

# Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of São Paulo (IEA): commitments\*

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IN PRESENTING the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) at Princeton, Peter Goddard wrote that his Institute was still “small and flexible,”<sup>1</sup> as Abraham Flexner would characterize it. We could also apply this formula to the IEA, perhaps in a more appropriate manner, adding that it is small and *brave*. Created 25 years ago with an enthusiasm reflected in the texts of its first founding committees, the IEA continues to play its role in bringing together researchers and discussing perspectives and ideas relevant to the University and to Brazil. The institute is defined by its commitments (hence the use of the word in the title): not only a commitment to knowledge and to the University, but also to social issues, the responsibility to *take part*.

The motto of the Peter Wall Institute for *Estudos Avançados* in Canada, “*Where converging minds freely explore*”, grasps well two modes of action of any IAS: to provide a context for gathering together people with different backgrounds and ideas and allowing them to freely orient their thinking toward new subjects, while keeping the necessary expertise, using that which is unconventional as a starting point.

These ideas are both old and new. They trace back to the tradition of pursuing knowledge in particular groups and environments (perhaps as ancient as Aristotle and the Lyceum). Their archetypal image is based on the IAS at Princeton or the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin. When it comes to the IAS, everyone thinks of Princeton, Einstein and other distinguished visitors. However,

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\* Here I present selective and personal notes about my experience as director of the Institute. In some of the events included in this paper, I do not mention partnerships with other USP and outside institutions, which were many and always relevant, and I also could not render justice to all of those who contributed and still contribute to the life of the Institute. I would like to thank deputy directors Hernan Chaimovich and Luiz Roberto Giogetti Britto, the members of the Deliberative Board, all IEA researchers, and particularly Marilda Gifalli, Mauro Bellesa, Tizuko Terezinha Sakamoto Imamura, Fatima Moreno, and all of those at the IEA who have always done their best.

these institutes hold in themselves a remarkable modernity. At the 2010 meeting held in Freiburg at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, which was attended by 32 Institutes for Advanced Study from all over the world, I was surprised to notice that our IAS was the second oldest, after the Stanford Humanities Center, founded in 1980, and the Peter Wall Institute for *Estudos Avançados* (Canada, 1991). Then followed, among others, the Collegium Helveticum (Switzerland, 1997) and the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (South Africa, 1999) and, some years later, the Freiburg Institute for *Estudos Avançados* (Germany, 2007), the Réseau Français des Instituts d'Études Avancées (2007) and the newly founded Center for *Estudos Avançados* at Unicamp (2010).

This paper shows the extent to which the initiative of creating the IEA was a pioneer project. It also shows that there is a special demand for integrative centers for advanced science within today's University. This demand has been driven, among other factors, by the significant increase in worldwide scientific production, which sets more stringent quality criteria and places special value on the type of creative knowledge that stands out in the vast array of publications issued every year in each area. Moreover, one should take into account the increased interface between traditional areas of science, an interpenetration trend that has even given rise to new research fields. Never before had interdisciplinarity or transdisciplinarity<sup>2</sup> been put into practice in such a concrete manner. In psychology, which is my field of study, the knowledge of brain functioning provided by new scanning techniques has changed current thinking about cognition and emotion and also led to investigations in which both aspects (physiological and behavioral) are placed in a context where languages and techniques merge together. IAS are an appropriate forum for this innovative and conceptual testing, and can play the uniting role required for the new University to offset the inevitable trend toward specialization.

For the IEA and other Brazilian IAS, the challenge lies in propelling themselves onto the current stage of scientific development in Brazil and abroad. Brazilian science is experiencing an unprecedented<sup>3</sup> upward trend that has made us interesting interlocutors; we are no longer just consumers of knowledge produced in other centers. New strategies are required. International cooperation agreements are a clear indication of a way of doing science that transcends older production models. Last year, for example, we hosted at IEA the 2010 Saint-Hilaire Colloquium, the first journey for French-Brazilian scientific cooperation on the Humanities and Social Sciences, an initiative developed by the French Embassy with the support of USP and CAPES that will allow the publication of work carried out by French/Brazilian teams. Hervé Therry from the IEA played a significant role in this initiative; he was the one who suggested that the program should be named after Auguste de Saint-Hilaire, a French naturalist who traveled extensively throughout Brazil. Also in 2010, special mention should be made of the creation of the Brazil-Europe Institute, subsidized by the

European Union, with the participation of USP. Through its Executive Provost for International Relations, the University of São Paulo (USP) has been laying the groundwork for internationalization, a process in which IEA participates by vocation. Within the University, the challenge for us is to take part in the development of a University as big and important as USP,<sup>4</sup> not as a separate institute, but as a forum for convergence and innovation.

