

LAYSI DA SILVA ZACARIAS
Ph.D. Student
Department of Anthropology
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Anthropology, University of California, Riverside. 2021-present

MA. Anthropology, University of California, Riverside. 2021-2022

M.A. Human Rights and Citizenship, University of Brasilia (UnB), Brazil. 2019-2021

B.L. Law School of Ribeirao Preto, University of Sao Paulo (USP), Brazil. 2015-2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Senior Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Riverside
(Aug 2021 – Present)

- 10 quarters of teaching experience, leading discussion sections for *Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 001)* and *World Prehistory (ANTH 003)*.
- As a Senior Teaching Assistant, mentor and support junior TAs by providing guidance on course facilitation, grading strategies, and classroom management.
- Design and lead engaging discussions, clarify key lecture concepts, and assist students with assignments and assessments.
- Provide detailed, constructive feedback to help students develop critical thinking and analytical writing skills.
- Develop interactive instructional materials and classroom activities to foster student participation and engagement.
- Assist students in connecting anthropological theories to contemporary social issues, promoting interdisciplinary learning.

Key Achievements:

- Developed virtual engagement techniques, later adopted by other TAs to enhance student participation in online learning environments.
- Highly rated by students for approachability, organization, and commitment to their academic success.
- Recognized for fostering an inclusive and engaging learning environment, encouraging diverse perspectives, and effectively handling sensitive discussions.

Guest Lecturer, School of Nursing, Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP) (April 12, 2024)

- Delivered a guest lecture titled “*O Fator Raça e Gênero diante da Epidemia da Violência*” (*The Race and Gender Factor Amidst the Epidemic of Violence*) for the course EN232 – Elements of Applied Social Sciences in Health.
- Examined racial and gender disparities in healthcare and violence, providing an interdisciplinary perspective from anthropology, law, and public health.
- Engaged undergraduate nursing students in critical discussions on systemic inequalities, health disparities, and structural violence in healthcare settings.

Graduate Teaching Fellow, Department of Law, University of Brasília (UnB), Brazil (2019)

- Independently taught undergraduate courses on *Law and the Black Global Diaspora*.
- Designed and implemented lesson plans, incorporating interdisciplinary perspectives on race, law, and transnational Black experiences.
- Assessed student performance and provided mentorship on research projects related to racial justice and legal advocacy.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Researcher, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Riverside (2021 – Present)

- Conducting ethnographic and archival research on Black activism, police violence, and the intersection of race, gender, and structural violence in Brazil and the United States.
- Investigating the case of Luana Barbosa, drawing connections with Erica Garner’s activism and broader discussions on Black feminist politics, LGBTQIA+ identities, and state violence.
- Presented research at international conferences, fostering academic discussions on race, gender, and activism.

Graduate Research Assistant, University of California, Riverside (2022)

Project 1: "Community Interventions to Mitigate Psychological Trauma and Mental Health Disparities in Immigrant Communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic"

- Collaborated with Dr. Evelyn Vazquez to design and implement community-based interventions for Latinx immigrant communities in rural California.
- Conducted comprehensive literature reviews on trauma-informed care, community-based participatory research, and immigrant health policies.
- Led data analysis efforts using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to assess intervention effectiveness.
- Facilitated focus groups with community stakeholders, gathering insights to shape intervention strategies.

Project 2: "Oral Histories and the African American Experience"

- Worked under Dr. Ayana Flewellen to analyze oral histories and narratives from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Texas and Tennessee.
- Developed a database of 200+ oral histories, implementing metadata tagging for improved accessibility.
- Contributed critical insights to Dr. Flewellen's upcoming book, shedding light on African American resilience and cultural preservation.

Research Assistant, "Quilombos and Education" (Funded by CEERT), Brazil (2021 – 2022)

- Conducted ethnographic research on Quilombola education and analyzed public policies and pedagogical practices.
- Created research group timelines and compiled progress reports to track project development.
- Organized webinars and discussions to disseminate findings and engage with broader academic and activist communities.

