

A low-angle photograph of the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The statue is shown from the chest up, with its right arm extended towards the left. The background is a bright blue sky filled with soft, white clouds. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

Summer 2017 Global Scholars Program *in Brazil*



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About the Global Scholars Program

The [Columbia University Global Scholars Program](#) (GSP) gives Columbia faculty and undergraduate students the opportunity to travel the globe and conduct comparative research in real-world settings. Unlike traditional study abroad programs, the Global Scholars Program allows students to conduct fieldwork in one area of the world and then test their findings in additional host countries that offer new sets of variables.

GSP builds on the expertise, resources, and cross-regional networks offered by Columbia's eight Global Centers. The program also provides students with the opportunity to deepen their field research by interacting with key local actors: important figures from government, business, the media, and civil society, as well as ordinary citizens. In addition, Columbia groups work with local university students and professors to build an understanding of how theoretical and practical approaches to particular global problems differ from one regional community to another.

Before the program, students enroll in a Spring course that examines the transnational themes explored in their program. The program itself culminates in a presentation and a major research paper. Some projects may be collaborative, with each student focusing on a particular aspect of a larger topic. Other projects may be individual, in some cases leading to a senior thesis.

Global Scholars Programs

Summer 2017:

Latin American Cities (Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Montevideo, Buenos Aires & Havana)

Summer 2017:

Media Practices in India and China (Mumbai & Beijing)

Summer 2014:

Contemporary Cities of Eurasia (Berlin, Moscow, Ulan Bator & Beijing)

Summer 2013:

Pathways to Development (Beijing & Santiago)

Summer 2012:

Environment and Urbanization (Beijing, Shanghai & Mumbai)

For this Latin American course, the program was designed with the help of the Columbia Global Centers | Rio de Janeiro. Its main goal was to explore the historical origins and contemporary realities of urban life in Latin America through research and travel in five cities that capture the region's cultural diversity. Coordinated by Jose Moya (Professor at Barnard College and Director of the Columbia University Institute of Latin American Studies), Maritza Colón-Fermín (Executive Director at ILAS) and Eliza Kwon-Ahn (Business Manager and Student Affairs Coordinator at ILAS), the program covers Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Cuba in 32 days.

The first stop was in Brazil, covering the cities of Rio de Janeiro (from May 17 to May 24) and São Paulo (from May 24 to May 28). Very focused on the local culture, the group's itinerary included a broad number of historical places and cultural sites. In this report, you'll find the travel diary of the group while in Brazil.



2017 *Summer Program: Latin American Cities*

Latin American Cities:

Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Montevideo, Buenos Aires, and Havana

A summer course, May 17-June 17, 2017

Instructor: José C. Moya, Professor of History, Barnard College and Director, Institute of Latin American Studies, Columbia University

Description of the Program

Latin America, where four out of five residents today live in cities, is the most urbanized region in the world. This Global Scholars Program will explore the historical origins and contemporary realities of urban life in the region through research and travel in five cities that capture Latin America's cultural diversity.

We will start in Rio de Janeiro, a city located in a spectacular natural setting that has become synonymous with samba, carnival, beach culture, and other markers of hedonism. But Rio de Janeiro was also the largest slave port in the New World, the entry point for swells of poor Portuguese immigrants,

and is today a place of opulent neighborhoods and favelas, ethno-cultural fusions and socioeconomic rifts. Our next stop, Sao Paulo, was, unlike Rio, an insignificant outpost in colonial times. During the twentieth century, however, mass immigration turned it into a cosmopolitan metropolis boasting the largest concentration of Japanese-descendants outside of Japan and of Lebanese-descendants outside of Lebanon, and the largest population of any city in the Western and Southern Hemispheres.

Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, which by the early 1900s was already the most urbanized country in the world after England and the site of the first welfare state in the West Hemisphere, and perhaps not coincidentally, a city that has been consistently rated as having the highest quality of life in Latin America. We will drive to Colonia de Sacramento, a well-preserved colonial town designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, to cross the River Plate to Buenos Aires.

The Argentine capital became the largest city in the Southern Hemisphere by the early twentieth century thanks to European immigration, which gave it the largest Italian and Spanish populations outside of Italy and Spain, one of the largest Jewish communities in the world, and a plethora of other groups, including more recently arrivals from Korea, China, and Bolivia.

