



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 São 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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