



Keynote Presentation:

Beatriz Jaguaribe

Mapping and Erasures: cartography and the imaginaries of the modern nation in Brazil

Focusing on the particular case study of the making of the map of Mato Grosso initially undertaken as part of the cartographical efforts of the Rondon Commission in 1917 and only completed during the second term of Getúlio Vargas' government in 1952, this lecture discusses how cartographical endeavors were shaped by the differing imaginaries of the nation and the future. In the context of the Old Republic (1889-1930), the map represented the positivist military explorations into the hinterlands of Brazil shaped by evolutionary credos and by the politics of contacting of indigenous peoples. During the authoritarian Estado Novo (1937-1945), it became part of the expansion of frontiers fueled by the modernizing effort of the "March to the West". Finally, in the 1950s, at the end of Vargas' democratic rule, the map represented the culmination of a nationalist project of nation building that nevertheless contemplated the formation of the Indigenous Park of the Xingu in 1961. In all these endeavors, the map-making process symbolized aspirations towards the future that entailed the erasure and transformation of peoples and landscapes. As the map arduously took shape throughout decades of Brazilian history, it also changed the mentality and lives of the cartographers, explorers and the indigenous peoples of the charted territory it represented. In the light of the recent events of the destruction of landscapes and the obliteration of indigenous rights, the history of the map of Mato Grosso brings forth contested legacies, the hopes of past generations, the scars of nation building, and the debris of failed projects.

Beatriz Jaguaribe (ECO/UFRJ) has a PhD in Comparative Literature from Stanford University. Since 1994, she has been a professor at the School of Communication of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. She has been a visiting professor at Harvard, Princeton, The New School for Social Research, New York University, Stanford University, among other academic institutions. She received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Andrés Bello Chair (NYU), an ICAS fellowship (NYU) and is a researcher at the CNPq in Brazil. Her areas of academic expertise are comparative literature, media studies and urban culture. Among her publications feature the books, *Fins de século: cidade e cultura no Rio de Janeiro* (1998), *Mapa do maravilhoso* (2001), *O choque do real* (2007), *Rio de Janeiro: Urban Life through the Eyes of the City* (2014). She is currently finishing a research project on the photographic and cartographic endeavors and imaginaries of the Rondon Commission in Brazil. She is also engaged in a comparative research project of Brazilian and Andean photographic archives centered on the theme of the "inventions of the self and others."

