

LUCIANA DE SOUZA LEÃO

University of Michigan ▪ Department of Sociology
500 South State Street, room 3224, Ann Arbor, MI
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2021 - **Assistant Professor of Sociology**, University of Michigan
2021 - **Faculty Associate**, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan
2019 - **Faculty Associate**, Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Inequality (NIED), Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
2019 - 2021 **LSA Collegiate Postdoctoral Fellow**, University of Michigan
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EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D. in Sociology, Columbia University
2014 M.A. in Sociology, Columbia University
2010 M.A. in Sociology and Anthropology, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
2006 B.A. in Economics, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro
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RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Public Policies; Global Poverty and Inequality; Public Administration; Social Theory; Comparative-Historical Sociology; Science, Knowledge and Technology; Evaluation of Evidence; Research Methods.

PUBLICATIONS (*denotes student co-author)

BOOK

de Souza Leão, Luciana. *Manufacturing Legitimacy: The Politics of Giving Money to the Poor in Brazil and Mexico.* Book Manuscript. Under Contract with Princeton University Press.

ARTICLES

- 2023 Graizbord, Diana, and **Luciana de Souza Leão.** "The Political Work of 'Culture' in the Struggle to Reform the Mexican State." *Politics & Society*, 51 (4): 567-596.
- 2022 **de Souza Leão, Luciana.** "Optics of the State: The Politics of Making Poverty Visible in Brazil and Mexico." *American Journal of Sociology*, 128 (1): 1-46.
**Winner, 2024 Star-Nelkin Paper Award, ASA Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section
**Winner, 2023 Best Article Award, LASA Economics & Politics Section

***Honorable Mention, 2023 Sérgio Buarque de Holanda Best Paper Prize, LASA Brazil Section*
***Winner, 2019 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Sociology of Development Section*
***Winner, 2019 Reinhard Bendix Student Paper Award, ASA Comparative- Historical Sociology Section*

- 2022 **de Souza Leão, Luciana**, Flavio Carvalhaes, Benjamin Elbers, and Thomas DiPrete. “The Changing Structure of School to Work Transition in Brazil.” *Civitas – Journal of Social Sciences*, 22(e42040), 1-14.
- 2021 Moraes Silva, Graziella, **Luciana de Souza Leão**, Christina Ciocca Eller, Flavio Carvalhaes, and Thomas DiPrete. “Similar Gaps, Different Paths? Comparing Racial Inequalities among BA holders in Brazil and the US.” *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, 62(5): 359-384.
- 2020 **de Souza Leão, Luciana**. “What’s on Trial? The Making of Field Experiments in International Development.” *British Journal of Sociology*, 71(3), 444-459.
- 2020 Moraes Silva, Graziella, **Luciana de Souza Leão**, and Barbara Grillo*. “Seeing Whites: Views of Black Brazilians in Rio de Janeiro.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 43 (4): 632-651.
***Winner, 2021 Sérgio Buarque de Holanda Best Paper Prize, LASA Brazil Section*
- 2019 **de Souza Leão, Luciana** and Gil Eyal. "The Rise of Randomized Controlled Trials in International Development in Historical Perspective." *Theory and Society*, 48(3): 383-418.
***Honorable Mention, 2021 Star-Nelkin Article Prize, ASA Science, Knowledge & Technology Section*
Portuguese Translation, abridged: de Souza Leão, Luciana, and Gil Eyal. “Em Busca do Padrão-Ouro? O Percorso Histórico do Uso de Experimentos na Avaliação de Políticas Sociais.” In Santos et al, 2022. *Política Pública e o Uso de Evidências no Brasil*. Brasília: IPEA Editora.
- 2016 Bruhn, Miriam, **Luciana de Souza Leão**, Arianna Legovini, Rogelio Marchetti, and Bilal Zia. “The Impact of High School Financial Education: Evidence from a Large-Scale Evaluation in Brazil”. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 8(4): 256–295.
- 2013 **de Souza Leão, Luciana**. "Bringing Historical Sociology and Path-Dependence Together: A case study of the Brazilian political economy (1930-2000)." *Historical Social Research*, 38(2): 172-196.
- 2012 Moraes Silva, Graziella, and **Luciana de Souza Leão**. “The Paradox of Mixing: Identities, Inequalities and Perception of Discrimination among Brown Brazilians.” *Revista Brasileira de Ciências Sociais*, 27(80): 117-133.
- 2011 Lopez, Felix, **Luciana de Souza Leão**, and Mario Grangeia. “State, Third Sector, and the Political Sphere in Brazil - Evolution and Current Scenario.” *International Journal of Sociology*, 41(2): 47-71.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2023 **de Souza Leão, Luciana.** “The Devil Hides in the Details: Variations in Conditional Cash Transfer Programs in Latin America” in *State and Nation Making in Latin America and Spain: The Neoliberal State and Beyond*, edited by Miguel Centeno and Agustin Ferraro. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p.267-288.
- 2018 **de Souza Leão, Luciana.** "A Double-Edged Sword: The Institutional Foundations of the Brazilian Developmental State" in *State and Nation Making in Latin America and Spain: The Rise and Fall of the Developmental State*, edited by Miguel Centeno and Agustin Ferraro. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p.157 -176.
- 2013 Lopez, Felix, **Luciana de Souza Leão** and Mario Grangeia. “The perception of NGOs about their relationship with politicians”. In: Elisa P. Reis. (Org.). *ONGs: novos vínculos entre a sociedade e o Estado*. 1ed. Rio de Janeiro: Editora 7 Letras, p. 203-222.

OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- 2026 Book Review: *The Edge of the Law: Street Vendors and the Erosion of Citizenship in Sao Paulo* by Jacinto Cuvi. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2025. *Contemporary Sociology*, online first.
- 2026 Book Review: *Urban Power: Democracy and Inequality in São Paulo and Johannesburg* by Benjamin Bradlow. New York: Princeton University Press, 2024. *British Journal of Sociology*, online first.
- 2023 **de Souza Leão, Luciana**, and Elisa P. Reis. “Choices and Historical Processes: Elisa Reis in conversation with Luciana de Souza Leão.” *Sociologica*, 17 (2): 175-186.
- 2023 Book Review: *Emerging Global Cities: Origin, Structure, and Significance* by Alejandro Portes and Ariel C. Armony. New York: Columbia University Press, 2022. *British Journal of Sociology*, 74 (5): 974-976.
- 2023 Book Review: *Agents of Reform: Child Labor and the Origins of the Welfare State* by Elisabeth Anderson. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2021. *American Journal of Sociology*, 128 (5): 1572-1574.
- 2022 Book Interview: *Thinking Like an Economist: How Efficiency Replaced Equity in U.S. Public Policy*. By Elizabeth Popp-Berman. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2022. *Phenomenal World*, Jain Family Institute.
- 2020 **de Souza Leão, Luciana**, and Gil Eyal. “Searching Under the Streetlight: A Historical Perspective on the Rise of *Randomistas*.” *World Development*, 127, article 104781.
- 2013 Bruhn, Miriam, **Luciana de Souza Leão** and Bilal Zia. “The Impact of High School Financial Education: Experimental Evidence from Brazil”. *World Bank Policy Research Working Papers*, 6723.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Moraes Silva, Graziella, Matias Lopez, Chana Teeger, and **Luciana de Souza Leão**. “Why Give Money to the Poor? Elite perceptions about cash transfer programs in Brazil and South Africa.”

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION (*denotes student co-author)

de Souza Leão, Luciana, Graziella Moraes Silva, and Margarita Rodriguez*. “Racial Silence: Bureaucratic Choices in Latin America’s Pandemic Assistance.”

de Souza Leão, Luciana. “A New Deservingness? Pandemic Uncertainties and the Techno-Politics of Cash Transfer Programs in Brazil.”

Arretche, Marta, **Luciana de Souza Leão**, and Pedro H. Souza. “Long-Term Political Trajectories of Cash Transfer Programs in Latin America”

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2025 – 2026 FAPESP Visiting Researcher Fellowship, Center for Metropolitan Studies (CEM-USP), University of São Paulo
- 2024 Winner, Star-Nelkin Paper Award, ASA Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section
- 2023 Winner, Best Article Award, LASA Economics & Politics Section
- 2023 Honorable Mention, Sérgio Buarque de Holanda Best Paper Prize, LASA Brazil Section
- 2021 Outstanding Undergraduate Mentor Award Finalist, University of Michigan
- 2021 Honorable Mention, Star-Nelkin Article Prize, ASA Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section
- 2020 Winner, Sérgio Buarque de Holanda Best Paper Prize, LASA Brazil Section
- 2019 Winner, Reinhard Bendix Student Paper Award, ASA Comparative - Historical Sociology Section
- 2019 Winner, Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, ASA Sociology of Development Section
- 2019 Watson Postdoctoral Fellowship, Brown University (declined)
- 2019 Weatherhead Scholar Fellowship, Harvard University (declined)
- 2019 Kellogg Visiting Scholar Fellowship, Notre Dame University (declined)
- 2018 SSHA/Tilly Graduate Student Travel Award, Social Science History Association
- 2018 – 2019 Zuckerman Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University
- 2017 – 2018 Senior Lead Teaching Fellowship, Columbia University
- 2016 – 2017 International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Sciences Research Council (SSRC)
- 2016 GSAS International Travel Fellowship, Columbia University (declined)
- 2015 – 2016 Lead Teaching Fellowship, Columbia University

