

Community resilience.

During and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Rio Xingu (Xingu river, Amazon)



For Dom, Bruno & the Amazon
International Conference: How can we help to save the rainforest? sharing perspectives.
The Storey, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster

19th November 2022

A photograph of a dense forest with a body of water in the foreground. The trees are tall and thin, with a thick canopy of green leaves. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding greenery. The text "THEORETICAL BACKGROUND" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Community participation goes beyond voting and public consultation in Participatory Design, involving the engagement of *citizens*
*in the creation and management of their environment and enabling them to **make informed decisions.***

Sanoff 2007

Sanoff, H.(2007). Multiple Views of Participatory Design. *International Journal of Architectural Research (Archnet-IJAR)*, 2 (1), 57-69.

CO-DESIGN as a mutual learning process

*“can contribute to building
(1) bridges (dialogues) between
(2) strategies and solutions with
communities and different stakeholder groups”*

*for effective policy panning and implementation
that takes communities' **lived experiences and knowledge(s)** into account.*

Fonseca Braga, M.*, Romeiro Filho, E., Galvão Guimarães Pereira, H., Tseklevs, E., Mendonca, R. M. (2021).
Community-led design capabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. In: *Design Culture(s) Cumulus
Conference Proceedings* (forthcoming). 8-11 June in Rome, Italy.

“*the business-as-usual scenario*”

leads us to a world collapse, including a shortage of food and health services around 2030...

Meadows, Randers, & Meadows, 2005

Meadows, Donella, Jorgen Randers, and Dennis Meadows. *The Limits to Growth: The 30-year Update*. London: Earthscan, 2005.

“*Only shared vision can be **responsible.***”

Donella Meadows 1994, p. 5

Meadows, Donella. “Envisioning a sustainable world.” Essay written for the Third Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Ecological Economics, San Jose, Costa Rica, October 24-28, 1994. <https://donellameadows.org/archives/envisioning-a-sustainable-world/>

The problem...

**How many ways of “conceiving,
planning and making”*, of thinking,
knowing, doing and being have Western
approaches** been
neglecting/disavowing???**

*Design definition by Buchanan (2001, p. 9).
Buchanan, Richard. “Design Research and the New Learning.” *Design Issues* 17, no. 4 (Autumn
2001): 3-23. <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/07479360152681056>

** Taught and disseminated worldwide.



“... the medieval, Spirit/Flesh pair established... distinctions ... between “the spiritual perfection of the heavens... as opposed to the sublunar realm of Earth.” With this, “the geography of the earth” is also being **divided** up between... its temperate regions centered in Jerusalem... and those realms that, because outside this Grace, **had to be uninhabitable.**” This spatial and ideological narrative would be disproved by the Portuguese travels to the Americas, as those geographies “outside Grace” were, in fact, inhabited.”

Ferreira da Silva (2015, 93) on Sylvia Wynter’s reflections on Jacques Le Goff.

Paolo Forlani's 1560 world map
Library and Archives Canada



***Ethical implications of
(Spanish and Portuguese) colonial projects
for the notions of humanity***

European “man” as “human being”
produced by modern philosophical and scientific projects

