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Director's Note

Dear Students, Alumni, Colleagues, and Friends of the Portuguese Program,

First and foremost, congratulations to our students graduating this spring! This is a remarkable accomplishment.

There were so many things to be proud of this year, including the 3rd Symposium on Brazil dedicated to the studies of the Amazon region, the study abroad to Brazil on health, politics and cultural studies, the outstanding guest speakers, and our distinguished students receiving prestigious scholarships. The spring 2020 semester was off to a great start but unfortunately, we had to shift gears due to COVID-19. However, we were able to make a seamless transition to an online mode, keeping the same educational excellence and motivation. This was possible thank you to our JHU CER (Center for Educational Research) team, to our leadership and to our dedicated students. I am positive that our JHU community will be able to safely resume on campus activities soon with help and cooperation from all of us.

As we move towards a new academic year, our goal is to increase the number of students in the Portuguese minor program, studying up to the advanced level and participating on the study abroad programs – intersession and summer. There is no better way to master language, and to develop cultural competency than going abroad. As Portuguese students you’re in excellent positions to compete for and reap the benefits of prestigious scholarships, such as the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), the Russell-Wood award, the Fulbright, the Boren Award, The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS), and more.

We invite you to take part in promoting and shaping our unique program. Every semester the Portuguese program offers include, hosting movie nights, editing our newsletter, tutoring, hosting the speaker series or becoming a semester student worker. With your help, we will continue to excel together and to strengthen the campus presence of Portuguese even further.

I encourage you to get involved with the Portuguese Program. As always, contact us at flavia_azeredo@jhu.edu if you have any questions, comments, or would like to engage. And of course, please enjoy our annual newsletter and find out more about this exciting year in the following pages.

Flávia Azeredo-Cerqueira
Associate Teaching Professor
Portuguese Language Program Director
Even months later, there is not a day that goes by that students who participated in the Intersession study abroad program in Bahia, Brazil don’t think about the life-changing experience they had there.

Salvador, Brazil is full of life. Everywhere you go, from the sandy shores of Porto da Barra to the people-filled streets of Lencois, the sound of drums and music can be heard everywhere being played on instruments that originate from West Africa. We had the opportunity to learn how to play those very instruments during our percussion workshop with Giba Conceição. There is color everywhere. Having been there during the “Lavagem da Escadaria do Bonfim”, we got to see people’s wrists, gates at religious sites, and random poles and railings covered in colorful wish ribbons. The shop owners in Salvador’s colonial center, Pelourinho, placed their paintings along the walls of the streets creating a walkaway of color teeming with blues from the dresses of Orixia paintings to vibrant yellows and oranges from the buildings painted behind men participating in Capoeira. We even visited the Cave of Colored Sands in Lencois and saw the colorful performance of a famous folk ballet group in Pelourinho.

By far the most memorable part of Bahia was the people. Everyday people in Salvador’s communities stopped their work, went outside, and watched the sun set together. The sense of community during those majestic sunsets was so strong. Our host family’s welcomed us into their homes with the most enthusiasm and love. Our Brazilian mothers made us breakfast, lunch, and dinner almost everyday and provided us with several bags full of snacks when we left Salvador to visit other parts of Bahia. One of our professors, Clara Ramos, greeted us every morning with the most enthusiastic “Good morning my loves,” and her lovely assistant, Lu, provided us with cafezinho during the breaks we had between classes. The founder and students at Berimbau Arte, a nonprofit organization near Arembepe, taught us how to make berimbau’s from scratch and impressed us with their amazing capeoira, samba, and maculele skills. And our tour guides for our trips around Salvador, Lencois, and Morro de São Paulo went out of their way to make our experience wonderful.

