

HistGeogUni

A Global Research Network on the Historical Geographies of the University



HistGeogUni Lecture 2022

Friday, 13 May 2022, 14:00 to 15:30 (BST/UTC+1)

Dr Mariana Araujo Lamego

Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

**Internationalism and Mobilities of Knowledge
in the Development of Geography in Brazil:
The Case of the XVIII International Geographical Congress**

*Livestreamed in Brockington Extension, U.O.20,
and online via Teams*

School of Social Sciences and Humanities
Loughborough University

Please register online via this [link](#) from April 2022 onwards.

Contact: Professor Heike Jöns, email: h.jons@lboro.ac.uk

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Internationalism and Mobilities of Knowledge in the Development of Geography in Brazil: The Case of the XVIII International Geographical Congress



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In August 1956, the International Geographical Union (IGU) presented its XVIII International Geographical Congress (IGC). For the first time in the history of the IGCs, the scientific meeting took place in a South American country. Rio de Janeiro, the second largest city in Brazil, was chosen as the IGU host city. The choice of Rio de Janeiro reveals—in Pinchemel's terms¹—a strategy of 'déseuropéanisation' of IGU internal politics regarding congress locations put into practice after the Second World War. During the ten days of the meeting, just over 1,000 attendees from 57 nations circulated through the congress venues. The event's impacts on the development of the geographic discipline in the country reflect the magnitude of the XVIII IGC. From a disciplinary perspective, the XVIII IGC is often portrayed as a landmark in improving and developing geographical knowledge in and of Brazil.

This lecture explores the role played by knowledge mobilities in the construction of geography networks, institutions and research programs in Brazil during the mid-twentieth century. I will draw particular attention to the impacts of scholars' arrival from different academic communities, stressing how this intense knowledge and cultural exchange transformed the ways geography was practised and conceived in Brazil. A focus on the creation of the first *Advanced Studies Course* sponsored by The Centre of Geographical Research in Rio de Janeiro will highlight the interactions of key geographical figures who came to Brazil to participate in the XVIII IGC. The *Advanced Studies Course* was one of the primary impulses for developing Brazilian PhD programs in geography, and its dynamics show how mobilities are crucial practices to understand local disciplinary histories.

¹ P. Pinchemel, 'La localisation des congrès', in *Geography through a Century of International Congresses*. Commission on the History of Geographical Thought (IGU, 1972), pp. 29-32, p.30.