

Res Nullius or *Res Ignara*? A general vision for European Studies in Brazil

Introduction

The scientific-academic interest in Brazil regarding the political, economic, strategic and social development emerging from European development has grown consistently during the past ten years.

This initial observation, somehow contradicts the general sentiment of recent assessments regarding the state of European studies in Brazil, although it does not invalidate the widespread perception that the field cannot be autonomous or in a position to become so in the short term.

Thus, before considering it an uninhabited space, or unclaimed territory, since the field could be characterized as unknown territory – it is therefore necessary to collect these parts and characterize those elements and actors which are developing research strategies and forming the basis of current European studies in Brazil so that the current state can be more widely recognized.

This requires analysis of some data that may demonstrate that there is more life and dynamism in this field than a first glance might indicate. To support this effort, of the analysis of the development of European studies in Brazil, I propose an inversion of traditional logic that has dictated analyses regarding the state of this field in the country. Instead of taking the point of view that the removal of existing institutional ar-

rangements, which is recognized as a departure, is insufficient, instead I propose a first look at, perhaps the most important measurements for the development of any field of study: the frame, or rather, current researchers in universities and graduate programs. This is because there is not always sufficient density for structuring large and complex institutional arrangements – which is due to the inherent characteristics of Brazilian university institutions. But the Brazilian experience has shown a wide variety of small, dynamic research groups who have developed complete research programs, often including undergraduates and always graduate students. In this regard, what has been evident is the gradual establishment of a small institutional environment, but dynamic and dedicated to its field.

A growing field

One interesting measure of the growth of interest in this area can be found in the growing number of researchers who focus on general European studies as one of their fields of expertise. We used the data in the Lattes Platform (National Council of Scientific and Technological development – CNPq) for measurement, which offers an integrated view of Brazilian research groups and institutions in all field, for curricula, it

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May 2013

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offers a systematic overview of the academic life and interests of all Brazilian researchers. A structured search based upon data from the Lattes Platform shows that 179 researchers and professors indicate "European Union" or "European Integration" as a field of scientific interest or specialization.

When viewed from the perspective of group structure, this small "community" evidences institutional capacity building. From this same perspective, the Lattes Platform registers 23 research groups specialized in "European integration," or "European Union." From this total, 15 groups focus on Law, 2 on Sociology, 3 on Political Science/International Relations, 1 on Geography and 2 on Economy. Although one might agree with the fact that at first glance the number of members of the Brazilian research community dedicated to this area may not impress, on the other hand, they indicate a growing reality and dynamic institutionalization on this topic within Brazil.

The institutional arrangements have been recently bolstered by increased scientific support by the Brazilian government, and also by the actions from the European Commission itself, with its Jean Monnet programs. It is true that the number of professorships, support projects, and Jean Monnet modules in Brazil have been unjustifiably reduced – there are only 2 Professorships (Vale do Itajai University and University of Brasília), 3 modules (Getulio Vargas Foundation in Rio de Janeiro, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul and IBMEC-Instituto Veris São Paulo) and 1 project supporting national networks (European Community Studies Association - Latin America)¹. There is, in this case, a gap between the number of research groups in the structured CNPq Directory, referred to

¹ Data gathered and publicized by Paula Wojcikiewicz Almeida (FGV-Rio).

above, and the number of initiatives supported by European funding. It could be speculated that this difference is explained by the lack of awareness regarding opportunities offered by the European Commission, to which excessively bureaucratic procedures for submitting proposals and employment are added.

One of the interesting initiatives funded by the European Commission for Brazilian academia was an announcement in 2010 for the establishment of a European Studies Institute in the form of a network of universities and research centers that would comply with the development of the field in-country and developing a commitments agenda that would be previously agreed upon. The approved proposal was the network led by the University of São Paulo - USP and comprises over seven Brazilian institutions that are associated with seven European universities. This network has already expanded with the accession of seven more European universities and six Brazilian². The main point on the agenda contracted by the Institute, which was renamed the Brazil-Europe Institute, is the establishment of an inter-institutional doctoral program in European studies, whose project was presented to the Coordination of Improvement of Higher Education Personnel - CAPES that may initiate its activities in 2013.

The diversity of institutional arrangements also points to the structuring of research

² The network of Brazilian partners of the Europe-Brazil Institute is composed by: University of São Paulo (USP), Paulista State University (UNESP), University of Campinas (Unicamp), Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), Federal University of Goiás (UFG), Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Federal University of Piauí (UFPI), Federal University of Pará (UFPA). Later, other institutions joined the partnership: Federal University of Brasília (UnB), Federal University of Pelotas (UFPEL), Federal University of Paraná (UFPR) and Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE).

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agendas and staff training at the graduate level as a variable. A detailed survey of the database, which records all doctoral dissertations and master dissertations in Brazilian graduate programs from 1987 onward, it also indicates a growing interest in the area³. From 1987 to 2011, 139 doctoral theses were presented to several graduate programs in Brazil addressing issues related to European integration in general. Most of these studies were developed starting in 2000, and reinforce the idea that the European studies, even though before they were poorly developed, they are a much more recent addition to Brazilian academia.

The breakdown of this total demonstrates a strong research agenda in law programs, especially those concentrating on International Law and Comparative Law. In fact, much of the growth in the area of European studies in Brazil can be credited to graduate Law programs, which established certain standards in the production of studies on comparative law and institutions. Most staggering is the number of registered doctoral theses in the field of Law, close to 28%. The comparative component is very important in the composition of European studies in Brazil and this survey demonstrates a tendency to value aspects of regulatory processes of integration and the comparison between European institutions and its normative dimensions, and the integration agenda of South America, in particular those of Mercosur. In that universe of 139 jobs, about 30% lend themselves directly to the specific comparison between European interactions and sub-regional south-American, it has tended to produce the same results as Law-related programs, but however in Political Science, International Relations, Sociology and Economy,

etc. From that universe of 139 theses, about 30% are specifically comparisons between European integration and sub-regional South American and was also produced programs in the area of law, but also in Political Science and Relations, Sociology, Economics etc.