Havana, like Rio, was long associated with tropical hedonism and it is one of the main and most vibrant sites of African-derived culture in the Americas. But it is also the capital of one of the last communist countries in the world, one that was isolated from the United States and global capitalism for more than half-a-century and that thus offers a drastic contrast to the other cities in our itinerary.

During our class meetings and travels, we will explore the interaction between the physical, built, and social environment in urban settings, the economic and ethno-racial ecologies that this interactions creates, urban aesthetic and cultural expressions (particularly in architecture and the plastic arts), and how all this has evolved through time, that is, urban history both as the history of cities and of their dwellers.

Through readings, maps, recordings, photographs, films, and site visits, students will learn about the urban landscape and life in these cities and produce a 12-15 page research paper (or equivalent project in other medium) that will be due two weeks after the end of the course.

Because a central aim of the class is to learn through travel, most class contact time will take place outside of the classroom. Lectures and discussions will take place in situ: in buses, trains, and boats, and the neighborhoods, institutes, universities, museums, theaters, stadiums, and other sites that we'll visit.

Rio de Janeiro

Day 1

May 17

Although their flight was delayed, the Global Scholars were able to fulfill the proposed schedule on their first day in Brazil. The group arrived at the Columbia Global Centers | Rio de Janeiro office to have lunch and Laura Nóra, our Program Assistant, gave them an overview of the schedule for the next days. Rio Center's Director, Thomas Trebat, also welcomed the students and talked about the current economic and political environment of Brazil, more specifically of Rio de Janeiro. He highlighted the main difficulties faced by the populations and explained about the anti-corruption operation *Operação Lava Jato* taking the Brazilian political scenario by storm.

After visiting our office, the group walked to the *Real Gabinete Português da Leitura* and they were impressed with the extraordinary beauty of its library. Then, the group visited *Praça Tiradentes* and went to Studio-X for a talk with the director Pedro Rivera. At Studio-X, Pedro told them more about the creation and goals of the organization.

The vans picked them up at Studio-X and took the students to the hostel.



On this page: Thomas Trebat during the talk about the Brazilian political and economic environment. Global Scholars in front of the building with Rio Center's staff in Rio.

Day 2

May 18

The group started the day visiting *Corcovado* with Laura and Maria Eduarda Vaz, our Communications Intern. The weather was clear, so they had a great view in order to better understand the geography of the city.

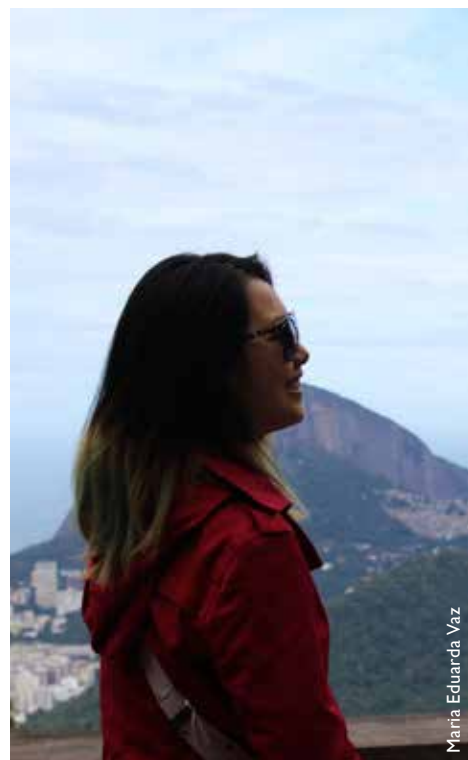
Then tour continued to *Santa Teresa*, where the group did a guided walking tour of the neighborhood. The guide talked about the history of the Portuguese neighborhood that was turned into a bohemian site and became popular when artists started to live there. It is know as the Brazilian *Montmartre*.

After lunch at *Bar do Mineiro*, the group went to *Favela Santa Marta* for a guided tour of the community. The tour started at the parking lot of the *Unidade de Polícia Pacificadora* (UPP, in Portuguese), on top of the hill. The guides explained the history of the community, the origin of the word *favela*, the gentrification process that is occurring now and the pacification project. By the end of the tour, we had to deal with a little tension because some young residents of the *favela* thought that the students had taken pictures of them. As it was getting dark, we decided to end the tour and avoid any other uncomfortable situation.

Thomas had dinner with the group.