Our experience “inside” the classroom was just as amazing as our experience outside of it. All of our culture related classes from learning about Candomblé, the major Afro-brazilian religion in Salvador, to learning about Capoeira, were hands on. Not only did we talk about Brazil’s universal healthcare system and the impact of neglected diseases on vulnerable populations, we visited an actual community, Liberdade, being impacted by the diseases we talked about. We also had a lively debate about the good and bad qualities of the presidents of Brazil and the U.S. to end our political mini course. The intersession study abroad trip to Bahia, Brazil is something all of us will remember for the rest of our lives!
On November 18th and 19th, the Portuguese Program held the annual Symposium on Brazil entitled “Amazonian Studies: Multidisciplinary Approaches.” The event welcomed a number of experts on Brazil and the Amazon who shared their research across a diverse array of academic fields. Over the two days, students had the opportunity to hear from the experts through lectures and panels. Below are accounts of the symposium by students in Anthropology Professor Alessandro Angelini’s Fall 2019 course, *Ethnographic Perspectives on Brazil*.

**Mrinaal Sehgal ’21**

I was able to attend the talk given by Dr. Beth Conklin on the concept of “Anthropophagy,” which is another word for cannibalism. I really enjoyed how she explored this metaphor in the Brazilian context. She briefly spoke about Oswald De Andrade's “Cannibalist Manifesto” which we’d read in class and then spoke about how in the culture context, Anthropophagy in Brazil means literally "devouring" foreign cultures and then producing something uniquely Brazilian in character as a by-product. She also showed some artworks to give the audience an idea of what she was talking about. For instance, one artist had used authentic Dutch tiles to create an image of a native Brazilian woman and another artist had used Austrian sausages or something to create a "meat map" of Brazil. I also really like how she explained the practice of cannibalism in the Wadi community to go beyond the binary distinctions of civilized and savage. In this community, cannibalism actually had a number of lofty cultural connotations attached to it wherein eating your enemy is a way of bestowing honor on them and a way for one to physically imbibe their fighting spirit. Likewise with your loved ones, the notion of them just rotting in the ground is horrifying and serves as a constant haunting reminder of death. Therefore, the idea behind eating them is that you consume whatever is left of their spirit and it lives through you, as a part of you.

I was also able to attend Dr. Douglas Morton's talk about using satellites to understand the past, present and future of the Amazon. Some of the techniques he showed were quite impressive. For instance just by the color of the fire the satellite imagery picks up, you can understand for how long it's been burning and by analyzing the duration of the fire, you can in turn find out what's burning like woodlands or pastures. He also showed us this really cool simulation of how dust and smoke pass spread across the revolving earth which was both frightening and beautiful at the same time.
Sabrina Abrams ’21

I attended Dr. Campbell’s lecture and the subsequent panel discussion which I found to be really fascinating. He discussed the ways in which urban elites racialize rural Amazonians as *caboclos*, seeing them as culturally indistinct peasants. He discussed the elements of the colonial imagination that drive how they think about their stake in the nation and their conception of the Amazon as "empty" prior to their arrival— they try to build ecology into the place that they define themselves. Dr. Campbell also talked about the narrative of "false Indians" propagated by the coastal elites, which is the racist narrative that any Indians who have adapted Western technology and language are not real Indians. Senators and congresspeople use this narrative in order to try and open the Amazon to industrialization and use this to criticize Indians who stand in the way of development as "false." Dr. Campbell also talked about the structures that allow colonists to claim private ownership of public lands through the minimal oversight existing into the colonization and redistribution of land. People work their political connections in order to get their piece of the Amazon exempted from conservation so they can use it for agricultural purposes and make money, turning pieces of state land into private land. Dr. Campbell also discussed the assertion of indigenous agency and identity and the repudiation of "cabocлизation" narrative and a refusal of indigenous Brazilians to be erased, particularly through *autodemarcacao*. Dr. Campbell argued that this was a good example of "insurgent citizenship," where marginalized populations use agency to give their rights meaning and life. The indigenous people are thus able to defend their land from land-grabbers and from their hostile government. This talk was illuminating in terms of the racialization of *caboclos* and offering deeper insight into the way people think about and treat and produce a mentality around indigenous people that allows them to effectively take over their lands (although there has been mobile resistance against this behavior).

