

Brazil Initiative Workshop and Conversations

Sponsored by the Center of Latin American and Caribbean Studies – UWM
hosted by Marquette University

Workshop: Decolonial Methods and Practices to Promote Social Change

Professor Nadine Naber

April 23rd of 2021 from 9am to 12pm

This interdisciplinary workshop is designed to provide a space for rethinking and rearticulating research questions and methodologies framing our scholarly and activist work. Dr. Naber's workshop will train participants to think outside of conventional area-studies or nation-based approaches to Brazilian Studies in order to craft innovative approaches that align with the complex phenomenon their research is revealing and the nuanced realities of Brazilian life, whether or not they can be explained through existing paradigms. Given the growing focus on indigenous and race-based struggles and the global forces that shape Brazilian life, Dr. Naber will train participants in decolonial and transnational methods and practices in order to produce research that unveils alternative approaches which are culturally appropriate for Brazilian Studies and for improved outcomes for marginalized groups overall. Dr. Naber will walk participants through a 3-step process that focuses on healing from academic violence and anxiety; naming and claiming one's approaches; and conducting research for the purpose of social change.

Such issues are of great importance to researchers in the large interdisciplinary field involving the Brazilian and Latin American contexts but are nonetheless relevant to the entire academic community. The workshop will also benefit any scholar from underrepresented groups who want to learn how to have their voices heard when accepted practices and methods are dictated by mainstream researchers who are not aware of cultural and social nuances. Hence, the workshop will be open to the entire academic community and everyone is welcome.

Session I: Writing Anxiety in the Pandemic World

Moderators: Enaya Othman and Michelle Medeiros

April 23rd of 2021 from 1 pm to 2 pm

Participants of Dr. Naber's workshop will reconvene to discuss the takeaways of the workshop against the difficulties, anxieties, and uncertainties of the pandemic world. In this debrief section participants will have the opportunity to discuss the outcomes of the workshop and reflect on the possibilities to create a more inclusive, meaningful, and innovative research agenda.

SessionII: Arab Immigration in Brazil: Lessons on integration and Cultural Assimilation

Moderator: Dr. Marcos Estrada

April 23rd of 2021 from 2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

What do we learn about the integration and cultural assimilation in the Brazilian context when we consider Arab immigration to Brazil? Dr. Estrada will hold an informal conversation on his recent findings in the issues involving immigration and transnationalism between Brazil and the Arab world. He will also share his experience as a Brazilian scholar living and teaching in Saudi Arabia.

To register for any of the April 23 events: <https://uwm-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpc-mrqj0qGNGCjRoLFGEhMrqsUYU-InhQ>.

The New Politics of Inclusion in Brazil: Gender, Race, the Environment, and Public Health under Bolsonaro

Date: Friday, May 7, 2021, 12:00pm to 1:30pm CDT

Speakers: Gladys Mitchell-Walthour, Associate Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Jessica Rich, Associate Professor of Political Science, Marquette University; Pedro dos Santos, Associate Professor of Political Science, The College of St. Benedict and St. John's University; Amy Erica Smith, Liberal Arts and Science Dean's Professor and Associate Professor of Political Science, Iowa State University.

Moderated by: Natasha Borges Sugiyama, Director, Center for Latin American Studies; Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Following the 2018 election of Jair Bolsonaro, policies to protect the environment and empower marginalized groups have come under attack. With the spread of Covid-19, threats to social, political, and economic inclusion have only increased. What are the new challenges for social and human rights in Brazil? How is civil society responding to these threats?

To register for the May 7 roundtable: <https://uwm-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpdeuprzosGtUHIP-WdTyvIx-J8ck6wcUG>