Maria Eduarda Vaz



Maria Eduarda Vaz



Maria Eduarda Vaz



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On this page: Global Scholars overlooking the city of Rio de Janeiro from *Corcovado*.



On this page: Global Scholars pose in front of *Cristo Redentor*.



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On this page: Global Scholars walk around *Santa Teresa*.



Maria Eduarda Vaz



Maria Eduarda Vaz



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On this page: Global Scholars walk around *Santa Teresa*. They visited *Chácara do Céu* while in the neighborhood.



On this page: Global Scholars during their visit to favela *Santa Marta*.

Day 3

May 19

While the heavy rain was unforeseen in our scheduled visit to *Sítio Roberto Burle Marx*, it was still a fantastic experience. Teresa Borges, our Program Officer, was the day's host and met all students in the morning at the hostel to the one hour and a half ride to *Guaratiba*. Fresh seafood and spectacular views of the edge of the city as well as some coffee, prepared us for the 2 hour walk through the *Sítio Roberto Burle Marx* gardens.

Faculty and students were great sports in facing the constant rain while exploring the local fauna and flora with a guided tour provided by a biologist, member of the *Sítio's* staff.

We were scheduled to visit *Instituto Moreira Salles* (IMS), but were, unfortunately, stuck in traffic for over 2 hours, missing our appointment at IMS.



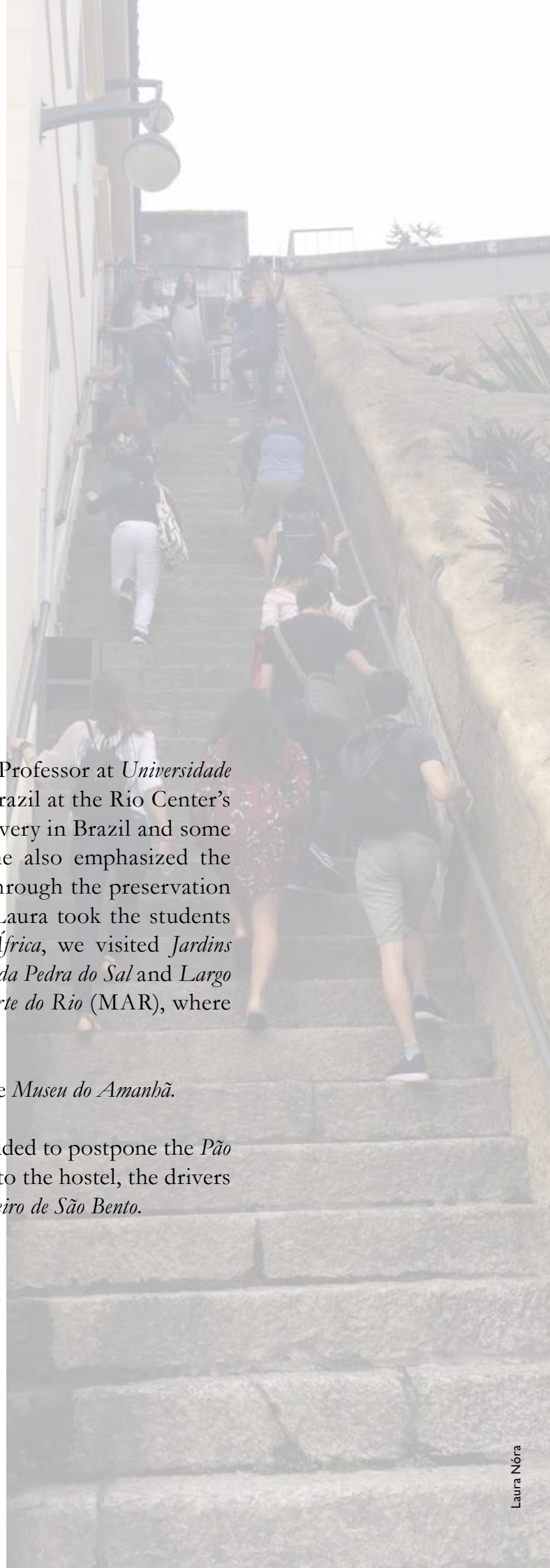
Day 4

May 20

The day started with a talk with Hebe Mattos (Professor at *Universidade Federal Fluminense* -UFF-) about the slavery in Brazil at the Rio Center's classroom. Hebe talked about the history of slavery in Brazil and some details about the transatlantic slave trade. She also emphasized the importance of celebrating the black memory through the preservation of historical places. To complement the talk, Laura took the students on a tour of the region known as *Pequena África*, we visited *Jardins Suspensos do Valongo*, *Cais da Imperatriz*, *Quilombo da Pedra do Sal* and *Largo da Prainha*. The tour finished at the *Museu de Arte do Rio* (MAR), where the group had lunch.