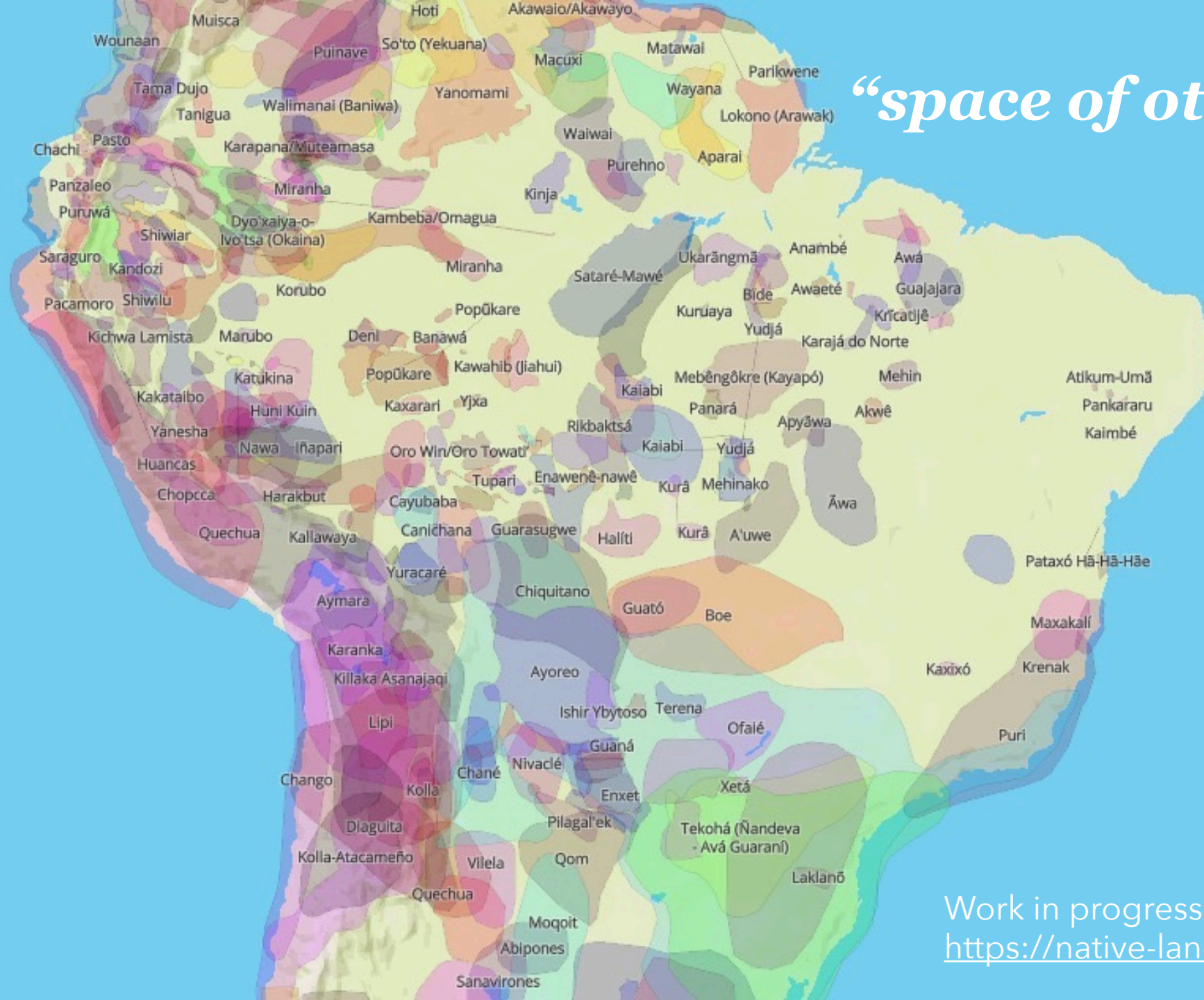
rational x irrational
human x transcendental

Dominates nature and the Earth...

Imposes juridical, political, social and economic architectures
(e.g., juridical-political region - state and law)

Ferreira da Silva, Denise. "BEFORE MAN: Sylvia Wynter's Rewriting of the Modern Episteme." In *Sylvia Wynter: On Being Human as Praxis*, edited by McKittrick Katherine, 90-105. Durham; London: Duke University Press, 2015. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv11cw0rj.6>

“space of otherness”



Work in progress by Native Land.
<https://native-land.ca/>

“ We live on a planet that has been changed by the actions of human beings to the point that it may not continue to support our existence. This planet we talk about so much isn't just a location. It's a biosphere, a living organism of which we are part, and on which we depend. I don't refer to our ecosystem as “the environment” because that term implies that the biosphere is really a kind of stage for human activity, a backdrop, existing to support us. It also tends to segregate what we consider natural and not, to place the habitats we have engineered, and we ourselves, outside “nature”.

Levins Morales (2019, p. 3)

“ For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

Nelson Mandela

**“Until lions write books, history
will always glorify the hunter.”**

South African proverb
(cited in Levins Morales, 2019, p. 69)

Community resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

in collaboration with:

U F *m* G



Pilot study supported and conducted by:



TEAM



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Tsekleves

Senior
Lecturer

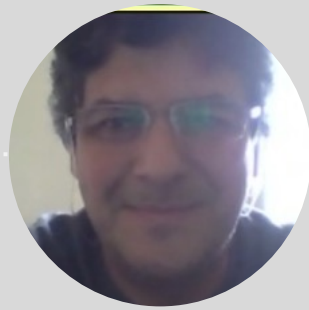
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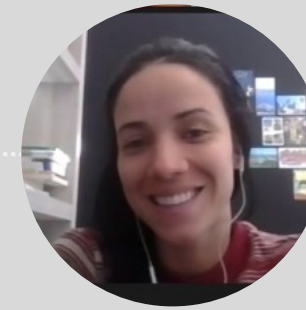
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Households in

INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

2019

BRAZIL

8%

Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, 2019)