- 2015 Charles Tilly Outstanding Teaching and Scholarship Award, Sociology Department, Columbia University
- 2012 – 2017 Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellowship, Columbia University
- 2009 – 2010 Best M.A. Student Fellowship, Rio de Janeiro State Research Foundation (FAPERJ)
- 2008 – 2009 Graduate Student Fellowship, Brazilian Council for Scientific and Technological Development
- 2002 – 2004 Special Training Program Fellowship, Brazilian Higher Education Council (Puc-Rio, Economics)
- 2005 Letters and Science Dean’s Honor List, University of California Berkeley

ACADEMIC GRANTS

- 2026 “Beyond Short-Term Relief: Long-Term Trajectories of Cash Transfer Programs in Latin America.” University of Michigan’s Poverty Solutions Center Faculty Grant (US\$23,290)
- 2026 “Beyond Short-Term Relief: Long-Term Trajectories of Cash Transfer Programs in Latin America.” Center for Emerging Democracies Faculty Grant, University of Michigan (US\$3,500)
- 2025 “From Margin to Center: Power and Vulnerability of Poor Women After the Inclusionary Turn in Brazil.” Institute for Research on Women & Gender (IRWG) Faculty Grant, University of Michigan (US\$7,000)
- 2023 “Manufacturing Legitimacy: The Politics of Giving Money to the Poor in Mexico.” SUCCEED Faculty Grant, University of Michigan ADVANCE program (US\$6,860)
- 2023 LSA Assistant Professor Career Support Fund (US\$3,500)
- 2022 “How Social Policies Are Reinvented in Crises: Lessons from Cash Transfer Programs in Latin America During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Faculty Grant Program to Prevent and Alleviate Poverty, University of Michigan’s Poverty Solutions Center (US\$17,628)
- 2022 “From Exogenous Shocks to Social Policies: Reinventing Cash Transfer Programs in Latin America During the Pandemic.” Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies Faculty Grant, University of Michigan (US\$4,845)
- 2016 “School to Work Transition and Inequality in Brazil and the US: A Collaborative Investigation.” Presidential Global Innovation Fund, Columbia University, PI Professor Thomas DiPrete (US\$19,500)
- 2015 “On Trial and in Demand: Field Experiments in International Development.” Dissertation Summer Research Grant, Center for Organizational Innovation, Columbia University (US\$2,000)
- 2015 “Expertise from Margin to Center Conference.” Interdisciplinary Seed Grant, The Center for Science and Society, Columbia University, Co-PI with Joan Robinson and Moran Levy (US\$2,461)
- 2014 Columbia Global Center Research Grant, FAPERJ/Columbia University 2014 Cooperation Program, PI Professor Elisa Reis (R\$68,000, approximately US\$30,000)
- 2014 – 2015 Summer Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant, Institute of Latin American Studies, Columbia University

(US\$5,000 total)

2013 – 2017 Corner House Travel Grant, Sociology Department, Columbia University (US\$2,500 total)

TEACHING

University of Michigan

- 2020 - Politics, Power, and Society (Undergraduate)
- 2022 - Poverty and Inequality in the Global South (Undergraduate)
- 2023 - Power, History, and Social Change (Graduate)
- 2027 - Research Methods (Undergraduate)

Columbia University

- 2016 Evaluation of Evidence (Undergraduate)
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INVITED TALKS

“Optics of the State: The Politics of Making Poverty Visible in Brazil and Mexico”

