

BRAZIL & OXFORD



JULY 2014

A strong network of collaborations

Oxford's many links with Brazil are going from strength to strength. Oxford welcomes a growing number of Brazilian students (currently 55) and staff every year, continues to study Brazil across its academic divisions, and is increasing the number of strong collaborations with Brazilian partners. Brazil continues to be an extremely successful emerging power and Oxford, as one of the world's leading universities, has many reasons to undertake research and collaborative activities there.

Our work on Brazil is especially important now, as Brazil is facing complex challenges, which have recently been made visible in social protests and strikes. Successful growth and development in a large, complex society throw up such challenges, and Oxford is continuing its collaborations and engagement with partners across the country and across disciplines in order to understand them. We look forward to learning from each other in the years to come and to working with colleagues in Brazil to find solutions to the world's shared problems. We hope you enjoy this short overview of some of the ways in which Oxford is cementing its links with partners in Brazil.

OXFORD PARTNERS IN BRAZIL



Structural Genomics Consortium

The Structural Genomics Consortium (SGC) at Oxford University, a public-private partnership that supports the **discovery of new medicines through open access research**, has strong links with Brazil. Its collaboration with several Brazilian institutions (including UNICAMP, LNBio, FAPESP and CNPq) has already yielded completely novel scientific results and strategic projects to spearhead biomedical and biological innovation in Brazil. The SGC is one of the **main destinations of Brazilian biomedical researchers in Oxford** since 2011: more than 22 scientists have spent time in its labs, leading to co-publication of several new crystallographic structures and peer-reviewed scientific articles. Finally, **an agreement has been signed between SGC and UNICAMP** to establish SGC's third laboratory – the first two being in Oxford and Toronto – in Brazil to lead a new global public-private effort focused on medically relevant, under-explored kinases, many of which are targets for forefront drugs against cancers.

Environmental issues

The University of Oxford has a number of staff and research projects that focus on environmental issues in Brazil. The greatest concentration of researchers is associated with the **tropical forest programme**, coordinated from the Environmental Change Institute (ECI) and the School of Geography and the Environment, where Professor Yadvinder Malhi heads a team which has a high-profile international reputation for research on the future of the Amazon forest. In **collaboration with Brazilian scientists** at the Goeldi Museum (Belém), the National Amazon Research Institute (Manaus), and several Brazilian universities, the Oxford team maintains a number of unique long-term forest research sites across the Brazilian Amazon and also in the Atlantic forests of São Paulo, a part of a Global Ecosystems Monitoring Network (GEM) coordinated by Oxford. Every year a number of senior Brazilian scientists are hosted on sabbatical visits in Oxford. Other staff and postgraduates in **ECI, Geography, Development Studies, Zoology and Plant Sciences** also conduct research in Brazil, including work on climate policy and greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, water resources, birds, palms, and indigenous resource management.



Prof Yadvinder Malhi with Dr Imma Oliveras (Oxford University) and Prof Ben Hur Marimon Junior (State University of Mato Grosso, Nova Xavantina) Credit: Beatriz Marimon

International Relations

In International Relations, in which Oxford is **one of the world's leading centres** for graduate work and advanced research, Oxford has a unique capacity to combine **cutting-edge social science** with **flourishing regional and area studies expertise** and a strongly global outlook. Oxford's close connections with Brazil include the influential work of Professor Andrew Hurrell FBA in the development of the study of the international relations of Brazil. As a long-time specialist on Brazilian foreign policy, he has been a visiting professor in Brasília, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. He has given recent keynote lectures to the Association of Brazilian Social Sciences and to a conference celebrating 40 years of International Relations in Brazil. He runs two major multi-country projects on emerging countries and global governance both of which involve close collaboration with Brazil and Brazilian partners.

The Blavatnik School of Government



Denis Mizne, Executive Director of the Lemann Foundation, Brazil, with Rushanara Ali, British MP and Shadow Minister for Education, and Ngaire Woods, Dean of the Blavatnik School of Government, at the 2013 Challenges of Government Conference. Credit: John Cairns

The Blavatnik School of Government (BSG) exists to inspire and support government around the world. The School offers a distinctive global approach to public policy, within a rich, multi-disciplinary curriculum and delivered by world-class faculty.

In **pursuit of excellence in leadership and public policy education**, engaging with Brazilian policy leaders is pivotal to the pioneering and practice-focused activities of the School. Dr Pérsio Arida, former Governor of the Central Bank of Brazil, is on the BSG International Advisory Board. In 2013 the Lemann Foundation

established a **series of fellowships for BSG students from Brazil**. Brazilian students, visiting faculty and expert speakers have participated in a number of BSG programmes and events. As it grows, **the School aims to build on the University's Brazilian links to collaborate** on challenges and opportunities that are central to Brazil's intellectual, academic and public policy life.

