

Research Directions

Office of Research Services

The Brazilian Community in Australia

Dr Cristina Rocha, Centre for Cultural Research, is investigating Australian-Brazilian cultural exchange. This ARC Discovery project aims to research the experiences of Australians who are in contact with Brazil and Brazilians who live in Australia to see how flows of people, commodities and ideas between the two countries shape the way Brazil and Brazilian identity is negotiated and constructed in Australia.



Capoeira is a dance-like Afro-Brazilian martial art developed in the 1500s by African slaves

'At present there is little knowledge about the recent and growing migration of Brazilians to Australia beyond the bare demographics' said Dr Rocha. 'This study will look at the relationship of Brazilians with Australian society at large, the participation of Australians in Brazilian cultural activities, such as capoeira classes, carnival parades and other festivities, and the religious practices of the Brazilian community in Australia'.

The research will involve participant observation and interviews as well as textual and visual analysis of the 'cultural traffic' between the two countries, for example, advertisements of Brazilian products and posters for Brazilian cultural activities. The research will extend upon Dr Rocha's previous work on trans-national cultural flows and take place in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne where there are sizeable Brazilian communities.

The research hopes to offer a greater understanding about the way Brazil and Brazilian identity is negotiated and constructed in Australia and will inform and enhance the growing bilateral relations between Australia and Brazil in areas such as tourism, cultural promotion and education.

Project Title: *Australian-Brazilian Connections: Mapping the Cultural Traffic in the Southern Hemisphere*

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