There are also a considerable number of dissertations produced in this period drawing upon themes of European integration. It reached around 542 theses, which follows the general trend observed in the development of doctoral theses: from that total, about 44% were produced in graduate programs of law and the others from Political Science and International Relations.

Two important facts may explain the growth of European studies in Brazil. The first relates to the growth of the system of graduate in the country, especially in important areas such as Political Science and International Relations, whose programs have produced a growing number of high quality theses and dissertations that can be entered into European field studies. This area has experienced, since the beginning of the last decade, impressive growth but whose pace has not cooled enough and was very popular due to the opening of undergraduate and graduate courses in public universities and some of the more established private institutions (for example, Catholic universities). There are currently in Brazil, according to the Coordination of Improvement of Higher Education Personnel - CAPES, 36 graduate programs of Political Science and International Relations, of which 12 are exclusively for International Relations – while the rest, typically of Political Science, have concentration areas or lines of research regarding International Relations⁴.

³ "Banco de Teses" is a database supported by the Coordination of Improvement of Higher Education Personnel – CAPES and is available at: <http://capedw.capes.gov.br/capedw/>. The data was gathered on December 2012.

⁴ Data available at the CAPES website - <http://www.capes.gov.br/cursos-recomendados>, gathered on December 2013.

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The second fact relates to the impact that the sophistication of the European integration process has had on the structuring of professionals' research agendas, research groups and postgraduate programs throughout Brazil, in all areas. Thus, the problems and limits of the agenda of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the challenges of institutional structure, enlargement processes, the impact of agricultural policy impasses observed in the development of multilateral trade negotiations, amongst many other dynamics that characterize the political and economic development process of European integration, has fueled a wider interest for European studies in Brazil.

It can be argued that recent studies move beyond the basic menu of institutional comparison, the origin of norms, etc., and expand a country's political, strategic and economic agenda to match the growing complexity of integration processes and its own insertion into the international system.

Scientific publications, in a way, reflect this growing dynamism and highlight the fact that European studies is not an autonomous field in Brazil because there are no journals specializing in European studies (despite the high number of scientific journals published in Brazil, especially in the humanities), it is necessary to collate the published production vehicles in areas where there is production of these and dissertations on European issues (Law, Economics, Geography, Sociology, Political Science and International Relations).

There are no detailed surveys of published articles focusing on European issues in journals typically linked to these areas, but there are steps being taken regarding this field in two principal International Relations publications in Brazil, which have produced

constant advancements in this field of inquiry. The numbers of the two principal journals are not impressive, but reflect the observation that the development of European studies is growing. *Contexto Internacional Journal*, according to a survey completed by Andres Malamud and Miguel de Luca (available in the previous chapter of this book), ran 21 articles from 1985 (founding year of the journal). The Brazilian International Politics Journal (RBPI) was founded in 1958 and is one of the most traditional journals in Brazilian International Relations, it has published since its inception 38 articles that could be listed as European studies focused⁵. A relatively simple indicator of the growth in the supply of publication spaces is financing by European actors, special editions with thematic supplements in the principle humanities journals. Considering that some of humanities journals try to attain a level of sophistication internationally, this could be strategic to secure rapid growth, as well as national and international visibility.

The scenario of monographic studies published in book form is slightly different. Admittedly, there are no collections or consolidated series focused on European studies by Brazilian publishers, but reproduces this topic of scientific literature in general, related to European issues. There are good books being published in the area of law, especially, those, which reaffirm the perception that the community is even, specialized prolifically⁶. More recently studies have been published on more general history. Regarding European integration processes and its socio-political institutional arrangements. It is understood that there may not

⁵ Information gathered by the author based on the data available at the RBPI's website – at <http://www.scielo.br/rbpi>. The data was gathered on December 2012.

⁶ During the last ten years Brazilian publishers released a number of books focused on the normative dimension of the European integration process. Editora Juruá (Curitiba, Paraná) is the best example.

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be space for the launch of commercial collections or special thematic series, but the growth of this field in Brazil will probably also pass by also offering opportunities for publishing at a high level – which could be added to a reassessment of the traditional forms of research and funding in the field in Brazil.

Conclusion

The challenges to consolidation of European studies in Brazil are still great. In fact, the field does not appear autonomous in Brazilian academia, but it is evident that it has great potential for rapid development, given current conditions, such as the growth of dedicated intelligence and the quality of institutional arrangements.

The observed reality points to the existence of structural deficiencies that can be addressed in the medium term, such as the structuring of specialized graduate programs in European studies, perhaps in simpler and cheaper arrangements than the current methods of the Institute of European Studies, who knowingly employs many resources for a single initiative. Another possibility for rapid growth is the development of direct lines of research and specialized areas of concentration in graduate programs in various areas, which can deliver much more lasting and effective results for the consolidation of the field in the country.

This improvement in conditions for research promotion can also be an important introductory element, and perhaps reflect a shift in the global model used by the European Commission, which could be considered for action, with the possibility of a resource association with agencies that promote Brazil's development. The National Council for Scientific and Technological Development - CNPq and the Coordination of Improvement of Higher Education Personnel

- CAPES, have extensive experience in managing the financing large integrated research projects and staff training and are experienced in the management structures of cooperation lines this nature, including the transfer of large amounts of resources.

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