URBAN POWER: DEMOCRACY AND INEQUALITY IN SÃO PAULO AND JOHANNESBURG

BRAZIL STUDIES PROGRAM presents

URBAN POWER: DEMOCRACY AND INEQUALITY IN SÃO PAULO AND JOHANNESBURG

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 @12pm ET

BEN BRADLOW, Postdoctoral Fellow, Weatherhead Scholars Program, Harvard University
Discussant: ALISHA HOLLAND, Associate Professor of Government, Harvard University

Moderated by BRUNO CARVALHO, Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and African and African American Studies

The divergent trajectories of São Paulo and Johannesburg’s distribution of urban public goods — housing, sanitation, and collective transportation — since their respective countries’ transitions to democracy transform questions about the relationship between democracy and equality into an empirical puzzle: Why are some cities more effective than others at reducing inequality? I argue that Sao Paulo’s success relative to Johannesburg was thanks to the sequence and configuration of two factors: the “embeddedness” of the local state in civil society, especially housing movements, and the “cohesion” of the local state to coordinate across scales of government.

Presented in collaboration with the Harvard University Center for African Studies and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs

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