After that, the students visited *Praça Mauá* and the *Museu do Amanhã*.

Because of the bad weather, Professor Moya decided to postpone the *Pão de Açúcar* (Sugarloaf) visit, so before going back to the hostel, the drivers took the group for a visit of the traditional *Mosteiro de São Bento*.





On this page: Global Scholars visit *Cais da Imperatriz* and *Quilombo da Pedra do Sal*.

Day 5

May 21

The students had a **free day**.

Some of them took the day for relaxing and 5 of them went with José (the driver) to the soccer game of *Botafogo vs Ponte Preta* at *Engenhão* stadium.

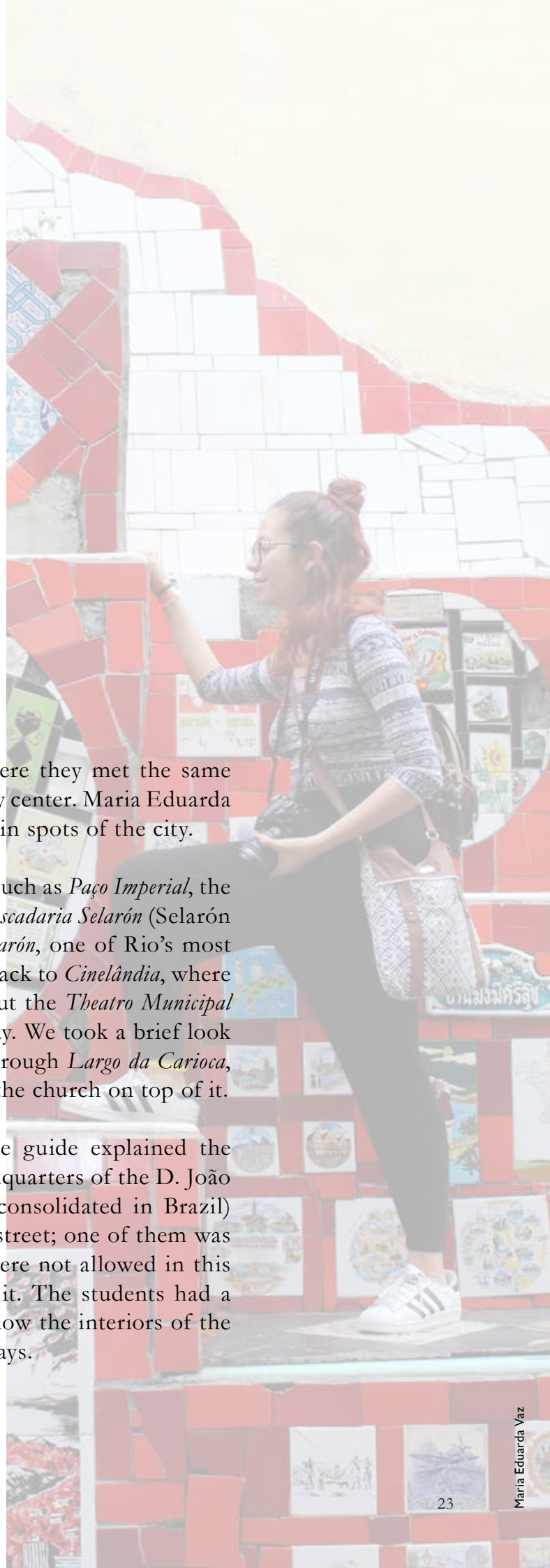
Day 6

May 22

The group went by subway to *Cinelândia*, where they met the same guide from May 18 for a walking tour of the city center. Maria Eduarda went with the group while they visited the main spots of the city.

The tour covered historic and touristic places such as *Paço Imperial*, the two first churches of downtown Rio and the *Escadaria Selarón* (Selarón Steps). The first stop was at the *Escadaria Selarón*, one of Rio's most famous tourist spots. Afterwards, we walked back to *Cinelândia*, where the guide explained to the students a bit about the *Theatro Municipal do Rio*, and why the *Cinelândia* is called this way. We took a brief look inside the *Biblioteca Nacional* and we walked through *Largo da Carioca*, where the guide explained about the hill and the church on top of it.

