

Workshop

Basic Income Social Policies in Practice: Learnings from Maricá and Niterói in Dialogue with the Global North

Since the early 2000s, the emergence and continuous growth of cash transfer programs define the main stage in the discussion surrounding the future of social protection. While established first in Latin America, programs focussing on direct cash transfers have spread throughout various countries and contexts. Parallely, a debate developed on the advantages and disadvantages of the conditionality and unconditionality of cash transfers as social policy mechanisms.

The municipality of Maricá established the *Renda Básica de Cidadania* in 2013 and since then, expanded it majorly. Today, it is the largest basic income program in Latin America. It is based on the circulation of a digital community currency, called *mumbuca*, which creates a broad network of local exchange within the municipality. Meanwhile, the *Moeda Social Arariboia* in Niterói was established in its current form in 2022. While the Niterói policy carries some similarities with the policy in Maricá, it also differs in various points.

The goal of creating a social protection net brings both of them together. But what does this mean in practice? What are the impacts of these policies? How does the receiving of *mumbuca/arariboia* translate into the local economy? What difficulties and chances arise through the policies? How do these policies relate to ideas of solidarity economy? This workshop plans to look at the current state of implementation, evaluation, and research on the social policies in Maricá and Niterói, aiming to give an overview, relate to basic income ideas, and create a broad spectrum of exchange likewise.

Further, while innovative and ground-breaking, the policies of cash transfer *cum* local currency, as implemented in Maricá and Niterói, share features with policies, pilots, and experiments implemented throughout the world, particularly in the Global North. The second main objective of this workshop is to offer an opportunity for international researchers and policymakers based in Europe and the USA to talk about similar experiences observed elsewhere and to contribute to local researchers and policymakers to take stock of the virtues and limitations of the policies that are active in Maricá and Niterói currently.

Date/Location

When? August 3rd, 2023, 09:00 am – 06:00 pm

Where? UFF, Gragoatá-Campus, Bloco F, R 407

Further Remarks

Please, note that this workshop will take place in English. It will be held exclusively offline/in person at the location named above.

The organizers do not and shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, colour, national origin, gender, disability, or age (and any other bases you wish to include) who wish to participate in this event.

Schedule

09:00–09:30	Welcome by Fabio Waltenberg (CEDE/UFF) and Fabienne Hansen (FRIBIS/UFF)
09:30–11:00	1 Basic Income in Brazil: Current Debate and Learnings from Maricá Chair: Leandro Ferreira (Brazilian Basic Income Network)
	Cash Transfer & Local Currencies Implications on Climate Change Eduardo Diniz (FGV)
	Who is Most Deserving? Discretion and Stigma in the Citizens' Basic Income Program of Maricá, Brazil Fernando Freitas (UFF) and Jéssica Maldonado (UFF)
11:00–11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:30–13:00	2 The Arariboia Social Currency and its Experiences in Niterói Chair: Isabela Fernandes (UFF)
	Programa Moeda Social Arariboia: What's Behind the Program and Lessons from the Implementation Evaluation Ariana Britto (J-PAL Brazil)
	Embedding a Digital Community Currency into the Cityscape? Communication and Visibility of Niterói's Moeda Social Arariboia Fabienne Hansen (FRIBIS/UFF)
13:00–14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:00–15:30	3 Basic Income in Times of Emergency Chair: Fabio Waltenberg (CEDE/UFF)
	Having One's Cake and Eating It? Emergency Basic Income and Universal Basic Income as Pandemic Social Protection Instruments Jurgen De Wispelaere (University of Freiburg)
	Viral Cash: Pandemic, Politics and the Diffusion of Basic Income Pilots in the U.S. Marc Doussard (Illinois Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies)
15:30–16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00–17:30	4 Basic Income Social Policies in Dialogue Chair: Fabienne Hansen (FRIBIS/UFF)
	A Social Contract Investigation into People's Willingness to Implement Basic Income in Maricá and Niterói Tobias Jäger (FRIBIS)
16:00–17:30	UBI as a Tool for Conflict Transformation: Testing a Real Peace Dividend in Northern Ireland Patrick Brown (Northern Ireland Assembly)
	Final Remarks by Eduardo Suplicy (State Congressman in the São Paulo Assembly, Former Senator)