Language and Culture

Portuguese is the 7th most spoken language in the world, and is **one of the Faculty of Modern Languages' success stories**. The Portuguese Sub-Faculty has more than 50 students. Teaching and research interests of members of the Sub-Faculty of Portuguese cover **a wide range of areas of expertise**, including Linguistics, Modern Brazilian literature, Women writers and Brazilian cinema. Members of the Sub-Faculty with teaching and research interests in Brazil are Professor Phillip Rothwell, King John II Professor of Portuguese, Dr Stephen Parkinson, Dr Cláudia Pazos-Alonso and Dr Claire Williams. The Sub-Faculty welcomes **Visiting Professors** nominated by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and a steady stream of Brazilian academics on sabbatical leave, with reciprocal visits by Oxford academics. It also recently set up a project with BBC Brasil for Oxford students on their year abroad in Brazil to blog about their experiences and about the literature they are studying.



Artist Vik Muniz in Oxford as a Humanitas visiting professor Credit: Stuart Bebb

Recent **events** include The Association of British and Irish Lusitanists holding its conference at St. Peter's College, with a number of Brazilian papers and presenters; and in January 2015 St Peter's will be hosting a conference on Contemporary Brazilian Literature in collaboration with Paris-Sorbonne and the University of New Brunswick.

Anthropology

Research on Brazil at the Institute of Social & Cultural Anthropology focuses mainly on the **comparative study of indigenous Amerindian societies**, under the leadership of Dr Elizabeth Ewert, University Lecturer in the Anthropology of Lowland South America.

Brazilian Studies



BSP students and visitors together with HE Roberto Jaguaribe, Ambassador of Brazil to the UK, at the Rio Branco Inaugural Roundtable Discussion
Credit: Gemma Turvey

hosts **visiting academics** and extends and **strengthens academic links** between Oxford and universities and research institutions in Brazil, and other centres of Brazilian studies around the world. Its Director is Dr Timothy J Power, University Lecturer in Brazilian Studies.

Rio Branco Chair

In 2013, the BSP launched the **Rio Branco Chair in the International Relations of Brazil**, a visiting professorship generously funded by CAPES, the higher education agency of the Brazilian government. The Rio Branco chair brings a senior Brazilian scholar to Oxford for a term to conduct research and organise public events on topics related to the global emergence of Brazil. The first post-



Roundtable in February 2014 with Dr Soares de Oliveira (UL in African Politics, St Peter's College, Oxford), Prof Visentini (Rio Branco Chair 2014), and Prof Seibert (ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon)
Credit: Jonas von Hoffman

holder in 2013 was Dr Miriam Saraiva of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, whose research focuses on the “strategic partnership” between Brazil and the European Union.

Professor Paulo Visentini (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre) was the second Rio Branco Chair of International Relations in 2014. A noted scholar of the emerging South-South relationships in Brazilian foreign policy, he conducted research on Brazil's newly energetic engagement with sub-Saharan Africa.

Industrial and Applied Mathematics

This area of research is now burgeoning world-wide, boosted by the Study Groups with Industry that Oxford mathematicians began to organise in 1968. The **Oxford Centre for Applied and Industrial Mathematics (OCIAM)** has been a focal point for Industrial Mathematics since its founding in 1989 and its activities led to Professor John Ockendon's involvement with the recent birth of the **Centre for Mathematics and Statistics Applied to Industry (CeMEAI) in São Paulo**. CeMEAI's Director, Professor José Cuminato, has plans for this Centre to hold regular activities such as Study Groups and Student Modelling Camps in collaboration with OCIAM. It is hoped that this may lead to a **knowledge transfer network** in Brazil and exchange of researchers (especially young researchers). The current Director of OCIAM, Professor Jon Chapman, has recently spent two weeks in the Rio and São Paulo regions where he was promoting such collaborations.

Faculty of Music

Jason Stanyek is Associate Professor of **Ethnomusicology** at the Faculty of Music. As an ethnographer, his research focuses principally **on music and dance in Brazilian immigrant communities** in the United States and he has also done long-term fieldwork in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. At the Faculty of Music he has given a graduate seminar on the history of bossa nova in the United States (based on a forthcoming book with Oxford University Press) and one section of his undergraduate course on “global hip hop” looks at the politics of hip hop in São Paulo. He has produced an hour-long radio show for Public Radio International about music in the Brazilian diaspora.

Comparative Politics

Brazilian Studies at Oxford has since the mid-1990s sponsored an **active programme of research** on the quality and sustainability of Brazil's post-1985 democratic regime. Topics include democratic consolidation, the design of political institutions, parties and elections, and political culture and public opinion in contemporary Brazil. **Recent projects** include ‘Coalitional Presidentialism in Latin America, Africa and the former Soviet Union’, led by Dr Paul Chaisty, Dr Nic Cheeseman and Dr Timothy J Power and ‘The Impact of Transitional Justice on Human Rights and Democracy [2010–2012]’, led by Professor Leigh Payne.

Earth Sciences

The University's Department of Earth Sciences continues to collaborate with **Petrobras** in a **growing partnership**. As well as fully sponsoring one of its staff members on a doctoral programme for a DPhil in Earth Sciences at Oxford, the Brazilian energy giant is supporting several small-scale collaborative projects, as well as visits between the Petrobras Chemostratigraphy Group and colleagues in the Earth Sciences Department.