Then, we headed to *Paço Imperial*, where the guide explained the history of the building (it was used as the headquarters of the D. João VI administration before the Republic was consolidated in Brazil) and of the two churches on *Primeiro de Março* street; one of them was segregated for royalty and since the people were not allowed in this church, they built another one right next to it. The students had a little bit of time to walk around and get to know the interiors of the *Paço Imperial*, which is a cultural center nowadays.





Maria Eduarda Vaz

Maria Eduarda Vaz

The tour ended at traditional *patisserie* *Confeitaria Colombo*, where the group had lunch and learned more about the history of the place. With an architectural style and reminiscent of *La Belle Époque*, *Colombo* became a hotspot for the Brazilian politicians in the past.

After a lecture by Professor Moya, the afternoon was free to visit different places before having dinner at the famous *churrascaria* *Fogo de Chão* with Thomas, Daniella, Laura and Bruno. Some students and Columbia staff went to a samba at *Pedra do Sal* after dinner.



Maria Eduarda Vaz

Maria Eduarda Vaz

On this page: Global Scholars learn about artist Selarón before visiting *Escadaria Selarón*.



On this page: Global Scholars at *Escadaria Selarón*.



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On this page: The students visit *Biblioteca Nacional*.



Maria Eduarda Vaz



Maria Eduarda Vaz



Maria Eduarda Vaz



Maria Eduarda Vaz

On this page: Global Scholars visit *Theatro Municipal do Rio* and *Largo da Carioca* while walking around downtown Rio.



Maria Eduarda Vaz



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On this page: Global Scholars visit *Paço Imperial*.

Day 7

May 23

The group went directly from the hostel to the *Museu de Arte Contemporânea* (MAC) in Niterói where they met Laura and Bruno. At MAC they visited the famous building of Oscar Niemeyer and the small art collection on the inside.

The tour continued at the *Fortaleza de Santa Cruz*, where they were impressed with the view. One of the soldiers presented all the facilities of the fortress and the history of the military unit that fought in the Second World War.

After having seafood from a local restaurant at *Juruçuba*, a fishermen community, they decided to enjoy the good weather to visit the *Pão de Açúcar* (Sugarloaf). It was a great decision as they got to see the sunset and Rio lights from the top.

To wrap up the day, they went to the *Centro de Operações do Rio* (COR), to meet Bruno and Luciana Nery, former Chief Resiliency Officer for the City of Rio de Janeiro. Luciana talked to the students about how resiliency entered the agenda of the city during its transformation period, preparing for the World Cup and the Olympics. It was a very lively discussion with the students whilst Luciana presented the hardships of the city's urban infrastructure and the possible paths and strategies to address them.



Laura Nóra



Laura Nóra

On this page: Global Scholars at *Museu de Arte Contemporânea* (MAC) and at *Fortaleza de Santa Cruz* in Niterói (RJ).