Visiting Researcher, National University of Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia (2018)

- Studied Afro-Colombian legal struggles and racialized state violence in Latin America.
- Presented research on affirmative action in Brazil to over 300 Black students at the "Gran Foro por la Democratización de la Educación Superior" in Buenaventura.
- Contributed to radio interviews and discussions with Black organizations such as Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN).

Research Intern, University of Alberta – Alberta Research Experience (UARE) Program, Canada (2018)

- Selected for a highly competitive research internship as part of the UARE Program, focusing on democratic reform in Ukraine.
- Conducted research on good governance and rule of law, evaluating the feasibility of democratic reforms proposed by the Ukrainian government.
- Analyzed key policy areas, including judicial reform, administrative decentralization, anti-corruption policies, electoral laws, and constitutional changes.
- Assessed the alignment of Ukrainian reform efforts with European Union democratic standards.
- Presented findings in a poster session, contributing to discussions on global governance and policy implementation in post-Soviet states.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Co-Coordinator, Summer Course: "Theory and Political Issues of the Black Diaspora in the Americas", Criola, Brazil (2020 – Present)

- Co-coordinate a renowned educational program dedicated to training Black activists and intellectuals, with 300+ graduates over 15 years.
- Contribute to curriculum development on topics such as racial relations in the diaspora, Black feminism in Brazil and the USA, and the organizational dynamics of social movements.

- Collaborate with international academic partners, including University of California-Riverside (Department of Anthropology and Black Studies) and PUC-Rio.
- Organize events and debates, such as *"Pathways in the Formation of Black Activists and Intellectuals in the Diaspora"*.
- Independently taught a summer session class based on my doctoral research, providing an advanced examination of Black studies, activism, and structural violence.

Volunteer Instructor, *Promotoras Legais Populares (PLPs) Project, Casa da Mulher de Ribeirão Preto – São Paulo, Brazil* (2021)

- Participated in a well-established Latin American community-based legal education program, training women community leaders on their rights and legal tools for self-advocacy.
- Taught classes on Women's Human Rights, with a focus on domestic violence prevention, sexual and reproductive rights, and access to justice.
- Adapted teaching methods to an online format due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring accessibility and engagement.

Mentor & Academic Advisor, *O Levante – Support Network for Black People in Academia* (2017 – Present)

- Provide academic mentorship and career coaching to Black students and early-career researchers, supporting their access to higher education, research opportunities, and scholarships.
- Develop workshops and webinars on topics such as graduate school applications, international academic mobility, and navigating racialized experiences in academia.
- Facilitate peer-support networks to foster collective knowledge-sharing and empowerment among Black scholars.

Legal Advisor & Community Educator, *Popular Legal Education and Human Rights Advocacy – NAJURP, Brazil*(2016-2018)

- Conducted legal literacy workshops in marginalized communities, focusing on housing rights, gender-based violence, and access to public services.
- Provided free legal assistance to individuals facing land eviction, racial discrimination, and violations of labor rights.
- Engaged in public policy advocacy, working alongside grassroots movements to push for progressive legal reforms

OTHER EXPERIENCES

Afro Policy Mentorship Program – Mentee, MSD Brasil (June 2024 – Present)

- Selected for the inaugural cohort of the Afro Policy Mentorship Program, a strategic initiative by MSD Brazil (Merck in the US) to cultivate Black talent in Policy and Government Relations (GR).
- Engaged in 20+ hours of one-on-one executive mentorship with MSD Brazil C-suite leaders.

- Developed expertise in policy formulation, GR strategy, and cross-functional business acumen.
- Completed five intensive modules on Advanced Policy Analysis, GR Best Practices, and Executive Presence.