Dr Hugh Jenkyns from Oxford's Earth Sciences Department with members of the Petrobras chemostratigraphy group and partners in Rio
Credit: Milene Freitas Figueiredo

Department of Materials

Professor Marina Galano, Associate Professor of Materials Science, leads a research group **developing light weight alloys and metal matrix composites**. Her foci include Al based systems, rapid solidification processes, study of phase transformations and alloy/composites development enhancing mechanical behaviour. Professor Galano works in **collaboration with the staff of the Departamento de Engenharia de Materiais (DEMA) of the Universidade Federal de São Carlos**. The collaborative group focuses on light weight nanostructured alloys development and the work extends towards areas of development, processing and mechanical and microstructural characterisation.

The Internship Programme



A group of Oxford students during their internship at Petra Energia in Rio de Janeiro, 2013 Credit: Fabio Maurer

The University of Oxford Internship Programme (OUIP) has been running for five years and facilitates access to over five hundred **global internship opportunities** exclusively for Oxford students. The Internship Programme has advertised placements in Brazil since 2012 and our partnerships in the country have continued to go from strength to strength. The first successful internship placements were offered through **Petra Energia**, a Brazilian independent oil and gas company, which

employed over 10 Oxford students. The **Imaflora** Institute for agricultural and forest management also joined the programme in 2012 and has continued to offer environmental research internships in Piracicaba each year. In 2013 three new organisations offered placements: the **National Institute for Space Research** in São Paulo, the **Federal University of Ouro Preto** and the **Mamirauá Institute of Sustainable Development**. Our brand new provider for 2014 is the **IEE-USP-CENBIO partnership based at the University of São Paulo**. Brazil is an important destination for Oxford students; they value the experience of working in exciting and welcoming environments, learning Portuguese and exploring opportunities they would not normally have access to. We are always looking for new organisations to partner with: internships@careers.ox.ac.uk.

Museum of Natural History

The Museum of Natural History in Oxford is currently developing a partnership with the Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP). The two museums are of very similar size, both with 7–8 million specimens, and complement each other in terms of collection strengths and content. The partnership is growing out of an existing research collaboration on the systematic biology of crustaceans, and it is hoped that this will extend to include study and work exchange visits for museum staff involved in curation, conservation and education, together with an exchange of

specimens for displays and exhibitions. The new director of MZUSP, Professor Marcos Tavares, will be visiting Oxford in August 2014 to develop the relationship further.



Cinetorhynchus manningi
Credit: Arthur Anker

Funding and Scholarships

The University offers a **wide variety of scholarships** for graduate students: over 850 fully-funded scholarships are available for new Master's and Doctoral students in 2015–16 from the University, our colleges and supporters. The University's flagship Clarendon Fund provides over 130 graduate scholarships each year; recent Brazilian Clarendon scholars have studied a range of subjects from Plant Sciences to Medieval and Modern Languages. For other scholarships open to Brazilian graduate applicants, including the Science Without Borders programme, please see: www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/brazil. For undergraduate studies, Brazilian students are eligible to apply for the fully-funded Reach Oxford Scholarships. For more information, see: www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/oxford-support/reach-oxford-scholarship.

Oxford University Press (OUP), a department of the University, has a branch office in São Paulo, and sales teams in several different regions of the country. In recent years OUP Brazil has been particularly focused on the development of projects which deliver educational solutions, to meet specific needs and help teachers and students achieve the best results in the classroom. Programa Múltiplo de Educação, to be launched this year, comprises print and digital cross-curricular materials for the 9 grades of Ensino Fundamental and a package of services, with a continuing development programme, to support schools.



STUDENT PROFILE: Priscila Kienteca Lange



Course

DPhil in Earth Sciences

Hometown

Rio de Janeiro

Previous education

BSc Biology and Science Teaching, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

MSc Biological Oceanography, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande

The Oxford Experience

Priscila is a CNPq Scholar investigating the impact of global warming on marine microbes in the ocean's deserts: the gyres. Her doctoral research aims to monitor the ecological response of marine phytoplankton to physical forcing by examining changes in the colour of the surface ocean detected by satellite. Priscila is also a member of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), and an active participant of NF-POGO Alumni Network for Oceans (NANO). In Brazil, Priscila has been affiliated with the Brazilian National Institute of Research and Technology – Antarctic Environmental Research (INCT-APA) for over ten years.

Life in Oxford has been an inspiring experience for Priscila: "Being in Oxford is a privilege. It's

unbelievable the knowledge that can be gained by talking to people with different backgrounds, and attending lectures on diverse topics given by the most prestigious scientists in the world! I'm looking forward to sharing it with future generations once I'm back in Brazil."

Outside of academia, Priscila enjoys sports, photography and live music. She plays handball for the University team and volleyball for St. John's College.

Aspirations

After finishing her studies, Priscila plans to get a teaching/research position in Brazil. Her future goal is to collaborate on the management and conservation of the Brazilian Exclusive Economic Zone working for the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment (MMA).