

# Felipe Fernandes Cruz

Historian  
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## EDUCATION

### The University of Texas at Austin

PhD in History - Spring, 2016

Specialization: Modern Brazil, History of Technology

Dissertation: "Flight of the Steel Toucans: Aeronautics and Nation-Building in Brazil's Frontiers"

### The University of Texas at Austin

M.A. in History, Spring, 2010

M.A. Thesis: "Fire in the Skies: Hot Air Balloons in Urban Brazil and the Creation of a Guerrilla Folklore"

### Florida State University

BA in History, Spring, 2007

## AWARDS

### Society for the History of Discoveries Essay Prize

Awarded for the best article written relating to the history of exploration and discovery.

London, UK – June 2015

### The Kranzberg Fellowship (Society for the History of Technology)

Awarded once a year by the society to fund a promising dissertation in history of technology.

Charlottesville, VA – September 2012

### Edward H. Moseley Award

The Edward H. Moseley Award is presented annually to a graduate student and SECOLAS member for the best paper presented at the current year's meeting

New Orleans, LA - April, 2009

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer Reviewed Articles

*Fire in the Skies: Airspace, the Environment and Guerrilla Technologies in Postwar Brazil.* In *Technology and Culture* (forthcoming, currently under peer editing)

*Napalm Colonization: Airminded Indians and Colonization in Brazil's Aeronautical Frontiers* (currently under review)

*Tio Sam em Ares Tropicais: O Olhar Norte-Americano Sobre a Aviação Brasileira* [Uncle Sam in Tropical Airs: The North American Purview on Brazilian Aviation]. In *Anais do 1º. Seminário Nacional da História da Aviação Brasileira* (Vol. 1 – July 2012)

### Other Articles

*Air Craft.* In *Smith Journal* (Volume 16 – August 2015 - Australia)

*An Art of Air and Fire: Brazil's Renegade Balloonists*. In *The Appendix: a New Journal of Narrative and Experimental History* (Volume 2 Issue 4, November, 2014)

*The Aviator's Heart*. In *The Appendix: a New Journal of Narrative and Experimental History* (Volume 2 Issue 3, April, 2014)

*Field Notes, Amazonia, 1952: FOUND*. In *The Appendix: a New Journal of Narrative and Experimental History* (Volume 1 Issue 1, December, 2012)

## Film

*"The Balloonists: Brazil's Underground Folk Artists"* - Writer & Co-Director, Feature Length Documentary, 2015 release. A documentary shot in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. It features the research used for the M.A. thesis described above.

## Interviews, Curation, Blog Posts and Miscellaneous

Interview for Revista de História da Biblioteca Nacional, *A sinistra criação da Varig*

*Mapping the Earth, Mapping the Air*. In *Not Even Past* (notevenpast.org – May 2012)

Regular blogger at The Appendix, more at <http://theappendix.net/blog/>

## Book Reviews

Review of Dan Hagedorn's, *Conquistadors of the Sky: A History of Aviation in Latin America*. H-LatAm, H-Net Reviews. October, 2012.

Review of John Soluri's *Banana Cultures: Agriculture, Consumption & Environmental Change in Honduras and the United States*. In *Not Even Past* (notevenpast.org - April 2011)

Review of João José Reis' *Death is a Festival: Funeral Rites and Rebellion in Nineteenth-Century Brazil*. In *Not Even Past* (notevenpast.org - January 2011)

Review of Antonio Pedro Tota's *The Seduction of Brazil: the Americanization of Brazil During World War II*. In *The Latin Americanist* (Volume 54, Issue 3 – September 2010)

Review of Micol Seigel's *Uneven Encounters: Making Race and Nation in Brazil and the United States*. In *The Latin Americanist* (Volume 54, Issue 2 - June 2010)

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

### Carlos E. Castañeda Fellowship

Awarded for ongoing research at the Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica Austin, TX – May 2012

### The Dave Abrams and Gene Banning Pan Am Research Grant

Awarded for research to be conducted at the PanAm archive at the University of Miami Libraries' Special Collections  
Miami, FL – May 2012

### Smithsonian Visiting Researcher

Awarded for research to be conducted at the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum

Washington, DC – April 2012

**Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering and Technology Resident Fellowship**

Awarded for research in engineering papers at the Library

Kansas City, MO – February 2012

**SSRC-IDRF (Social Science Research Council - International Dissertation Research Fellowship)**

Awarded for dissertation research to be conducted in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro

New York, NY – April 2011

**AMS (American Meteorological Society - Graduate Fellowship in the History of Science)**

Awarded for dissertation research to be conducted in Brasília and Manaus

Boston, MA – April 2011

**Faculty Sponsored Dissertation Research Grant (Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Texas-Austin)**

[Award declined due to concurrent awards] For field research to be conducted in Brazil, 2011-2012

Austin, TX - April 2011

History Department Research Fellowship, Austin, TX - November 2011

History Department Summer Research Travel Grant, Austin, TX – March 2010

Liberal Arts Graduate Research Grant, Austin, TX – January, 2009

Emily Knauss Endowment Research Grant, Austin, TX – October 2009

History Department Research Fellowship, Austin, TX – March 2009

History Department Summer Research Travel Grant, Austin, TX – March 2009

University Professional Development Award, Austin, TX – February 2009

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**“Napalm Colonization: Aviation and Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon”**