Jared Reinson ’21

During my time at the Symposium on Brazil I was particularly interested in the idea of “multiple amazons.” This theme was prevalent throughout the conference as each speaker emphasized that the Amazon is made up of a multitude of factors and has a variety of values. Dr. Campbell and Dr. Walker talked about the traditional colonial view through which many people perceive the Amazon. A colonial view meaning, a space that does not need to be preserved as it has no “civilized” people and no society. However, now we see the Amazon as an essential resource, a concept that can be seen as good or bad depending on how we use it. The speakers went on to talk about issues of environment and scale. According to Dr. Robert Walker, people need to understand the “Amazonia of the Mind”. This means people have different ideas and breakdowns of what the Amazon represents. This concept is particularly relevant when it comes to the Brazilian federal government. They talked about how in Brazil there is not one unified perspective on issues in politics. Different agencies can have different opinions. From a political perspective, if nothing can be agreed upon then nothing can really get done. Due to the different perspectives on the Amazon, and so many different voices arguing about how the Amazon should be used, it becomes harder to agree on policies. This correlation made a bigger issue looking at it from a broader view. And according to the panelists, we have to look beyond the current closed off ideas of the Amazon.
Interview with Ambassador Carlos W. Veiga

Christina Iruela Lane, ’20

On October 7th, the Portuguese Program welcomed the Honorable Ambassador Carlos W. Veiga, Cape Verde’s Ambassador to the United States. The ambassador has served his country since 1974 in various capacities within the Cape Verdean government, notably he served as Prime Minister for over 10 years. During the event, Ambassador Veiga presented his lecture on “The African Continental Free Trade Area and CPLP Countries” and spoke about the beneficial mechanisms of the AfCFTA for smaller countries like his own.

What would you like to tell someone who knows very little about Cape Verde?
- First, the people of Cape Verde are a nice people, open-minded, tolerant, and incredibly diverse. We take pride in our diversity, and consider ourselves a melting pot; our people are descendants of African slaves, European settlers, and even European Jews fleeing the inquisition. People should know too that Cape Verdeans live all around the world and integrate well into all types of society. This is a testament to our ability to connect with people of all different backgrounds and cultures.

Cape Verde is made up of 10 small islands, all of which have different features, but the country remains cohesive, much like our people. We have a strong culture and we have our own native language, Cape Verdean Creole. Although we are not rich and do not have many commodities, we are a happy nation with much to give the world. This is why we invite everyone to come visit and experience our culture. We even have a word, “morabeza” which basically means “we love to receive people.”

What drew you to serve your country through politics?
- I choose to serve simply because I love my country and I think I have a duty to do what I can to help my people. I am very happy and proud to be Cape Verdean as it has made me who I am today. I feel honored to be able to give back to the people of Cape Verde and make the nation a better place.

You have worked all over the map within the Cape Verdean government, serving in many different ways, so what do you hope to be your legacy to your country?
- I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve my country in many different capacities. Ultimately, my legacy is that of democracy, rule of law, and human rights. They call me the “father of democracy,” but I don’t agree with that because democracy does not have one father, it belongs to the people. For my country I was the “face of democracy”, because at that time destiny allowed me to be the leader of the new party, which was a great movement made up of a lot of people with a dream of having a free country. And now the people are using their liberty, their freedom very well.

What do you hope for the future of Cape Verde?
- I want Cape Verde to be a developed country. I hope for better conditions for the people, good/decent jobs, strong democratic institutions, and a strong civil society. I think that in 20 years Cape Verde will be a developed country.

What do you see in your own future going forward?
- Good question. I don’t know. Now that I am leaving the United States and returning to Cape Verde, I am going to think on my options and decide how I shall move forward. The question is more so that if my country needs me, what can I do for my country?
The Portuguese Program would like to recognize this year's Boren Scholarship Recipient: Eduardo da Costa ‘20

Eduardo da Costa, a senior in the Portuguese program at Hopkins, received the Boren Scholarship award to study Portuguese in Mozambique. The Boren is an opportunity for students to study foreign language abroad, and Eduardo was one of the 217 awardees, including 8 other awardees from Johns Hopkins. Studying abroad was always a big goal for Eduardo, and the Boren program will provide an immersive and complete experience. The Boren entails intensive written and spoken Portuguese instruction as well as additional extracurricular activities, but thanks to the JHU Portuguese Program he feels that he has been well prepared for the work and experience ahead.