11% Belo Horizonte

19% Rio de Janeiro

“... essa questão da **prevenção**, ela é muita complexa. [...] a gente tinha orientações como: mantenha isolamento social, utilize álcool em gel, e lave as mãos com frequência. Cara, **nada disso se aplica a nossa realidade**. Manter distanciamento social, não tem como... **A gente vive em casas onde tem pessoas aglomeradas**, às vezes com **mais de 10 pessoas**. [...] Lavar as mãos com frequência, também não. A gente tem problema com a **falta de água**. Isto é recorrente. É algo que faz parte da nossa realidade. Então se torna mais um problema. E o outro era álcool em gel. A gente está falando de **pessoas que trabalham no mercado informal**, que **não tinham reservas de recursos para emergências como essa do Covid**. Então não conseguiam incluir mais este custo de sobrevivência também dentro do seu orçamento

Membro da comunidade,
fundador de uma organização sem fins lucrativos na e para a comunidade

“

*... this issue of **prevention** is very complex. [...] we had guidance like ‘keep socially isolated’, ‘use hand sanitizer’, and ‘wash your hands frequently’. Lad, **none of this applies to our reality**. Maintaining social distancing, there’s no way... **We live in packed houses**, sometimes with **more than 10 people**. [...] Wash hands frequently, also no. We have a problem with **lack of water**. This is recurring. It’s something that is part of our reality. So, it becomes one more problem. And another one was hand sanitizer. We are talking about **informal workers**, who **don’t have savings for emergencies like this Covid one**. So, they weren’t able to also include this survival cost well into their budgets.”*

Community member, NGO representative

“Será que [o vírus do COVID-19] existe de fato? Será que não é só uma manipulação? Será que não existe um interesse político encoberto... nisso tudo?”

Membro da comunidade, enfermeira, doula

“Does it [the COVID-19 virus] really exist? Might it not just be a manipulation? Could there be a hidden political interest in all this?”

Community member, nurse, doula

“A gente aqui, nós pegamos assim um *total descaso do poder.*”

Membro da comunidade,
fundador de uma organização sem fins lucrativos na e para a comunidade

“The people here, we get a *total neglect from power.*”

Community member, NGO representative

“

*A gente sabe que este dinheiro está lá, estes recursos estão lá para serem investidos na favela. Eles [políticos, governantes] vão chegar na favela nesse momento [Agosto, Setembro, quando o início das campanhas eleitorais são autorizadas], sabe, para saquear os nossos votos e **utilizar, mais uma vez, a extrema miséria, a extrema vulnerabilidade como fonte de manobra e campanha política** [...] eu sou um ativista e muito crítico do estado por conta dessa **ausência**, sabe. E dessa **força que o estado tem em nos manter à margem...** É um trabalho que eles fazem, muito profissional de nos colocarem à margem... e de nos manterem e de fazerem essa manutenção. Porque hoje **a ausência do estado dentro das favelas, combatendo o Covid junto com as famílias mais vulneráveis, é simplesmente uma manutenção da nossa permanência às margens...** É preciso que a gente entenda isso. **Que o estado, ele não está aqui porque é um plano dele não estar aqui.** Ele precisa nos deixar aqui para quando chegar em agosto, setembro, ele dizer e ficar lá, “cara, eu só vim aqui para sua salvação ... Eu vim aqui salvar vocês; eu vim aqui atender vocês”. Infelizmente, eles ainda têm estratégias de comunicação que conseguem convencer algumas pessoas disso.*

Membro da comunidade,
fundador de uma organização sem fins lucrativos na e para a comunidade

“ We know that that money is there, those resources are there to be invested in the favela. They [politicians, government representatives] will show up in the favela at this moment [in August, September when electoral campaigns open up, are authorized] , **you know, to steal our votes and once again use the extreme poverty, the extreme vulnerability as a source of manipulation and political campaigning [...]** I am an activist and super critical of the state because of **this absence**. And of this **power that the state has to keep us on the margins**. It’s the work that they do, **very professionally** to put us on the margins... and to keep us there... Because today **the absence of the state inside the favelas, fighting Covid together with the most vulnerable families, is simply maintaining our existence on the margins**. We need to understand this. That that state, **it’s not here because its plan is not to be here**... they need to let us here for **when August, September come, they will say “lad, I only came here to save you”... “I came here to save you; I came here to serve you”**. Unfortunately, they still have communication strategies that manage to convince some people of this.”