São Paulo

Day 8

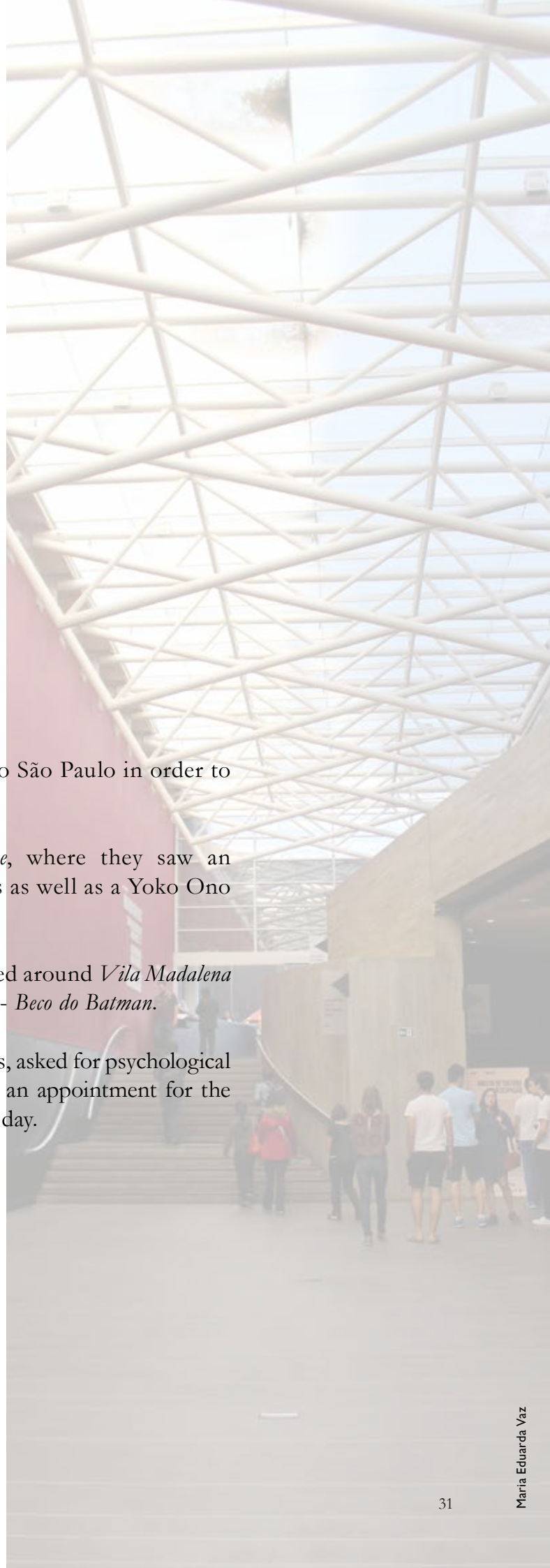
24 May

Laura and Maria Eduarda got an early flight to São Paulo in order to wait for the group there.

The group visited the *Instituto Tomie Ohtake*, where they saw an amazing photography exhibit by several artists as well as a Yoko Ono exhibition too.

Before going back to the hostel to rest, we walked around *Vila Madalena* and visited the famous graffiti open air gallery - *Beco do Batman*.

Just after arriving in São Paulo, one of the students, asked for psychological support. Laura contacted a clinic and scheduled an appointment for the student with a bilingual psychologist for the next day.





Maria Eduarda Vaz



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On this page: Global Scholars at *Instituto Tomie Ohtake* in São Paulo.



Maria Eduarda Vaz



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Maria Eduarda Vaz

On this page: Global Scholars at *Beco do Batman* in *Vila Madalena*.

Day 9

25 May

The day started with a visit of *Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo da Universidade de São Paulo* (FAU/USP), where Sebastian Beck, architect and professor at *Escola da Cidade*, was our host. Sebastian explained about the intriguing building of FAU and the history of modern architecture in Brazil. Since the dictatorship, Brazilian architecture has been imbued with political significance. According to Sebastian, FAU is one of the buildings that foster the dialogue and interpersonal interactions via open spaces. He also talked about the life and work of *Vilanova Artigas*.

Still with the help of Sebastian, we went to *Parque Ibirapuera*, where he provided us with information about the creation of the park and one of its main buildings - the *Oca*, designed by Oscar Niemeyer. Another student required medical attention and the group was separated. Laura accompanied the student and Maria Eduarda led the group on the following activities with visits to the *Museu Afro Brasil* inside *Parque Ibirapuera*. After we left *Parque Ibirapuera*, a few students went back to the hostel while others headed to *Itaún Cultural* with professor Moya.

They had the end of the afternoon free and met back at 7PM to visit the *Museu de Arte de São Paulo* (MASP). The group had a guided visit of MASP by Adriano Pedrosa - the art director of the museum. Adriano impressed all the students providing them with interesting informations about the Museum's artistic collection.



Maria Eduarda Vaz



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On this page: Global Scholars at *Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo da Universidade de São Paulo (FAU/USP)*.



Maria Eduarda Vaz



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On this page: Global Scholars at *Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo da Universidade de São Paulo (FAU/USP)*.



Maria Eduarda Vaz



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On this page: Global Scholars during their visit to *Parque Ibirapuera*. There, they went to the exhibit inside *Oca*, one of the main buildings of the park.