Studying Portuguese has been one of the highlights of Eduardo’s career at Hopkins. “The classes are fun and dynamic, Dr. Flavia Azeredo is amazing and the entire department feels just like one big family united in their interest in the Portuguese/Brazilian language and culture. Throughout my time taking Portuguese with Dr. Azeredo at JHU, I developed useful language skills, cultural knowledge, and the intense differences between the US and Brazilian healthcare system. I think that is where I was inspired to go after that specific field in medicine, and it was through the Portuguese program and classes that I had the opportunity to unite my two interests into one.”

After the Boren program, Eduardo plans on going to the medical school where he will continue his studies on different national healthcare systems and attempting to unite medicine on a global scale.
Sophie Adelman ’18

I am thrilled to begin working in Portugal as a Fulbright ETA recipient and am proud to say that the Portuguese Program at JHU played a tremendous role in helping me achieve this honor. Over the course of my time at Hopkins, Dr. Flávia Azeredo expanded the Portuguese Program to incredible dimensions, and created the framework for a world-class learning experience. With peer-to-peer tutoring, thoughtful conversations on texts like “A Hora da Estrela” in the classroom, roundtables on Cape Verde and movie nights with pipoca, Dr. Azeredo thinks of every way to engage her student's personal interests with care and consideration. Above all, the greatest experience I had in the Portuguese Program was winning the Russell-Wood Award, which allowed me the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to Salvador to research the archives of the Santa Casa da Misericórdia, and to Rio where I sought to learn more about a dance craze called Passinho, and took part in the Intersession 2016 trip. Getting the chance to see Petrópolis, to ride Rio’s Metrô like a local, and to see live music under the arches of Lapa with my classmates and Dr. Azeredo are formative memories and motivations to continue learning about the Lusophone World.

Next year in Portugal, I will follow the examples Dr. Azeredo has set for language learning and teach English language through curriculum rooted in current American media and popular culture. I’m excited to spend my free time learning about the cross-sections of global history in Lisbon, getting to understand Portugal’s modern economic and political relationship to other Lusophone countries, and most of all, learning more about Portuguese music and culture (especially the popularity of Kuduro music and the history of the Angolan diaspora in Portugal)! I hope to use my Fulbright award as a building block for a career in diplomacy and foreign affairs across the Portuguese-speaking world.

Taking Portuguese in college was one of the best decisions I could make. The language has taught me so many new ways to see beauty, consider new perspectives and think creatively. At a school where learning about global culture isn’t the norm, Dr. Azeredo and the Portuguese Program made these interests of mine feel valued, my curiosity encouraged, and allowed me to develop friendships with other students who felt similarly. If there is even smallest inkling to engage with an aspect of the Portuguese speaking-world, the Portuguese Program at JHU is an incredible resource.
Laerte says that the LGBT community evolved because of humans’ history of needing to group together for survival. However, he also says that the individual designations can cause a divide. I agree with Laerte that the LGBT community exists to give queer people a group to belong to, and I mostly agree with his second statement. I think it may be hard for some people to fit into these designations perfectly (for example, being completely lesbian or bisexual), so they feel like they don’t belong in this community either. As a bisexual person, I have noticed that bisexuals are often labeled as “liars” or “fakes” by gay or lesbian people who don’t believe in our orientation, so some of them look down upon us. This is one reason why I believe individual groups within LGBT definitely have a divide that can turn nasty. On the other hand, I think that many people in the LGBT community try to stand up for other queer people regardless of how they identify, so there is both unity and division among the groups.

I believe Laerte’s current relations with his family following his transition are not stereotypical of those in most of Brazil. After the movie, a professor mentioned that a good number of Brazilians are homophobic and some even disown their queer family members. In the film, it seemed as though Laerte had extremely good relations with his children, grandchildren, and family in general. Of course, his family may have been on “better behavior” since they were on film, but their interactions didn’t seem out of the ordinary. Knowing that Brazil has one of the highest murder rates of LGBT people in the world makes me believe that being queer in this country is risky, especially if you aren’t famous and decently well-off like Laerte. I appreciate this documentary for showing the perspective of someone from a minority group; it gives a voice to the queer community in Brazil and around the world.

Looking for more to read, listen and watch?

