

Race and citizenship in the Americas

Brazil and the United States are both post-slavery societies, and both have striven to address racial segregation in different ways with mixed success. The race and citizenship in the Americas network aims to explore and compare the ways that these two nations, as well as other nations in the Caribbean and Latin America, have attempted to reverse the legacy of slavery. Through this network, researchers from the University of São Paulo will exchange ideas and knowledge with Princeton students led by Pedro Meira Monteiro, associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese languages and cultures and João Biehl, the Susan Dod Brown Professor of Anthropology.

“We want to study the interface of race, citizenship and social mobility through a comparative perspective that will bring together Princeton and Brazilian scholars from a variety of intellectual traditions and diverse disciplinary perspectives,” Biehl said. “Our idea is to sustain these partnerships over time and to bring a collaborative critical perspective to the intellectual debates and concrete struggles over concepts of race and citizenship.”



Above: A view of post-slavery society: The sorting of coffee beans was a laborious task usually given to young girls, as shown in this 1948 picture taken during field research by Stanley Stein, Princeton’s Walter Samuel Carpenter III Professor in Spanish Civilization and Culture Emeritus, for his book *Vassouras: A Brazilian Coffee County, 1850-1900*. (Reissued by Princeton University Press in 1986)



Left: A post-classicism perspective: In this photograph of Athens taken between 1868 and 1875 by French photographer Félix Bonfils, the absence of people was intentional. Bonfils created commercial photographs meant to appeal to Western tourists, so his images reflect a noble and refined city, consistent with the vision of Greece as the foundation of Western civilization. The photograph shows the Arch of Hadrian with the Acropolis in the background. (Image courtesy of Princeton University Library Rare Books and Special Collections)