Summary

The *Leitorado Brasileiro* program of the Guimarães Rosa Institute, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, aims to disseminate the Portuguese language and Brazilian culture through various scientific and educational activities and cultural events. Since November 2022, Marília Pinheiro Pereira, who holds a master's degree in languages from the Federal University of Bahia, has been heading the Brazilian chapter of the HCIAS at Heidelberg University. For the next four years, she promises activities that encompass subjects related to Brazil in its different perspectives.

Leitorado Brasileiro

The *Leitorado Brasileiro* Program, supported by the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, since 2022, part of the Guimarães Rosa Institute, aims to spread the Portuguese language and Brazilian culture at several universities around the world by promoting cultural, scientific, and educational activities. The first *Leitorado Brasileiro* position was created in 1953 at Sorbonne University in France. Currently, 70 years after its creation, there are 30 *Leitorados Brasileiros* spanning all continents.

Portuguese has more than 270 million speakers and is an official language in nine countries, namely: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Principe, and East Timor, is the fifth-most-spoken native language in the world, is widely used on the Internet, and is the 17th-most-spoken foreign language globally. Thus, the *Leitorado Brasileiro*, through its employ of Brazilian teachers, intends to increase the visibility of the Portuguese language and its various cultures, with a greater focus on distinctly Brazilian subjects.

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world and the largest and most populous country in Latin America, with over 213 million inhabitants. The mixture of the local native population with immigrants from all parts of the world has led to the extraordinary cultural and linguistic diversity of Brazil. The *Leitorado Brasileiro* thus aims to foster dialogue between languages
and cultures and is working to raise awareness of Brazil's diversity through teaching and research.

At Heidelberg University, the Leitorado Brasileiro is affiliated with the Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS), which promotes various courses, cultural activities, and research opportunities. Among these activities are courses on the Portuguese language, intercultural competence, and Brazilian culture and society. To learn more about the courses and events being offered, visit the homepage of the Leitorado Brasileiro program of Heidelberg University.

Marília Pinheiro Pereira, who holds a master’s degree in language and literature (foreign language - German and vernacular literature and Portuguese as a foreign language), has lead the Leitorado Brasileiro at Heidelberg University since November 2022. Born in Salvador da Bahia, she is finishing her doctoral dissertation on the topic of teaching Portuguese as a heritage language in Germany with the Postgraduate Program in Language and Culture at the Federal University of Bahia.

For the next 4 years, as a lecturer at Heidelberg University, Marília Pinheiro Pereira intends to promote different activities covering subjects related to Brazilian society, Brazilian immigration to Germany, Portuguese as a heritage language, the production of didactic materials, as well as the exchange of information and knowledge about the Portuguese language, Brazilian literature, and culture. If this is of interest to you, do not hesitate to contact her.

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