Community member, NGO representative

“ *A expectativa que eu tenho é que agora as pessoas tenham aprendido quem realmente faz pela gente. E que agora percebam que **não é o político que faz o churrasco com a eleição.** É só mesmo na época de eleição que ele vai fornecer a carne para o churrasco. Depois disso, ele não vai aparecer, ele não vai levantar...* ”

Membro da comunidade

“The hope that I have is that now people have learnt who really cares about us. And that now they understand that it is **not the politician who has a barbecue due to the election. It’s only during election time that he is going to supply the meat for the barbecue. After that, he’s not going to appear, he will not stand...”**

Community member



Community volunteer for fabric masks production



Food parcels' and hygiene products' donations



Community volunteers organizing parcels for distribution



"Community members unconsciously design when translating information, empathising, self-organising, developing and implementing strategies to tackle the pandemic issues. They create, plan and implement feasible and viable actions to deal with barriers related to infrastructural, political, public policy and/or service, behavioural, cultural and socio-economic determinants."

AREAS of CHALLENGES

- Communication
- Education
- Employment and income
- Culture, leisure and behaviour
- Public administration and politics
- National Health System

COMMUNICATION

	Barriers	Challenges	Community-led strategies
Infrastructural	Lack of access to internet.	How to access reliable information, interpret and understand it.	WhatsApp and Facebook groups.* Local community leadership. Personal network. Educational videos on prevention. Rap lyrics creation. Car with sound system circulates in the community.
Political	Distrusted politicians.		
Public policy and/or service			
Behavioural and/or cultural			
Socio-economic determinants			

*Risky strategies

EDUCATION

	Barriers	Challenges	Community-led strategies
Infrastructural	Lack of information technology resources.	How to assure (1) access to education and (2) the safety of children and teenagers during the pandemic.	Home-schooling project. Reformulation of the school planning.
Political	Public schools are closed.		
Public policy and/or service	Absence of (infrastructure, service and staff) support from schools.		
Behavioural and/or cultural			
Socio-economic determinants			

EMPLOYMENT & INCOME

	Barriers	Challenges	Community-led strategies
Infrastructural	Lack of access to Internet.	How to ensure community members' subsistence and wellbeing.	Local NGOs' support to access government benefits.
Political	No possibility of remote work.		Local NGOs and private sector partnerships (food parcels' and hygiene products' donations).
Public policy and/or service	Social Service (CRAS) closure.		Local NGOs and wider society partnerships (e.g. solidarity of citizens beyond the community).
	Overpriced food and hygiene products.		Hand sanitizers and masks distribution to workers at dawn.
	Unemployment.		Grated soap and water mixture stored in reused oil cans.*
Informal work.			
Behavioural and/or cultural			
Socio-economic determinants			

*Risky strategies

CULTURE, LEISURE & BEHAVIOUR

	Barriers	Challenges	Community-led strategies
Infrastructural	Children's street culture and games.	How to bring awareness about the 'invisible' threat.	Community-led communication strategies. Handwashing and hand sanitizer check points.
Political	Youth keep partying.		
	Adults keep going to bars.		
Public policy and/or service	Older adults have resistance to change/adapt their habits.		
Behavioural and/or cultural			
Socio-economic determinants			

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & POLITICS

	Barriers	Challenges	Community-led strategies
Infrastructural	Lack of water and sanitation grids	How to create support and coordinate strategies and actions with communities for mitigating COVID-19 effects and impacts.	Community self-organisation and volunteering.
Political	Political instability, 'bad' behaviour and practices.		Mutual help amongst households.
Public policy and/or service	Lack of public officials support.		Design and manufacturing of masks.
Behavioural and/or cultural		Establishment of a community leadership unity.	
Socio-economic determinants		Donations of food parcels and hygiene products by citizens and socially responsible organisations.	
		Water purchase from a water tank truck.	

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & POLITICS

	Barriers	Challenges	Community-led strategies
Infrastructural	Lack of protective gear for health professionals in the public sector.	How to assure community access to health services.	Community members raised money for diagnosis and protective gear for health workers.
Political	Lack of free COVID-19 tests.	How to provide communities with assertive diagnosis and treatment.	Traditional knowledge: ginger and saffron teas and sunbathing to strengthen vitamin D.
Public policy and/or service	Need of health workers for access to reliable information and knowledge to provide diagnosis and treatment.	How to provide communities with feasible preventative measures.	Self-medication based on media speculation.* Prescriptions' sharing.*
Behavioural and/or cultural	Standard preventative measures are unsuitable for the community conditions.		
Socio-economic determinants	Lack of trust in the public health system's diagnosis. Distrust in medical appointments by phone. Overcrowded and intergenerational households. High-density areas.		

*Risky strategies

Empoderamento das
comunidades nunca deveria
significar a falta de
responsabilidade do
governo e setor público com
os cidadãos, o que é
necessário.

***Empowerment** should
never mean the lack of
government and public sector
accountability towards
citizens which is needed.*



Obrigada Thank you

Any questions, comments?

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