Movies:
- Democracia em Vertigem (Edge of Democracy, 2019)
- Quanto Vale ou É por Quilo? (What Is It Worth?, 2005)
- O ano em que meus pais saíram de férias (The Year My Parents Went on Vacation, 2006)

Music:
- Caetano Veloso
- Marisa Monte
- Martinho da Vila
- Chico Buarque

Books:
- A Bora da Estrela (Clarice Lispector)
- O Cortiço (Aluísio Azevedo)
- Feliz Ano Novo (Rubem Fonseca)

Want to improve your Portuguese but don’t know how? Here’s what we’ve found useful!

1. PODCASTS: Podcasts are a fantastic tool to learn, improve, and practice learning a language, focusing especially on listening skills, and vocabulary enhancement. Here are our suggestions – Todo Mundo Pod and Xadrez Verbal.

2. APPS: Download Tudo Bem - You will learn essential vocabulary, phrases, and grammar with interactive games and lessons. Also, the app Veja is an authentic news source, one of the most important in Brazil.

3. WATCH, LISTEN, ATTEND: There are so many ways to help improve your Portuguese vocabulary, listening skills and speaking abilities: attend local cultural events, listen to Brazilian music, watch Portuguese language shows and movies. Our TV suggestions for this edition are: 3% and Most Beautiful Thing (both available on Netflix. See more movie and music suggestions to the left.

4. OS TUTORES: The Portuguese program offers tutoring services, which include undergraduate native speakers willing to help you better your skills. Each tutor has their designated time slot in which they make themselves available. Tutors can be reached through the Learning Den.

5. TAKE ANOTHER COURSE! The program offers many, many courses which all help expand your language skills and cultural knowledge on Brazil. A list of courses can be found on page 13.
The Portuguese Program in the Time of Coronavirus

On March 10th, 2020, JHU announced that all classes were to be moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to social distance to stop its spread. As a result, the Portuguese Program, along with the rest of the university, moved online. Although this time has been challenging for everyone, we are so proud of our students and faculty for their perseverance and dedication!

Taking Portuguese has been one of my highlights at Hopkins. My decision to take the language was quite random, in the sense that I wanted to try out another foreign language just for fun. Soon, I found the class to be really engaging and fun with an environment I could converse freely with my peer and a wonderful professor. Though the transition to online learning was difficult at first, I found the learning environment and our enthusiasm to be much the same. Admittedly, at times we struggled with technical issues combined with our rather short class sessions. Nevertheless, we saw the rest of the spring semester until the end, successfully completing one year of Portuguese! I am grateful to my classmates and Professor Flavia for granting me an amazing language experience that I will never forget!

I have been very impressed with how the transition to online has been for the Portuguese classes. Luckily, because we are such a small class everyone is able to participate. While it obviously doesn’t feel the same as in person, it is very close. Being able to screen share was very helpful so we could still practice reading or see any necessary materials. With screen sharing we were also able to complete all the assignment we originally had scheduled for in class. I particularly liked the research presentations at the end because they shows us what each students is interested in and I learned a lot of new information. Portuguese class is my favorite class in the semester and luckily that didn’t change much in the transition to Zoom. Professor Magali Spiker handled the transition very well and obviously continued working very hard to make sure everyone was engaged and able to learn the best they can. For me specifically, I didn't have the textbook for a while, but Professor Magali was super helpful and responsive to emails (as she was before Zoom) in order to make sure I had all the materials. Overall, some of my Zoom classes were very disappointing, but I always looked forward to our 10am class! Meanwhile, I’m registered for a class with Professor Magali in the Fall which I’m looking forward to (hopefully on campus and not online)!
Portuguese Program Events

Fall 2019 Seminars, Symposiums and Social Events

Portuguese Program & BRASA Pizza Lunch - October 23rd

Portuguese Program Movie Nights - September 19th, October 17th, November 14th
Films: All the Reasons to Forget, Laerte-se, and Faroeste Caboclo

Portuguese Program Speaker Series - September 23rd, October 7th, October 14th
Guest Speakers: Dr. Franklin Knight, Leonard & Helen R. Stulman Professor of History at JHU
Mr. Carlos Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga, Cape Verde’s Ambassador to the United States
Dr. M’bare N’gomatic, Dean of Morgan State University, School of Liberal Arts