Volunteer Mentor, Kilomba Collective – "Negritude no Ph.D." Project (Sep 2022 – Present)

- Provide mentorship and coaching to Black Brazilian applicants pursuing doctoral programs in the US, offering guidance on application processes, research proposals, and scholarship opportunities.
- Conduct workshops and one-on-one mentoring sessions alongside Brazilian professors and international doctoral students, ensuring that mentees receive tailored academic and professional development support.
- Support candidates in navigating institutional barriers, crafting strong applications, and preparing for interviews, increasing their chances of securing funding and admissions in top universities.
- Contribute to the empowerment of Black women in academia, fostering increased representation of Black Brazilians in global higher education spaces.
- Impact: This initiative directly supports educational equity and leadership development, helping to diversify academia and strengthen Black scholarly networks on an international scale.

Co-Coordinator, Course: "Theory and Political Issues of the Black Diaspora in the Amefricanas", Criola, Brazil (2020 – Present, Volunteer Work)

- Co-coordinate a renowned course focused on training Black activists and intellectuals, with over 300 graduates in 15 years.
- Contribute to curriculum development addressing critical topics such as diaspora racial relations, Black feminism in Brazil and the USA, and social movements' organizational dynamics.
- Collaborate with international academic partners, including University of California-Riverside and PUC-Rio.
- Assist in organizing events and debates, such as *"Pathways in the Formation of Black Activists and Intellectuals in the Diaspora"*.
- Lead the implementation of new course themes, including discussions on sexual terror as structural issues in Brazil and the Black global diaspora.
- Independently taught a summer class on my doctoral research, offering students an advanced examination of Black studies, activism, and antiblackness within the course framework.

Criola Representative at IACHR Hearing, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), Organization of American States (OAS) (March 2023)

- Represented Criola, a leading Brazilian Black feminist organization, at an IACHR hearing in Los Angeles, USA.
- Delivered a formal presentation addressing maternal mortality and sexual violence against Black girls and women in Brazil.

- Engaged in high-level discussions on gender-based political violence, LGBTQ-phobia, and racialized health disparities.
- Presented compelling evidence and policy recommendations before Margarette May Macaulay, IACHR Rapporteur on the Rights of Afro-descendants and against Racial Discrimination.
- Contributed to Criola's international advocacy efforts, amplifying the visibility of human rights violations affecting Black women in Brazil.

Technical Team Member, Geledés – Instituto da Mulher Negra (Jan 2022 – April 2022)

- Contributed to the development of "Popular Legal Promoters: Mapping 2021", an initiative supported by PI-Protection International.
- Conducted data analysis on the structure, reach, and impact of Popular Legal Promoters (PLPs) in Brazil.
- Produced a comprehensive profile of PLPs as agents of social transformation and legal advocacy.
- Assisted in the visual representation of complex data, making information more accessible for policy and advocacy purposes.

International Advocacy Collaborator, United Nations – Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Affected by Hansen's Disease (Aug 2018 – May 2019)

- Worked alongside Alice Cruz, UN Special Rapporteur, in documenting human rights violations against persons affected by Hansen's disease (leprosy) in Brazil, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh.
- Conducted interviews, transcribed testimonies, and analyzed qualitative data to support UN reports and policy recommendations.
- Assisted in preparing official UN reports on legal frameworks protecting persons affected by Hansen's disease.
- Developed multilingual questionnaires (English, Spanish, French) to facilitate global data collection.
- Managed and updated the UN Special Rapporteur's social media platforms, enhancing public engagement and advocacy efforts.
- Accompanied the Special Rapporteur on an official visit to Brazil, participating in ministerial meetings and high-level policy discussions.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Montandon, D. S.; De Oliveira, L. C. S.; Pedroso, L. B.; Zacarias, L. da S.; Castro, J. P. R.; De Godoy, S. (2021). *Distributive Justice in the Initial Mapping of Pre-Hospital Care in a Developing Country*. *Archives of Health*, 2(3), 563–574.

