The Lemann Foundation Programme is a comparative research programme with an emphasis on Brazil, which generates and disseminates knowledge to improve the public sector and its associated organisations.
LAUNCH EVENT AGENDA
BLAVATNIK SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT / ONLINE TRANSMISSION
16 November 2021

10h – 11h BR
13h – 14h UK
Welcoming Session
Registration

Opening remarks
Ngaire Woods, Dean, Blavatnik School of Government
Anna Petherick, Director, Lemann Foundation Programme
Denis Mizne, CEO, Lemann Foundation
Keynote
Timothy Power, Head of Social Sciences Division, University of Oxford

11h – 12h10 BR
14h – 15h10 UK
Round Table I: Inside Oxford’s COVID-19 projects - reflections on doing real-time research in a period of great public need (In conversation with Miguel Lago)
Andrew Pollard, Director Oxford Vaccine Group
Jaqueline Góes, CADDE - Brazil-UK Centre for Arbovirus Discovery, Diagnosis, Genomics and Epidemiology
Beatriz Kira, COVID-19 Government Response Tracker
Miguel Lago, Executive Director, IEPS – Institute for Health Policy Studies

12h10 –13h BR
15h10 – 16h UK
Coffee break with exhibits (UK) / Lunch break (Brazil)

13h – 14h30 BR
16h – 17h30 UK
Round Table II: Living the dream? Common struggles in the public sector, and setting priorities for improvement (In conversation with Dapo Akande)
Soledad Nuñez, Paraguay’s former Minister of Housing and Habitat
Gabriela Lotta, Professor of Public Administration at FGV
Guillermo Toral, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt University
Dapo Akande, Professor of Public International Law, Blavatnik School of Government

14h30 – 15h BR
17h30 – 18h UK
“Coquetel” / Drinks and Nibbles
ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What can Brazil learn from other countries, and what can other countries learn from Brazil? These are the questions that the Lemann Foundation Programme explores from the point of view of the people and organisations who compose the public sector, as well as those that engage with it.

Because we want our research to have real-world impact, we develop policy briefs, case studies, events and workshops - all taking aim at the challenges and opportunities facing those with professional responsibilities to serve their fellow citizens.

RESEARCH

Our research projects are clustered into three themes. These themes are major challenges to good government and policymaking in Brazil, as well as issues of primary importance in many other countries.

BUILDING BACK FROM COVID-19
The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented disruption around the globe. It has exposed and widened inequalities in many areas, including health and education. We aim to understand the pandemic’s impacts as precisely as possible so that they may be substantively addressed, especially in the world’s most unequal countries, such as Brazil.

BUILDING INTEGRITY ALONGSIDE AN ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENDA
In Brazil, as in many other countries, corruption is consistently among citizens’ top concerns. Meanwhile trust in institutions and in society at large are low. We seek to generate knowledge about how to reduce levels of corruption and nurture a trustworthy public sector in the long run. Our projects focus on institutional reform; how public organisations relate to one another; digital government; and the pressures facing civil servants, especially when it comes to issues of diversity.

POLARISATION AND SERVICE DELIVERY
Political polarisation is acutely felt by many in the public sector. We investigate roadblocks faced by leaders and civil servants in this climate, and how these can affect public service delivery. Our aim is to identify pathways for overcoming negative impacts.
The Programme is committed to creating and maintaining an agenda of intensive dialogue, building a network of diverse stakeholders who aim to improve the public sector.

In Michaelmas 2021, the Programme welcomes Gabriela Lotta, professor in the Public Management and Government School of the Getúlio Vargas Foundation, São Paulo. Professor Lotta is the Lemann Foundation Visiting Fellow of Practice 2021 and will visit the Blavatnik School to engage with faculty and students on topics such as bureaucrats’ experiences during the pandemic and their strategies to avoid political interference.

One question for Gabriela Lotta: Why study bureaucracy?

“I am intrigued by the human side of public service, wherein many areas people go in with a passion and a calling to change the world. Teachers are passionate about education, health professionals are committed to providing care to their patients, police officers believe they are protecting society, public managers believe they will transform the world. But day-to-day service and difficulties like the lack of resources, excess demands, and political interference transform dreams and vocations into frustration. Even then, bureaucrats wake up every day to try to find solutions to citizens’ problems. Often, they put themselves at risk – literally and metaphorically – for what they believe. And that is what I love to study. Because I believe the State is essential for democracy and improving quality of life, understanding bureaucracy and proposing solutions to make it better are ways to contribute to democracy and the wellbeing of the population.”

In Michaelmas Term we also welcome Guillermo Toral, assistant professor at Vanderbilt University, United States, as the Visiting Astor Lecturer. Dr. Toral will visit Oxford to present his work on the political logics of patronage.

Get in touch with us by emailing lemann.foundation@bsg.ox.ac.uk.
PROGRAMME TEAM

Anna Petherick (Director)
Anna is a Departmental Lecturer in Public Policy and the co-Principal Investigator of the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT) project. In addition, she works on corruption, gender, and trust, with much of it based in Brazil. Anna completed her MPhil (Comparative Government) and DPhil (Politics) at Oxford University, during which she taught statistics and tutored Brazilian politics. Between her undergraduate and graduate studies, Anna worked as a full-time journalist. She held positions as correspondent at The Economist and editor at Nature, and her journalism has also appeared in Foreign Policy, the Financial Times, and The Lancet, among many others. Anna holds a BA (MA) in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University.

Lia Pessoa (Engagement Officer)
Lia develops the Programme’s strategy for external outreach, building and working with an active network of stakeholders to achieve real-world impact. Prior to joining the Blavatnik School, Lia completed a Master’s in Public Administration at the London School of Economics, where she engaged in varied activities related to policymaking in Latin America. Her primary research and policy interests are in the areas of governance, healthcare, and gender equality. Lia holds a BA in Law from the University of São Paulo and has worked for four years as a lawyer for state-owned enterprises in Brazil, as well as in public-private partnerships and NGOs in the health and education sectors.
Beatriz Kira (Senior Research Associate)
Beatriz is a lawyer and a social scientist by training and her research focuses on the governance of digital technologies. She holds a PhD in Economic Law and Political Economy from the University of São Paulo (USP), and an MSc in Social Sciences of the Internet from Oxford. Beatriz is also a Research Affiliate of the Law and Public Policy research group at the Faculty of Law of USP, has acted as a consultant for the Brazilian Competition Authority (CADE) and conducted research for several academic institutions including the Oxford Internet Institute (OII), the Brazilian Network of Empirical Legal Studies (REED), and the Brazilian Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA).

João Pedro Caleiro (Research Assistant)
João Pedro recently completed the Master of Public Policy at the Blavatnik School and collaborates with various aspects of the programme. He holds a BA in International Relations, with a focus on political science, from Universidade de São Paulo, and has extensive experience working on economic and social issues. For the past decade, he worked as an editor at the Brazilian publication EXAME, for which he covered major national and international events and engaged with current public policy debates. João Pedro is a member of the Lemann Leadership Network.

Filipe Recch (Postdoctoral Researcher)
Filipe holds a master’s in Political Science and a PhD in International Comparative Education from Stanford University, where he acted as a postdoctoral fellow at the Lemann Center for Entrepreneurship and Educational Innovation in Brazil. Filipe also holds a bachelor’s degree in Social Sciences from the Federal University of Minas Gerais and a master’s in Public Administration from Fundação João Pinheiro. He has experience both in the third sector, having worked at Instituto Natura, and in the public sector, acting as chief advisor for strategy and innovation in the Department of Education in the state of Minas Gerais.