### **Advanced knowledge**

IAS are expected to achieve remarkable progress in terms of knowledge, more on the theoretical and conceptual side than on that of empirical research. Innovation in ideas and interpretation models is what matters. In the imagery of IAS lies an epistemology of risk and free exploration, the idea that doing science is not just about applying a paradigm, but rather extending it to different fields (even those outside its strict domain, in which case there is an interdisciplinary intention) or, at most, putting it into question. A (certain) creative disorder, including that arising from the clash of differing ideas, is welcome. We have seen this spirit in some groups at the Institute, including in a newly-established one whose intention is stated in its own title (Unconventional Nuclear Astrophysics Research Group) and also in the more traditional work developed by the Logic and Theory of Science Group on the issue of non-classical logics, inspired by the thinking of Newton da Costa.

New and surprising aspects of science have been presented at the IEA within the “Advanced Science” cycle, which is dedicated to Brazilian scientists and was opened this year as part of the Institute’s 25<sup>th</sup> year celebrations. We have had lectures by Miguel Nicolelis (Duke, USA/ International Institute of Neuroscience, Natal), “Computing with neural populations”;<sup>5</sup> John E. Steiner (USP), “Black Holes: seeds or cemeteries for galaxies?”;<sup>6</sup> “The emergence of syllables in spoken languages: ontogeny and phylogeny?”;<sup>7</sup> Sérgio Danilo Pena (UFMG), “Genetic structure and composition of the Brazilian people”;<sup>8</sup> Roberto Lent (UFRJ), “How many neurons do you have? Some dogmas in neuroscience under review”;<sup>9</sup> and other lectures will be delivered by Didier Demolin (USP and GIPSA-lab, Grenoble), “Animal communication and human language”; Hugo Aguirre Armelin (Butantan Institute), “Cell-cycle control: From molecule to cell”; Marina Massimi (USP, Ribeirão Preto), “Psychological Knowledge in the history of Brazilian culture”.

Foreign researchers have brought information and questions about modern areas of science and society, among whom Ignacy Sachs (Ecole des Hautes Etudes des Sciences Sociales, France); Hugh Lacey (Swarthmore College, USA); Jerry Hogan (University of Toronto, Canada); Pier Luigi Luisi (University of Rome III, Italy); Stanislas Dehaene, Roger Chartier (Collège de France); Marcelo Gleiser (Dartmouth College, USA); John W. Wenzel (State University, Ohio, USA); Vincent Fourcassié (Université Paul Sabatier, France); Robert Trivers (Rutgers University, USA); Antonio Novoa (University of Lis-

bon); Lorenzo Agar Corbinos (University of Chile); Peter Burke (University of Cambridge, UK); Martha Schteingart (Colegio de Mexico); Tom Wenseleers (University of Leuven, Belgium); Sheila Jasanoff (Harvard University, USA); Philippe Rochat (Emory University, USA); Carlos Bertulani (Texas A&M University, USA); and Francisco Javier Guevara Martinez (Autonomous University of Puebla, Mexico).

It is amazing how much we can learn from a lecture, even when the subject falls out of our field of expertise; perhaps the benefit lies precisely in the fact that the subject is new and in unexpected convergences with prior knowledge. Speakers set up their research workshop and lead us to participate in the achievements and also uncertainties on various topics, ranging from aspects that make life an emerging phenomenon to reform proposals for the Brazilian political system; from the brain basis of mathematical intuition to ethical problems of using humans in medical research. They also raise ideas about what can be done. In a recent lecture delivered at the IEA, Russell Mittermeier, president of Conservation International and a renowned primatologist (on that same day, he had been awarded the João Pedro Cardoso Medal by the Government of the State of São Paulo), showed the status of biodiversity conservation by presenting figures and cases from his years of experience and indicated possible strategic paths. I was encouraged by his positive analysis of the Brazilian case and his conviction that Brazil will play a leading role both as a megadiverse country and a model for environmental protection in the decade of global biodiversity that has just begun. Different ideas came up about future study projects for the Institute.