Symposium on Brazil: Amazon Studies: Multidisciplinary Approaches - November 18th & 19th

Spring 2020 Seminars, Symposiums and Social Events

Program & BRASA Pizza Lunch - March 25th,

Portuguese Program Movie Nights - February 13th, March 12th, April 16th
Films: Nothing To Lose, Chatô, Trash

Portuguese Program Speaker Series - March 23rd & April 8th
Guest Speakers: Mr. Eder Muniz, Brazilian Street Artist
Dr. Xavier Vatin, Federal University of Recôncavo, Bahia, Brazil

Brazilian Film Week - April 8th & 10th
Films: Afro-Atlantic Memories & Not in my Neighborhood

Note: Due to COVID-19 the planned events for Spring 2020 have been postponed.
Welcome Dr. Marina Bedran!

The Portuguese Program is happy to announce our new Assistant Professor of Portuguese Dr. Marina Bedran! Dr. Bedran completed her doctorate at Princeton University in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and will start teaching in Fall of 2020. Dr. Bedran's work has focused on Latin American literature and visual culture from the nineteenth century to the present, with a concentration on Brazil. Her research interests include media theory, film studies, literary translation, eco-criticism, and the environmental humanities. She is offering two courses in the fall: a seminar on the Culture, History, and the Environment of the Amazon region and a lecture on Literary Readings Across the Lusophone World.

Winner of the George E. Owen Teaching Award, our own Director, Dr. Flavia De Azeredo-Cerqueira!

The George E. Owen Teaching Award is awarded by the Johns Hopkins Student Government Association (SGA) for outstanding teaching and devotion to undergraduates. This award was established by the 1982 Student Council to honor George E. Owen, who was dean of the Homewood Faculties. This year the Director of the Portuguese Program Dr. Azeredo-Cerqueira was honored with this award! Her students note that while Portuguese is not an easy language, Dr. Azeredo-Cerqueira is always patient and treats them with dignity and understanding. She is always available and welcomes even non-students to her office hours to learn. Congratulations to Dr. Azeredo-Cerqueira!
Portuguese Program Courses

**Portuguese Program Spring 2020**

AS.210.178 - Portuguese Elements II  
AS.210.278 - Intermediate Portuguese II  
AS.210.290 - Accelerated Portuguese  
AS.210.392 - Advanced Portuguese II: Language and Literature  
AS.211.316 - Brazilian Cinema and Topics in Contemporary Brazilian Society  
AS.210.275 - Fast Portuguese for Spanish Speakers and Speakers of Other Romance Languages  

**UPCOMING Portuguese Program: Fall 2020**

AS.210.275 - Fast Portuguese for Spanish Speakers and Speakers of Other Romance Languages  
AS.210.277 - Intermediate Portuguese I  
AS.210.290 - Accelerated Portuguese  
AS.210.391 - Advanced Portuguese I: Language and Literature  
AS.210.394 - Brazilian Culture and Civilization - Section 1: English (3 credits)  
AS.210.394 - Brazilian Culture and Civilization - Section 2: Portuguese (4 credits)  
AS.211.231 - Freshman Seminar: Planet Amazonia: Culture, History, and the Environment  
AS.211.294 - Freshman Seminar: Soccer in Brazil: Opium of the Masses  
AS.217.301 - Literary Readings Across the Lusophone World (Taught in Portuguese)

**Portuguese Program: Study Abroad 2019-2020**

Hopkins Intersession Abroad: Salvador, Bahia  
Hopkins Summer Abroad: Cabo Verde, Brazil

**Portuguese Program Course Highlight**

AS.211.294 - Freshman Seminar: Soccer in Brazil: Opium of the Masses

"The best aspects of this course were learning from a Brazilian soccer fan how the sport has influenced that country’s history, culture and politics. The classroom environment also was informal, which encouraged students to participate in discussions. Prospective students should know this is not just a class about soccer, but about Brazilian life, history and culture."

AS.210.177 - Portuguese Elements I
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