

Newsletter - September 2021



## Webstories



In December 2020, during a workshop for indigenous youth communicators (youth who were learning

Em dezembro de 2020, durante uma oficina para jovens comunicadores indígenas (jovens aprendendo sobre jornalismo e histórias visuais), foi proposta pelo Projeto Bem Viver para os Povos Indígenas de Roraima a criação de um concurso para a produção de uma série de vídeos e histórias em mídia social sobre assuntos relevantes para as comunidades de Roraima onde os jovens comunicadores indígenas vivem. O concurso foi organizado pelo Projeto Bem Viver em parceria com o Centro de Estudos Brasileiros Behner Stiefel, Conselho Indígena de Roraima (CIR), Instituto Internacional de Educação do Brasil (IEB) e Natureza e Cultura Internacional (NCI).



journalism and visual storytelling), the Bem Viver Project for the Indigenous People of Roraima proposed a contest for the production of a series of short media stories related to the communities of the Indigenous communicators in the state of Roraima. The contest was organized by the Bem Viver Project in partnership with the Behner Stiefel Center for Brazilian Studies, the Indigenous Council of Roraima, the International Institute of Education of Brazil, and Nature and Cultural International.

Between January and March of 2021, with the guidance of the Bem Viver Project, the Indigenous youth communicators worked in groups to create their own webstories. The contest resulted in five different webstories with the following themes: Traditional Medicine; Pajuaru; Time Limit (Marco Temporal); Flour; and, Indigenous Fish Farming. Three of the five webstories were chosen as winners of the contest, though all five webstories will be posted to our social media in the coming weeks. Make sure to follow us on Instagram so you don't miss out!

By Isabele De Lima Vargas Simoes



Entre janeiro e março de 2021, com tutoria do Projeto Bem Viver, os jovens comunicadores indígenas trabalharam em grupos para criar seus próprios webstories. O resultado do concurso foram cinco webstories com os seguintes temas: Medicina Tradicional; Pajuaru; Marco Temporal; Farinha; e Piscicultura. Três das cinco webstories venceram o concurso, mas todas as cinco webstories serão postadas em nossas mídias sociais nas próximas semanas. Siga-nos nas redes sociais!

Tradução Isabele De Lima Vargas Simoes

Follow Our  
Instagram!



## NSF and NEH Grant Announcements

Gostaríamos de anunciar e parabenizar nossa diretora, Dra. Erika Robb Larkins, por receber



We would like to both announce and congratulate our Director, Dr. Erika Robb Larkins on being awarded a three-year grant through the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a research study on urban heat! Following her previous research in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, including more recent works on the ways that access to life-saving cooling technologies or resources are divided along socioeconomic and racial lines, this new project will additionally focus on the Imperial Valley in Southern California. The project will enlist a research team of both social scientists and students to conduct a comparative study between the experiences of those who experience extreme heat in Brazil, to those in Southern California.

As a part of the grant, five undergraduate students from San Diego State University Imperial Valley will be fully funded to take part in this hands-on international project. As climate change continues to complicate and worsen existing social inequalities, this project is committed to providing students the chance to gain methodological training and research experience that could potentially benefit their own communities by “showing them how scientific research offers potential solutions not only to individual experiences with inequality but also to ingrained problems of structural differences”, as the proposal states.

We are also excited to announce that Dr. Robb Larkins was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Institute for Higher Education to host another Summer seminar for twenty five faculty scholars from institutions across the US, centered on urban space and inequality in Brazil. The Center previously hosted an intensive seminar through

uma bolsa de três anos da Fundação Nacional da Ciência (NSF) para um estudo de pesquisa sobre o calor urbano! Após sua pesquisa nas favelas do Rio de Janeiro, incluindo seus trabalhos mais recentes sobre as maneiras como o acesso a tecnologias ou recursos de resfriamento que salvam vidas são divididos em linhas socioeconômicas e raciais, este novo projeto se concentrará no Vale Imperial, no sul da Califórnia . O projeto vai recrutar uma equipe de pesquisadores composta por cientistas sociais e estudantes para realizar um estudo comparativo entre as experiências de quem vive o calor extremo no Brasil e as do sul da Califórnia.

Como parte da doação, cinco alunos de graduação da Universidade Estadual de San Diego Imperial Valley serão totalmente financiados para participar deste projeto internacional. Como as mudanças climáticas continuam a complicar e agravar as desigualdades sociais existentes, este projeto tem o compromisso de fornecer aos alunos a chance de obter treinamento metodológico e experiência em pesquisa que podem beneficiar suas próprias comunidades: “mostrando-lhes como a pesquisa científica oferece soluções potenciais não apenas para experiências individuais com a desigualdade, mas também a problemas sistemáticos de diferenças estruturais”, como afirma a proposta.