- 2026 University of São Paulo, Department of Sociology Colloquium
- 2024 Yale University, Department of Sociology Colloquium
- 2023 Harvard Kennedy School, Bloomberg Center for Cities Inaugural Speaker Series
London School of Economics (LSE), Latin America and Caribbean Centre Forums
- 2022 Princeton University, Department of Sociology Colloquium
University of California Berkeley, Department of Sociology Colloquium
- 2021 Fundação Getúlio Vargas, EBAPE Graduate Seminars
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Interdisciplinary Network for the Study of Inequality Colloquium
Universidad de Chile, Escuela de Gobierno Colloquium
- 2020 University of Texas Austin, Population Research Center Brown Bag Seminar
- 2019 Harvard University, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Colloquium
University of Michigan, Department of Sociology Colloquium
- 2018 Columbia University, Institute of Latin American Studies Seminars
- 2017 Princeton University, Center for Migration and Development Colloquium

“The Devil Hides in the Details: Variations of Conditional Cash Transfers Programs in Latin America”

- 2020 Princeton University, The Neoliberal State in Latin America II Seminar
- 2019 Princeton University, The Neoliberal State in Latin America Seminar

“What’s on Trial? The Making of Field Experiments in International Development”

- 2018 Warwick University, Put to the Test: Critical Evaluations of Testing Seminar
- 2015 Sciences Po (Reims campus), Economic Sociology Seminar
- 2014 Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Interdisciplinary Network for the Study of Inequality Brown Bag

“A Double-Edged Sword: The Institutional Foundations of the Brazilian Developmental State”

- 2016 Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Institutions and Democracy Seminars in Brasília
- 2014 Princeton University, The Rise and Fall of the Developmental State in Latin America Seminar

“Diverse Transitions: Paths from School to Work in Brazil”

- 2016 Columbia University Global Center–Rio de Janeiro, Symposium School to Work Transition and Inequality in Brazil and the US, Rio de Janeiro

"Measuring the Impact of a National Program of Financial Education in the Schools in Brazil"

- 2013 G-20 Improving Financial Literacy and Capability Meeting, Moscow
India-OECD-World Bank Regional Conference on Financial Education, New Delhi

INVITED PANELS

- 2026 “A New World of Authoritarian Welfare?” University of Michigan Workshop (with Open Society Foundations and the Central European University Democracy Institute), Ann Arbor
- 2023 “Sociology and Sociologists in a Global Context,” American Sociological Association Meeting, Philadelphia
“Author-Meets-Critics for *Emerging Global Cities: Origin, Structure, and Significance*” by Alejandro Portes and Ariel C. Armony, Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore
- 2019 “Brazil in Crisis: Resistance and Solidarity in the 21st Century,” Institute for Public Knowledge, NYU

CONFERENCE & EXTERNAL WORKSHOPS PRESENTATIONS

“A New Deservingness? Pandemic Uncertainties and the Making of Cash Transfer Programs in Latin America.”

- 2026 Latin American Studies Association Meeting, Paris, France
- 2023 Social Science History Association Meeting, Washington, DC

“The Political Work of Culture to Reform the Mexican State”

- 2022 American Sociological Association Meeting, Los Angeles
- 2019 American Sociological Association Meeting, New York
- 2018 Social Science History Association Meeting, Phoenix
SKAT Workshop, Columbia University

“Optics of the State: The Politics of Making Poverty Visible in Brazil and Mexico”

- 2022 American Sociological Association Meeting, Los Angeles, USA
2018 American Sociological Association Meeting, Philadelphia, USA
2017 Social Science History Association Meeting, Montreal, Canada
CWI Workshop, Columbia University

“Experiments in the Wild: Historical Perspective on the Rise of Randomized Controlled Trials in International Development”

- 2022 Brazilian Social Sciences Association Meeting (ANPOCS), Campinas, Brazil
2016 American Sociological Association Meeting, Seattle, USA
2015 Social Science History Association Meeting, Baltimore, USA
2014 4S Meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina
STGlobal Meeting, Washington DC, USA

“School to Work Linkages and Inequality in Brazil: Recent Trends”

- 2015 Latin American Studies Association Meeting, New York, USA.
RC28 Meeting, Tilburg, Netherlands.

“Neither Black, Nor White? *Pardos* and the Brazilian Racial Puzzle”

- 2015 American Sociological Association Meeting, Chicago, USA.
2012 Brazilian Social Sciences Association Meeting (ANPOCS), Caxambú, Brazil.

“How do Brazilians Perceive the Role of the State, the Market, and Civil Society in the Execution of Social Policies?”

- 2012 International Sociology Association Forum, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

“NGOs, Politicians and Political Parties: Patterns of Interaction”.

