

**Brazil from Empire to Republic and Dictatorship to Democracy**  
(Fourth Edition of the Toronto Brazilian History Workshop @ Glendon College)

**April 6, 2018, 12:30 to 3:00 p.m., York Hall 204**

*Each of these Four Research Presentations will be Followed by a Brief Q&A.  
There will be a short Coffee break between the first two speakers. All are welcome!*

Peter Beattie, Michigan State University

**The Prodigal's Work Ethic:  
Patriarchy, Consumption, Happiness, Vice & Honor in Imperial Brazil**

This presentation explores an “interdiction” (interdição) suit that a wealthy Recife merchant originally filed with a Judge of Orphans in 1869 against his “prodigal” adult son to control his spending and abrogate his right to contract loans. The analysis illustrates the power a well-connected patriarch could exert to curtail his own son’s liberty in a slave society undergoing a gradual transition to free labor. The receipts, correspondence, and testimony collected in the suit provide unique insights into the norms and values that elite merchant families disputed in relation to patriarchy, consumption, happiness, vice, honor, and manhood in one of the most venerable slave communities in the Americas. I argue that these terms are interrelated in court and other records and that they share many referential and conceptual moorings in slave status in late imperial Brazil. This family history also reveals common tensions that riveted merchant families and their evolving relationships over the course of their lives.

Dr. Beattie’s publications include *Punishment in Paradise: Race, Slavery, Human Rights, and a Nineteenth-Century Brazilian Penal Colony* (Duke, 2015) and *The Tribute of Blood: Army, Honor, Race and Nation in Brazil, 1864-1945* (Duke, 2001), more about his research can be found here: <http://history.msu.edu/people/faculty/peter-beattie/>

Jeffrey Lesser, Emory University

**Bad Health in a Good Retreat: Life and Death in the ‘Worst’ Neighborhood of São Paulo, Brazil**

Bom Retiro [Good Retreat] was—and is—a small neighborhood in the huge megalopolis of São Paulo, Brazil. Filled with small factories and warehouses, the working-class neighborhood has been populated since the end of the 19th century by immigrants, migrants from the impoverished Brazilian northeast, and Afro-Brazilian descendants of slaves. While the cultural backgrounds of the immigrants have shifted (from Italians, Spaniards and Portuguese Catholics in the early 20th century to East European Jews in the mid 20th century to Chinese, Korean and Bolivian immigrants today), the neighborhood has always been viewed internally and externally as one where health (in the broadest sense of the word) is precarious. “Bad Health in a Good Retreat” analyzes the public’s health by focusing on one square block of lower Bom Retiro from about 1900 to the present. My data, from a number of different types of sources, will allow me to analyze the stories residents tell about how to avoid waterborne diseases and about state- imposed campaigns of social control against crime to dengue. The project takes advantage of new digital methodologies that allow me to map the public’s health and how that same public has thought about health over time.

Dr. Lesser's publications include *Immigration, Ethnicity and National Identity in Brazil* (Cambridge, 2013; Editora UNESP); *A Discontented Diaspora: Japanese-Brazilians and the Meanings of Ethnic Militancy* (Duke, 2007; Editora Paz e Terra, 2008); *Negotiating National Identity: Immigrants, Minorities and the Struggle for Ethnicity in Brazil* (Duke, 1999; Editora UNESP, 2001) and *Welcoming the Undesirables: Brazil and the Jewish Question* (University of California Press, 1994). His c.v., and more on his research projects can be found here:

<http://history.emory.edu/home/people/faculty/lesser-jeffrey.html>

Jerry Dávila, University of Illinois- Urbana-Champaign

### **Racial Discrimination and Re-democratization in 1970s and 1980s Brazil**

Brazil's black civil rights gains of the twenty-first century, in such areas as affirmative action and strengthened legislation against racial prejudice, have their roots in social movements that took shape in the 1970s and 1980s. This presentation looks at ways in which black Brazilian activists connected the struggle against racial discrimination with the broader politics of opposition to Brazil's military dictatorship and the political transition to a new constitutional government.

Dr. Dávila's publications include *Hotel Trópico: Brazil and the Challenge of African Decolonization* (Duke, 2010), *Diploma of Whiteness: Race and Social Policy in Brazil, 1917-1945* (Duke, 2003), and *Dictatorship in South America* (Wiley, 2013) His c.v., and more on his research projects, can be found here:

<https://history.illinois.edu/directory/profile/jdavila>

Thomas Rogers, Emory University

### **The People, United, will not be Polluted: Popular & State Responses to Biofuel Pollution in Brazil**

In the mid-1970s, Brazilian ethanol producers marketed their fuel as a homegrown alternative to imported oil. By the mid-2000s, they used the term "biofuel," casting it as a green substitute for fossil fuels. In between, ethanol production from sugarcane polluted streams and rivers, prompting groups of citizens to protest and state officials to increase regulation. Debates over these environmental impacts unfolded at the same time that Brazil emerged from a generation-long dictatorship. This paper will examine the overlapping of pro-democracy agitation with an emerging environmental movement.

Dr. Rogers' publications include *The Deepest Wounds: A Labor and Environmental History of Sugar in Northeast Brazil* (University of North Carolina, 2010). His c.v., and more on his research projects can be found here: <http://history.emory.edu/home/people/faculty/rogers-thomas.html>