Também temos o prazer de anunciar que a Dra. Robb Larkins recebeu uma bolsa do Instituto Nacional de Educação Superior para Humanidades (NEH) para sediar outro seminário de verão para 25 professores de instituições de todos os Estados Unidos, centrado no espaço urbano e desigualdade no Brasil. O Centro já hospedou um seminário intensivo através do NEH no verão de 2020, que infelizmente foi modificado para o formato online, devido à pandemia da Covid-19. Essa doação também ajudará a financiar o desenvolvimento de um instituto para auxiliar professores na incorporação do Brasil em suas pesquisas e ensino.

Tradução Isabele De Lima Vargas Simoes



the NEH in the Summer of 2020, which was unfortunately moved online, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This grant will additionally help fund the development of an institute to assist faculty in incorporating Brazil into their research and teaching.

By Amethyst Sanchez



## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Daniela Gomes



Dr. Daniela Gomes is a new assistant professor in the Department of Africana Studies whose work connects people throughout the African Diaspora with a special focus on Afro-Brazilians. Having grown up in a working-class peripheral area of São Paulo, Gomes became an activist at the age of 12 and it is this identity that has carried through in all of her work. After receiving her degree and working in Journalism in São Paulo, she felt limited by the lack of opportunities made available to a Black, female journalist and later found herself returning to academia. While completing her MA in Cultural Studies through the Universidade de São Paulo and prior to completing her Ph.D. in African and African Diaspora Studies with a certification in Women and Gender Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Gomes was introduced to an activist-centered research perspective.

Through participating in a collaborative course hosted by a Black women's organization called Criola in Rio de Janeiro and the University of Texas at Austin that emphasized activist research, Gomes found a way to

A Dra. Daniela Gomes é a nova professora-assistente do Departamento de Estudos Africana cujo trabalho conecta pessoas de toda a Diáspora Africana, com foco especial nos afro-brasileiros. Tendo crescido em uma periferia operária de São Paulo, Gomes tornou-se ativista aos 12 anos e é essa identidade que está presente em todo o seu trabalho. Depois de se formar e trabalhar em Jornalismo em São Paulo, ela se sentiu limitada pela falta de oportunidades disponíveis para uma jornalista negra e, mais tarde, viu-se retornando à academia. Enquanto concluía seu mestrado em Estudos Culturais pela Universidade de São Paulo e antes de concluir seu doutorado em Estudos Africanos e da Diáspora Africana, com uma certificação em Estudos sobre Mulheres e Gênero, na Universidade do Texas em Austin, a Dra. Gomes foi apresentada a uma perspectiva de pesquisa centrada no ativismo.

Ao participar de um curso colaborativo organizado por uma organização de mulheres negras chamada Criola, no Rio de Janeiro, e a Universidade do Texas em Austin que enfatizava a pesquisa ativista, Gomes encontrou uma maneira de usar seu ativismo a favor de sua pesquisa e vice-versa, ao invés de persistir em expectativas que ela descreveu como algo que a fazia “sentir que me mutilava”. Atuando em contraste com os modelos tradicionais de pesquisa social, ela disse: “A ideia de pesquisar e se distanciar do

use her activism in favor of her research and vice versa, rather than abiding by expectations which she described as “feeling like I was mutilating myself”. Acting in contrast to the traditional models of social research, she said, “The idea of research and staying away from your subject didn’t work for me, because I am a Black woman and my whole life is measured through the fact that I am a Black woman. And I am an activist. And I don’t tend to silence my activism for any kind of objectivity that academia demands from me.” Welcome Dr. Gomes, we’re so excited to support you and your future endeavors at SDSU!

By Amethyst Sanchez

assunto não funcionou para mim, porque eu sou uma mulher negra e toda a minha vida é medida pelo fato de eu ser uma mulher negra. E eu sou um ativista. E eu não tendo a silenciar meu ativismo por qualquer tipo de objetividade que a academia exige de mim.” Bem-vinda Dra. Gomes, estamos muito animados em apoiar você e seus esforços futuros na SDSU!

Tradução Isabele De Lima Vargas Simoes

## Student Spotlight: Isabele De Lima Vargas Simoes



This semester we are very excited to welcome a new staff member to the Center! Isabele De Lima Vargas Simoes is a graduate student in the Department of Sociology from Jandaia do Sul, Paraná, Brazil. Isabele completed her BA while studying in San Diego at UCSD, where in addition to her original intention of earning a degree in Theater, she decided to double-major in Sociology. It was while taking a GE class that she “became passionate about learning more about how Sociology views our society and about what we can do to help change what is broken in our society.”