Day 10

May 26

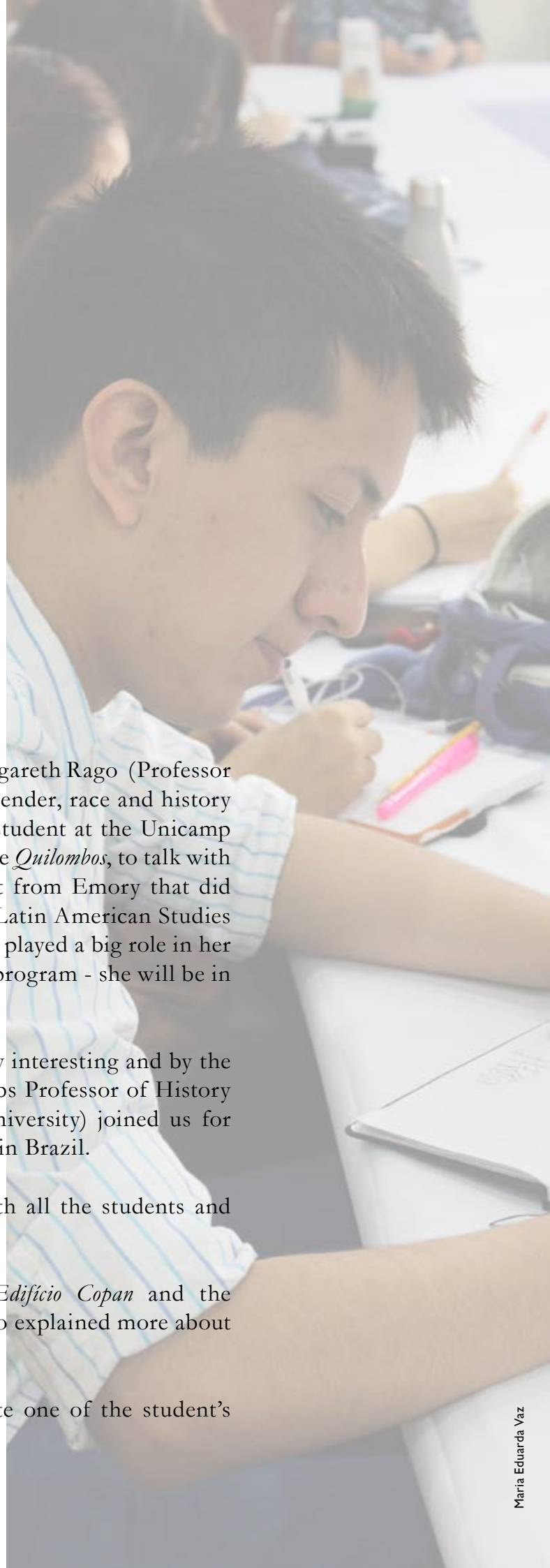
The first activity of the day was a talk with Margareth Rago (Professor at *Universidade de Campinas* -Unicamp-) about gender, race and history in Brazil. Margareth invited Marilea, a PhD student at the Unicamp who is doing research on gender relations inside *Quilombos*, to talk with the students too. Shari Wejsa, a PhD student from Emory that did her MA at Columbia University's Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS), was also there (Shari told us that Tom played a big role in her academic and professional experiences in the program - she will be in Rio by the end of June).

The talk with Margareth and Marilea was very interesting and by the end of it Jeffrey Lesser (Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of History and History Department Chair of Emory University) joined us for some insights about politics and immigration in Brazil.

After the talk, we had lunch at the hotel with all the students and speakers of the day.

During the afternoon, the group visited *Edifício Copan* and the historical center of São Paulo with a guide who explained more about the growth and urbanization of the city.

After dinner we went to a samba to celebrate one of the student's birthday (Manuel Fernando).





Maria Eduarda Vaz



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On this page: During the talk with Margareth Rago, Marilea Almeida and Jeffrey Lasser.



On this page: The students at *Edifício Copan*. Walking around downtown São Paulo. Celebrating Manuel's birthday at dinner.

Day 11

May 27

The group started the day with a guided tour of the *Liberdade* neighborhood to get to know more about the japanese immigration in São Paulo. We finished the tour at a chinese restaurant where we had lunch.

The students had the afternoon free to visit other places or to pack for the next day. Moya went with the guide and some students to *Praça da Sé* and *Mercado Municipal*. The day ended early because of the morning flight on the next day.





Maria Eduarda Vaz



Maria Eduarda Vaz



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Maria Eduarda Vaz



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Maria Eduarda Vaz

On this page: Global Scholars walking around *Liberdade* and then at *Praça da Sé*.

Day 12

May 28

The group went to the airport at 6am.



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