Zacarias, L.; Catoia, C. C.; Piza, E. (2021). *Antiblackness, Sex/Gender, and Territory: The Luana Barbosa dos Reis Case*. *Boletim IBCCRIM*.

Gaia, R. S. P.; Zacarias, L. (2020). *The Race Factor in Everyday Police Violence: A Necessary Debate*. *Kwanissa*, 3, 56-77.

Book

Zacarias, L. (2021). *Amefricanizando o Amor*. Brasília: Appris.

Edited Books

Zacarias, L. (Ed.); Severi, F. C. (Ed.). *Direitos Humanos das Mulheres (Women's Human Rights)*. Ribeirão Preto: Faculdade de Direito de Ribeirão Preto.

Book Chapters

Severi, F. C.; Zacarias, L.; Kamalu, P. C. M.; Diogo, S. H. C. A.; Ferreira, A. M. B. (2019). *A Experiência do Curso de Formação para Promotoras Legais Populares em Ribeirão Preto: Coalizões entre o NAJURP e a Casa da Mulher*. In *Promotoras Legais Populares Movimentando Mulheres pelo Brasil: Análises de Experiências*, eds. José Geraldo Sousa Júnior, Lívia Gimenes Dias da Fonseca, Paula de Andrade Baqueiro. Brasília, v. 1, p. 19-335.

Zacarias, L. (2017). *Interseccionalizando com Lélia Gonzalez (Intersecting with Lélia Gonzalez)*. In *Relatório NAJURP: Direitos Humanos das Mulheres*, eds. Severi, Fabiana Cristina; Zacarias, Laysi da Silva. Ribeirão Preto: Faculdade de Direito de Ribeirão Preto, p. 43-48.

Valente, C. E.; Zacarias, L. (2017). *Caso Favela Nova Brasília: Análise a Partir da Narrativa dos Direitos Humanos (The Case of Nova Brasília Slum: An Analysis from a Human Rights Narrative)*. In *Relatório NAJURP: Direitos Humanos das Mulheres*, eds. Severi, Fabiana Cristina; Zacarias, Laysi da Silva. Ribeirão Preto, v. 1, p. 93-97.

Guest Lecturer

Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP) – School of Nursing. Delivered a guest lecture titled “O fator Raça e Gênero diante da epidemia da violência” (The Race and Gender Factor Amidst the Epidemic of Violence) for the course EN232 – Elements of Applied Social Sciences in Health. Discussed racial and gender disparities in health and violence, providing an interdisciplinary perspective combining anthropology, law, and public health. Engaged with undergraduate nursing students, fostering critical discussions on systemic inequalities and structural violence in healthcare settings. Date: April 12, 2024

Scientific Reports

Funck, Y. B.; Cavalcante, R. L.; Lemes, M. B.; Zacarias, L.; Severi, F. C.; Valente, C. E. (2017). *Relatório de Direitos Humanos: Análise do Processo Judicial de Reintegração de Posse das Comunidades Nazaré Paulista e João Pessoa*. Ribeirão Preto: Faculdade de Direito de Ribeirão Preto.

AWARDS

Dean's Distinguished Fellowship, University of California, Riverside (2021–2026)

Special Mention, Universidad Nacional de Colombia (2018) (*for teaching Portuguese classes for graduate and undergraduate students*)

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Humanities Graduate Student Research Grant, Center for Ideas and Society, UC Riverside (2023)

Drs. Wendy A. Ashmore and Thomas C. Patterson Fund, Department of Anthropology, UC Riverside (2023)

Sylvia Broadbent Memorial Fund Award, Department of Anthropology, UC Riverside (2022)

CAPES Masters Fellowship, University of Brasília (2019–2021)

UARE Program Fellowship, University of Alberta (2018)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Editorial Board Member, *Revista África e Africanidades*, Brazil

Assistant Editor, *Latin American Journal of Criminology*, Brazil (2020–Present)