In addition to working with us here at the Center, Isabele will also be working under our director for her thesis, which will center on differences and similarities of racial identities

Neste semestre, estamos muito entusiasmados em dar as boas-vindas à nova membra da equipe do Centro! Isabele De Lima Vargas Simões é de Jandaia do Sul, Paraná, Brasil e é pós-graduanda do Departamento de Sociologia. Isabele completou seu bacharelado enquanto estudava em San Diego na UCSD, onde além de sua intenção original de se formar em Teatro, ela decidiu se formar também em Sociologia. Foi durante um curso para cumprir os requerimentos de Estudos Gerais da universidade que ela “se apaixonou por aprender mais sobre como a Sociologia vê nossa sociedade e sobre o que podemos fazer para ajudar a mudar o que está ruim em nossa sociedade”.

Além de trabalhar conosco aqui no Centro, Isabele também estará trabalhando com a nossa diretora em sua tese, que vai se concentrar nas diferenças e semelhanças de identidades raciais entre os Estados Unidos e o Brasil. Sobre começar seu trabalho aqui conosco, ela disse: “Estou animada em poder trabalhar no Centro porque posso fazer parte do



between the United States and Brazil. In regards to beginning her job here with us, she said, "I am excited to be working at the Center because I get to be part of the fantastic work the Center does for Brazil and the Brazilian community. I also feel more connected with the Brazilian community and culture, which is something I craved for throughout my years in the United States and unfortunately did not have until now". Welcome to the team Isabele, we're so happy to have you!

By Amethyst Sanchez

trabalho fantástico que o Centro faz pelo Brasil e pela comunidade brasileira. Também me sinto mais conectada com a comunidade e cultura brasileiras, algo que almejei ao longo dos meus anos nos Estados Unidos e infelizmente não tive até agora." Bem-vinda ao time Isabele, estamos muito felizes em ter você!

Tradução Isabele De Lima Vargas Simoes

## Upcoming and Past Events

The Behner Stiefel Center for Brazilian Studies presents the 3rd Annual **SDSU Brazilian Film Series**

Join us for our first on-campus screening of the school year!

Thursday, October 7, 2021  
2:00 pm  
Conrad Prebys  
Aztec Student Union Theatre

**Imaterial**  
Directed by Shirij Shiozaki and Felipe Santiago.

The images shot on the streets, the music research that goes into a video, the aesthetics and the process of creating media in general makes artistic endeavor inherently linked to the socializing practice in any city. Imaterial gazes at skateboarding as an artistic object.

This special engagement is co-sponsored by the Spoke and Society minor in the College of Arts and Letters.

Center for Brazilian Studies  
San Diego State University  
College of Arts & Letters

**Embodied Blackness in Artistic and Ritualistic Performances**  
A lecture by Dr. Gustavo Melo Cerqueira

Gustavo Melo Cerqueira, Ph.D. is Bahainian, actor and performer. Master of Arts and PhD in African Studies and the African Diaspora from the University of Texas at Austin, United States. Graduated in Law from the Federal University of Bahia. He worked with Cia. Teatro dos Nôvas and Banda de Teatro. Student in Salvador, and with Cia. dos Coraças in Rio de Janeiro. He develops research related to the Black body in the performing arts and presence from the intersection of theater and methods of Black Studies, Performance Studies, Sociology and Theater. He is currently one of the coordinators of FLE E MÓDULO ESCOLA DE TEATRO (FRETOS). In 2020, he was approved in first place in the contest for a postdoctoral scholarship in the Graduate Program in Performing Arts at UFPA. Unfortunately, COVID-19 prevented Gustavo from starting his postdoctoral research.

This lecture is hosted by Dr. Daniela Gomes's class, AFRA330: Afro-Brazilian Community, Culture, and Identity.

October 9, 2021  
11:00-12:15 PST  
Join us via Zoom:  
<https://SDSU.zoom.us/j/8358886691>

Department of Africana Studies  
Center for Brazilian Studies  
San Diego State University

The Behner Stiefel Center for Brazilian Studies presents the 3rd Annual **SDSU Brazilian Film Series**

Join us for a special screening!

Wednesday, October 20, 2021  
6:30 pm  
SDSU Language Acquisition and Resource Center (LARC)

**Through Ernesto's Eyes**  
Directed by Ana Luiza Azevedo

Ernesto, an eighty-year-old Uruguayan photographer living in Brazil, has been facing the realities of old age such as loneliness and an increasing blindness. He thinks he can hide from everyone.