- 2009 International Political Science Association Meeting, Santiago, Chile.
Brazilian Sociology Congress (SBS), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

SERVICE

EXTERNAL

- 2026 **Chair**, Best Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, ASA Political Sociology Section
2025 – 2028 **Elected Council Member**, ASA Political Sociology Section
2025 – 2027 **Elected Council Member**, ASA Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section
2024 - **Associate Editor**, *Theory and Social Inquiry*
2023 - **Editorial Board Member**, *Sociologica*

- 2023 **Organizer**, Development regular session, ASA Meeting
- 2023 **Mentor**, Global and Comparative Sociology Mentorship Program, ASA Meeting
- 2023 – 2028 **Scientific Board Committee**, European Research Council Grant “InfoCitizen,” PI: Moisés Kopper (University of Antwerp, Belgium)
- 2022 – 2025 **Associate Member**, SNIS project “Democracy and Redistribution in the Global South: From Fear to Policy,” PI: Matias Lopez (Graduate Institute Geneva, Switzerland)
- 2022 **Theory Book Prize Committee**, ASA Theory Section
- 2020 **Reinhard Bendix Graduate Student Paper Award Committee**, ASA Comparative-Historical Sociology Section
- 2019 **Panel organizer**, “Unpacking Expertise I, II, & III,” Society for the Social Studies of Science Meeting, New Orleans. Co-organized with Paige Sweet.
- 2018 **Panel organizer**, “Expertise II: Classification and Distributive Politics,” “Expertise III: Governance and Publics,” and “Expertise IV: Policy and State Bureaucracies,” SSHA Meeting, Phoenix. Co-organized with Zach Griffen.
- 2016 **Symposium organizer** “*School to Work Transition and Inequality in Brazil and the US: A Collaborative Investigation*”, Columbia University Global Center – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Panel organizer**, “The Multiple Dimensions of Inequality in Brazil,” Latin American Studies Association Meeting, New York. Co-organized with Flavio Carvalhaes.

INTERNAL

University of Michigan

- 2020-2026 Culture, History in Politics Workshop (CHiP) Faculty Advisor
- 2024-2025 Committee on Graduate Affairs (CAGA)
- 2023 PhD Students Admissions Committee
- 2023 MICHEERS Faculty Advisor
- 2022-2023 Committee on Graduate Affairs (CAGA)
- 2020-2021 Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) Mentor

Columbia University

- 2018 **Facilitator of the 3-parts workshop** “*Leveling the Playing Field: From Inequality to Inclusivity in Assessment*”, Center for Teaching and Learning, Columbia University.
- 2017 **Facilitator of the workshops** “*Comments and Critiques: Best Practices in Grading*” and “*Inclusive Teaching in the Social Sciences*”, Sociology Department, Columbia University.
- 2016 **Conference organizer** “*Expertise From Margin to Center: Science, Politics, Democracy*”, Columbia University. Co-organized with Joan Robinson and Moran Levy.

- 2014 - 2015 **Co-organizer** of the Science, Knowledge, and Technology (SKAT) Workshop, Sociology Department, Columbia University.
- 2010 **Co-organizer** of the Rio de Janeiro Graduate Student Sociology Conference, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

STUDENT COMMITTEES

Dissertation

- Ongoing* Co-Advisor, Margarita Rodriguez Morales (University of Michigan)
- Ongoing* Advisor, Alvaro Cabrera (University of Michigan)
- Ongoing* I-Lun Shih (University of Michigan)
- Ongoing* Henrique Pedrazza Kopittke (University of Michigan)
- Ongoing* Christian Javier Castro-Martinez (University of Michigan)
- 2024 Jen Triplett (University of Michigan)
- 2024 Kristin Foringer (University of Michigan)

MA Thesis

- 2026 Ching-Huan Kuo (University of Michigan, MIRS)
- 2024 Hao Zhang (University of Michigan, MIRS)

Senior Thesis

- 2024 Matthew Billik (University of Michigan)

Publishable Paper

- Ongoing* Jarron Long (University of Michigan)
- 2025 Henrique Pedrazza Kopittke (University of Michigan)
- 2024 I-Lun Shih (University of Michigan)

Occasional Reviewer for: *American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, British Journal of Sociology, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Journal of Latin American Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies, Qualitative Sociology, Socio-Economic Review, Theory and Society, World Development.*

LANGUAGES

Portuguese (native), English and Spanish (fluent)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

2008 - 2012 **Field Coordinator** (Brazil), Development Research Group, World Bank

2007 **Research Assistant** (Peru), Innovations for Poverty Action, Yale University

PRESS COVERAGE

Washington Post, The Guardian, O Globo, Folha de São Paulo