Almost all events organized or supported by IEA are broadcast live, making room for a virtual audience. The questions coming from afar show how far the conference room can be expanded and democratize the debate: knowledge has to leave its chalk circles. We record almost all lectures, round tables, conferences and other meetings. The records are edited and stored in a media library accessible to anyone who visits the IEA website. One immediate advantage is to allow users to make online consultations, and the other is that a very rich archive of the University's thinking and of our culture's history has been created over the years. We are currently scanning a first set of analog audio recordings made over two decades. I believe they will draw a lot of interest once they are available *online*.

I would also like to emphasize the important role of *communication* in the project of any IAS: not only essential communication addressed to restricted audiences, but communication designed to give visibility and generate interest among a broader segment of the population. Among other tasks, the Institute's communication department has been responsible for producing a newsletter called *Contato*, redesigning the *website*,<sup>10</sup> and implementing projects for publishing institutional material.

## Public and strategic

The idea that the pursuit of knowledge in an IAS, including of social demands for application, should be free stems from the Princeton archetype. In his famous 1939 article, “The usefulness of useless knowledge”, Flexner<sup>11</sup> advocates the knowledge obtained from a free intellectual movement and shows how major contributions in physics, mathematics and other fields have derived from curiosity and from the desire to find principles, which are basic scientific motivations. It is a fine article that should always be discussed when analyzing the University’s purposes.

The goal of pursuing pure knowledge also served as an initial impetus for the creation of the Institute. However, *right from the beginning* it chose to follow the path of academic reflection applied to socially relevant problems – and this is one of the characteristics that make it a pioneering institution. We can see that this choice is clearly stated in the fourth item of the statutory duties of the first IEA, namely, “Encouraging studies on policies for developing science, technology and culture in general and on *the social use of knowledge, with the aim of* establishing a stronger link between the University and society” (emphasis added).

Jeremias José de Oliveira Filho, an active participant in the IEA since its inception, told me that José Goldemberg expressed the following opinion in one of the meetings of the founding committee of the institute: “the IEA should discuss public policies!”. At the time, Jeremias was against this idea, fearing that the IEA could be influenced by political parties and groups. Recalling it, he has recently said: “The idea of discussing public policy turned out to be a success. The Institute has never been instrumentalized; all attempts have failed.”<sup>12</sup> The IEA is still a “non-instrumentalized” territory. Two seminars, “The National Congress within the context of coalition Presidentialism”, in 2010, and “Political reform: electoral system under discussion”, in 2011, coordinated by José Álvaro Moisés, were attended by politicians with different ideas and from different parties, and yet the discussion was at all times characterized by freedom of expression and academic intention.

As with scientific discussion, the discussion about public policies adopts an interdisciplinary and free exploration approach: the subject and type of analysis change, the background is strategic, and different information is used to evaluate the state of affairs and guide institutional actions. To paraphrase Flexner, the focus is on *the usefulness of useful ideas, analyzing* social issues in a scientific way.

Producing social changes is not a direct goal – this responsibility rests with those who hold the position and power to do so. Rather, it is about developing proposals and exploring dialogue with institutions. Different government sectors have shown growing interest in discussing major issues with academic institutions, such as climate, nutrition, violence, education, poverty, etc. A prime example is a recent statement by the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of

Science and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences on the Forest Code that government decisions on this issue must be taken in the light of current scientific and technological knowledge.<sup>13</sup> And it is at this interface that analysis and discussion take place in scientific societies and Institutes of Advanced Studies.

There is no consensus about it. Few are the international IAS for which the discussion of major public issues is a key goal. Frick, Dose and Ertel do not mention it in their survey, they only indicate that “some institutes emphasize their role as public think tanks and are very committed to planning more far-reaching social events”. Some people think that social issues should be addressed by other bodies, restricting the role of IAS to science as such. At the IEA, we think different. We believe that, by taking part in important discussions, the Institute fulfills the University’s role in shaping the country and contributing toward the promotion of justice, well-being and social progress. It is significant that when a discussion with eight USP dean candidates was organized at the IEA on October 8, 2009, the chosen subject for reflection was precisely “USP and society.”<sup>14</sup> A similar interest in strategic problems is shared by the Multidisciplinary Center for *Estudos Avançados* of the University of Brasília (UnB) and, more recently, by the Center of *Estudos Avançados* at Unicamp.