This special engagement is co-sponsored by the SDSU Language Acquisition and Resource Center's FLIN and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Center for Brazilian Studies  
San Diego State University  
Language Acquisition Resource Center

**Utopia of Freedom in the Americas: Quilombo and Marronage as Forms of Social Organization in the Diaspora**  
A lecture by Dr. Davi Pereira Junior

Davi Pereira Junior, Ph.D. was born in the quilombola community of Tamatubau in the south of the Municipality of Açailândia - Maranhão, Northeast Brazil. He holds a BA in History from the State University of Maranhão (UEMA), a Master's degree in Social Anthropology from the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), and a PhD in Latin American Studies from University of Texas at Austin. Pereira Junior has been a researcher for New Social Cartography in Brazil since 2005. He has extensive experience in researching and producing cartographies with Peoples and Traditional Communities in Brazil.

This lecture is hosted by Dr. Daniela Gomes's class, AFRA330: Afro-Brazilian Community, Culture, and Identity.

September 30, 2021  
11:00-12:15 PST  
Join us via Zoom:  
<https://SDSU.zoom.us/j/8358886691>

Department of Africana Studies  
Center for Brazilian Studies  
San Diego State University

**DIÁLOGOS VIRTUALES**  
A Lecture-Discussion Series on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & the Global Dimensions of Education

**AKIN'S AFRO IN AFRO-BRAZILIAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: TOWARD AN ANCESTRAL ECO-PEDAGOGY**  
Monday, September 27th • 12:00 - 1:00 PST • Zoom Registration

Based on the English translation of the Afro-Brazilian children's book "O Bicho-Porco do Akin" ("Akin's Akin"), Dr. Késsia de Oliveira (i.e. Ms. Késsia), explores the significance of the book in Brazilian and Afro-Brazilian children's literature and demonstrates how "Akin's Akin" serves as a counter-narrative that endorses Black/Afro-Brazilian children's identities. Ms. Késsia further suggests ways in which embodied and non-embodied practices can work from what she calls "Pedagogy Eco-Ancestral" ("Eco-Ancestral Pedagogy") in the service of human and Black/Afro-Brazilian liberation. Carolina Marini, the book's translator, will co-facilitate the discussion and discuss "Akin's Akin" translation process from Portuguese to English. This session, co-sponsored by the SDSU Behner Stiefel Center for Brazilian Studies, will be facilitated in English, Portuguese, Spanish, and Spanish/Portuguese.

Késsia de Oliveira, Ph.D. (i.e. Ms. Késsia) is a Brazilian anthropologist and writer who is highly trained in the field of Children's Literature. Having to deal with some child, she has found an incentive a year in regard to the world's children from occupying human development and educational fields. She holds a MA degree in Portuguese and a Ph.D. in Education from Universidade de São Paulo (USP). Having a background from the 1980s (the first generation of Black Studies) (i.e. the United Black Movement, Ms. Késsia has published four books and she is now working on some new ones. This is very important to mention: Késsia herself, the Black girl, has not had, she has been excluded from the field-research area. It is from this side that Ms. Késsia can be creative enough to start every Black child who lives here. As a writer, she is committed to writing books that reflect Black people's existence.

Carolina Marini is an anthropologist. An activist through "care" of language for 20 years, she is also a cultural producer, which means she has through different academic and professional fields. Her background is that someone can work through a variety of ethics, linguistic and academic production. Anthropologist, Carolina has been a promoter within the field and a presence about her language, she has taught people together. As a result, she works in two English as a mode to link people together, around important work. She is the author of African Roots (2016), Fictions, and the first two signs together in her book, "Cultura em Afro-Cultura: Educação in a World. She is the Director of Ilhas 500 Project, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting artists, directors, and authors through the art.

Center for Brazilian Studies  
San Diego State University

**Land Rights in the Brazilian Amazon: The Struggle for Indigenous Land Demarcation**  
Monday, October 4, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. PST

The 1988 Brazilian Constitution is one of the few Indigenous treaties that allocated Indigenous people rights in Brazil. It is the Brazilian Supreme Court (STF) that holds a pivotal place in Brazil. As with any other Constitutional Law, it has not been immune to legal attacks. An Indigenous center of demarcation (CMI) with 2000 inhabitants on Indigenous people's ancestral lands, located in the northeastern part of Brazil, is the focus of this event.

The Paulo Sérgio Buarque de Holanda Institute for the Study of Indigenous Peoples (IPI) has been working with government and Indigenous people's organizations. The IPI is a leading center at the SDSU that focuses on Human Rights and Health. A special feature of International Legal Studies from American University, the work of the National Congress on the Status of Indigeneity (CNDI) in Brazil.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/Azuzilamazon>

Center for Brazilian Studies  
San Diego State University  
Instituto Paulo Sérgio Buarque de Holanda

## More Events



(619) 594-4771  
brazilcoordinator@sdsu.edu

Let's stay connected!

