. Maurício Domingues (IESP/UERJ, Rio de Janeiro): Extreme-right, Democracy and Oligarchy: Brazil in the Global Context

Nitasha Kaul (University of Westminster, London): On Thinking Globally: Using the Indian Case to Theorise The Constitutive Dynamics of Contemporary Nationalist Projects

Nicole Curato (University of Canberra): Who laughs at a Rape Joke? Illiberal Responsiveness in Rodrigo Duterte's Philippines

Discussant: Wolfgang Knöbl (HIS, Hamburg)

Chair: Susanne Klengel (FU Berlin)

4:30 – 5:30 pm Coffee break

5:30 – 7:30 pm

The Role of the Judiciary

Dieter Grimm (HU Berlin/WiKo Berlin): Constitutional Courts as Targets of Populist Governments in Europe

Marta Machado (FGV, São Paulo): Impunity for Police Killings in Brazil: From Truncated Constitutionalism to Authoritarian Legalism

Eloísa Machado de Almeida (FGV, São Paulo): Judiciary, Institutional Degradation and Anti-democratic Agenda

Discussant: Hauke Brunkhorst (Univ. Flensburg)

Chair: Marianne Braig (FU Berlin)

7:30 pm Reception

18 February 2020

9:00-11:00 am

Social Inequalities, Classes and Far-Right Politics

Lena Lavinas (UFRJ/ School of Advanced Study Princeton, Rio de Janeiro): The Dismantling of The Social: Looking at The Future through a Rear-view Mirror

Ümit Akcay (HWR Berlin): Rising Authoritarian (Post-)Neoliberalism in Turkey

Sérgio Costa (FU Berlin): The Conservative Backlash in Brazil: Inequality, Intersectionality, Institutionalism

Discussant: Martina Sproll (HWR Berlin)

Chair: Luiz Fernando de Paula (UFRJ, IESP/UERJ Rio de Janeiro)

11-11:30 am Coffee Break

11:30-1:30 pm

The Conservative Counterattack: Gender, Sexuality, Ethnicity

Gabriele Dietze (HU Berlin) and Julia Roth (Universität Bielefeld): Right-Wing Patterns of En-gendering and Feminist Contestations

Krzysztof Świrek (Univ. of Warsaw): Strategic Enemies – Politics of Fear in Poland 2014-2019

Noa K. Ha (Universität Dresden): Shifting Totalitarian Grounds in Metropolitan Europe – Writing Colonialism off History in the Aftermath of ‘89

Comments: Paula Diehl (Universität Kiel)

Chair: Samuel Barbosa (USP, São Paulo)

1:30-2:30 pm Lunch

2:30-4:30 pm

Politics and State-Society Relations

Katharina Bluhm, Mihai Varga (FU Berlin): Conservative Developmental Statism in East Central Europe and Russia

Marcos Nobre (UNICAMP/CEBRAP, São Paulo): Chaos as Method: how to use Brazil’s institutional collapse to win an election; how to maintain the collapse to govern

Timothy Power (Oxford University): Understanding Bolsonaro’s Mandate

Comments: Claudia Zilla (SWP, Berlin)

Chair: Regine Schönenberg (FU Berlin)

4:30-5:00 pm Coffee Break

5:00-7:00 pm

Social Movements, Resistance, Leftist Alternatives

Maria Backhouse (Universität Jena): Towards Intersectional Theoretical and Political Practices Against the Conservative Backlash

Renata Motta (FU Berlin): Violent Matters: Feminist Solidarities Across Food and Body Politics

Fernando Baldraia (Mecila, São Paulo): Subaltern Exceptionalism and Political Pragmatism: on the Scope and Pretension of the Utopian

Comments: Swen Hutter (WZB, FU Berlin)

Chair: Fabio Santos (FU Berlin)

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