Society for the History of Technology, Albuquerque, NM – October 2015

**“When Sextants Flew: Navigational Technologies and the Transition from Nautical to Aeronautical”**

Ideas in Navigation Conference

National Maritime Museum, London, UK – April 2014

**“Islands in Time and Space: Navigation and Territorialization in Brazil’s Frontiers”**

Brazilian Studies Committee: Technology, Culture, and Society in Brazil

AHA/CLAH Meeting, Washington, DC – January 2014

**“Sailing West in Brazil’s Aerial Ocean: Airmindedness and Frontier Expansion”**

Society for the History of Technology, Portland, ME – October 2013

**“80 Years of the Estado Novo”**

Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, Austin, TX – November 2012

**“Tio Sam em Ares Tropicais: O Olhar Norte-Americano Sobre a Aviação Brasileira”**

1º. Seminário Nacional da História da Aviação Brasileira, Rio de Janeiro, RJ – July 2012

**“Of Zeppelins, Airplanes and Bombs: Technologies of Terror in Brazil”**

SECOLAS (at Instituto Mora), Mexico, DF – April 2010

**"Navigating the Meanings of Terror in Modern Brazil"**

[Click here to see the presentation](#)

AHA/CLAH Meeting, San Diego, CA – January 2010

**"Urban Peripheries and the Brazilian Airspace"**

Ethnohistory Conference, New Orleans, LA – September 2009

**"Subaltern Art in Urban Brazil"**

SECOLAS Conference, New Orleans, LA - April 2009

**"Fire in the Skies: Hot Air Balloons in Urban Brazil and the Creation of a Guerrilla Folklore"**

RMCLAS Conference, Santa Fe, NM - March, 2009

## **PUBLIC LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS**

**"The Balloonists: Guerrilla Technologies in Brazilian Airspace"**

History of Science Colloquium at University of Texas, Austin, TX - November 2015

**"Digital History: A Hands-On Workshop"**

Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas, Austin, TX – April 2015

**"Parachute Colonization: Aviation and Frontier Settlement in Brazil"**

History of Science Colloquium at University of Texas, Austin, TX - February 2015

**"Upward and Westward: PanAm in the Development of Brazilian Aviation"**

University of Miami Libraries

Special Collections Lecture Series, Miami, FL – September 2013

**"Colonizing Amazonia From Above: Aeronautical Technology in the Brazilian Frontiers"**

Linda Hall Library Fellows Lecture Series, Kansas City, MO – March 2013

**"Navigating the 'Aerial Ocean': Meteorologists and Aviators in the Creation of Airspace"**

History of Science Colloquium at University of Texas, Austin, TX - September 2011

## **RELEVANT PROJECTS, EMPLOYMENT & SERVICE**

**Digital Writing and Research Lab**

Currently working as a researcher and instructor at this premier digital humanities institute at The University of Texas at Austin. Mentoring faculty on how to develop digital projects for the classroom to engage students on active research and production. Also developing an augmented reality app that allows individuals and institutions to create narratives and debates around public monuments that can be accessed on a GPS basis at relevant geographical locations. The first project released under the app will be a tour of confederate monuments at the University of Texas at Austin.

**The Appendix: A Journal of Experimental and Narrative History**

Co-founder and Managing Editor since 2012. An experiment that seeks to find new forms of publishing that bridge the gap between academic and popular publishing for history – bringing together academics from different fields, along with artists and journalists to produce high quality history writing for broad audiences. *The Appendix* has reached over a million unique readers so far, and its articles have been featured by major publications such as *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, and *National Geographic*. See more at <http://www.theappendix.net/>

**Research for Brazil's Truth Commission**

Worked directly with jurist Rosa Maria Cardoso da Cunha, its coordinator, to digitize relevant documents in U.S. archives. Those documents were used in public hearings on the crimes of Brazil's military dictatorship.

**History Graduate Council**

Faculty and Graduate Studies Committee Representative in the History Department, 2010-2011

**Distinguished Speaker Series in Latin American History (Co-Chair, 2009-10)**

Graduate organization that invites distinguished scholars of Latin American history to give lectures and have research workshops with our fellow students

## LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Portuguese (native fluency)

English (full fluency)

Spanish (fluent reading and conversation, basic writing)

German (reading and basic conversational)

Farsi (very basic, currently studying)

## RESEARCH SKILLS

**Digital Humanities**

Familiar with several of the emerging tools in the field. Gave workshops to help historians and other scholars to make meaningful use of the most recent advancements on this field in their projects. Also currently developing new applications. Co-founded the digital journal "The Appendix: A Journal of Experimental and Narrative History," which created several experiments in alternative digital publishing.

**Participant Observer Ethnographic Fieldwork**

Conducted among underground hot air balloonists in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Participated in festivals and balloon launches to observe the labor organization and creative process in the criminalized urban art discussed in my M.A. report

**Oral History Interviews**

Conducted in Portuguese for research on student activists during the military dictatorship, as well as for research on urban balloonists

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Historical Association

American Meteorological Society

Conference on Latin American History

International Commission on History of Meteorology

Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies

Society for the History of Discoveries

Society for the History of Technology

Southeastern Council on Latin American Studies

