

Conference: Is God Brazilian? Christianity and New Religious Movements

The conference "Is God Brazilian? Christianity and New Religious Movements", took place at the University of Texas, February 17-18, 2005. The purpose of the conference was to provide U.S. and Brazilian scholars a forum in which to interrogate the rapid expansion of non-traditional forms of Christianity in Brazil that has taken place over recent decades.

The theoretical bases for the conference included 1) an exploration of Philip Jenkin's notion of a dynamic new, but highly conservative, "Southern Christianity," witnessed in contemporary Latin America and Africa; 2) a consideration of the theories of religious pluralism within the context of rational-choice theory, in terms of which religions are associated with which forms of individual and group social progress or mobility; and 3) an assessment of not only domestic religious syncretism and hybridity, but also the "glocalization" of recent global trends in religion, such as the adaptation of televangelism in Brazil, transformed into a global expansion of the new hybrid forms of broadcasting conducted by the Igreja Universal do Reino de Deus in Brazil, Mozambique and elsewhere.

The conference was sponsored by the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, the Brazil Center of LLILAS, and the Department of Religious Studies of the University of Texas.

Conference Program

The Religious Marketplace in Brazil

Spirited Sisters: The Success of Pneumacentric Religion among Brazilian Women

Andrew Chesnut - History, University of Houston

State, Social Organization, and Politics: State and Social Forces Structuring Brazil's Religious Market

Newt Gaskill - Political Science, Stephen F. Austin University

Discussant: Paul Freston - Sociology, Calvin College

The Mormon Church in Brazil

History of the Mormon Church in Brazil

Mark L. Gover - Brigham Young University

The Mormon Church in Brazil's Contemporary Religious Market Place

Joseph Straubhaar - Radio-TV-Film, University of Texas at Austin

Rolf Straubhaar - Student, Brigham Young University

Discussant: Seth Garfield - History, University of Texas at Austin

Quantitative Perspectives of Protestant Christianity

Adolescent Fertility and Religion in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: The Role of Protestantism

Joseph Potter, Sarah McKinnon, José Eustáquio Diniz Alves - Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin

Religiosity and Perceptions of God Among Brazilian Students and Professionals

Eliana Brigada

Discussant: Robert Woodbury - Sociology, University of Texas at Austin

Evangelical Media in Brazil

Evangelical Media

Joseph Straubhaar - Radio-TV-Film, University of Texas at Austin

Igreja Universal and Media in Brazil

Raul Reis - University of California, Long Beach

Religious Media in Brazil: The Lutheran Experience on Radio and Television

Nilo Figur - Concorida University

Discussant: Rosental Alves, Journalism, University of Texas at Austin