### **Between science and public policy**

The Institute has carried out several activities in the area of public policy and strategic thinking, such as the emblematic project ‘Floram’, developed in 1990, that focused on afforestation and carbon sequestration and was a pioneer in addressing today’s environmental issues.<sup>15</sup> A master’s thesis defended at USP about the twenty years of the Floram project indicates that its proposals are still recognized as a valid means to ensure a low-carbon economy and that “its full implementation would promote economic, environmental and social development, one of the Project’s assumptions.”<sup>16</sup>

Four projects developed by IEA at the interface of science and public policy provide insight into the relevance of this approach; here I will mention those in the areas of Environmental Services, Environment, Health, and Innovation.

The project<sup>17</sup> developed by the research group Ecosystem Services is in line with the spirit of the Floram project with respect to the concern for the environment and to a proposal for implementing a national project. It addresses the key and yet little-known issue of pollination. Bees and other pollinators have a direct impact on biodiversity and food production, so a decline in their population is a threat that requires the implementation of new management procedures. An upcoming book edited by Vera Lucia Imperatriz-Fonseca, Dora Ann Lange Canhos, Antonio Mauro Saraiva de Araujo Alves and Denise, *Polinizadores no Brasil: contribuição e perspectivas para a biodiversidade, uso sustentável, conservação e serviços ambientais* (*Pollinators in Brazil: contribution and prospects for biodiversity, sustainable use, conservation, and environmental services*) addresses this need and promises to be a landmark in the area. It combines research and

strategic thinking: 84 researchers from 40 institutions in many Brazilian states present scientific results and, in the book's final chapters, a management proposal that can serve as the basis for public policy for managing pollinators.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Conference on Climate Change, organized by the research group Environmental Sciences in 2009, addressed the issue of climate change-related impacts in South America; the texts can be found in an online book published by the IEA, 2009.<sup>18</sup> The texts of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference on Global Change, held in 2011, will be published by the IEA as an online book in 2012. The participants of these conferences include research institutions and private sector and civil society organizations seeking viable and socially constructive scientific solutions to environmental challenges.

The WG on Nutrition and Poverty tackles the pressing issue of malnutrition in extremely poor populations in Brazil, adopting a multidisciplinary approach that always seeks to reach out to underserved populations. Its book *Desnutrição, pobreza e sofrimento psíquico (Malnutrition, poverty and psychological distress)*, which has been recently published by EDUSP and relied upon the contributions of more than twenty authors, is the result of a pioneering research effort that focuses on social, biological and behavioral aspects as elements for diagnosis and public action.<sup>19</sup>

The Center for Innovation and Competitiveness has established links with public entities, such as the Brazilian Agency for Industrial Development and the Center for Strategic Studies and Management, and has played an active role in the development of research and analysis on innovation and society. One of its studies, which is innovative in itself, compares different innovation strategies adopted by seven countries.<sup>20</sup> The Center has developed a comprehensive research project aimed at creating two general indices – one on innovation and another on engineering – relevant to the assessment of changes and advances in the productive area. The project was approved in 2011 by the Provost for Research under an invitation for bids issued by the USP Research Support Centers.

### **Environment**

Without mentioning partnership credits (but certainly recognizing them), here are some examples of the Institute's activities on environmental issues:

*Water* (participation of the Environmental Sciences working group in the Waterlat network, which brings together researchers from Latin America and Europe dedicated to the analysis of issues related to the political ecology of water); *climate* (Climate and development: on the way to Copenhagen), symposium attended by the British Minister for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Miliband; *sustainable development* (Young people and the sustainable development challenge), lecture delivered by Senator Marina Silva; *energy* (Pre-salt at USP cycle); *Solid waste* (Urban solid waste and its environmental impacts); *Amazon* (Managing the Amazon: corporate actions, public policies: studies and proposals; Water resources management in the Amazon Basin); *extreme events* (Ex-

treme events in Brazil: causes and impacts), and the debate on (Nuclear energy: from anathema to dialogue), which had been scheduled before the Fukushima nuclear disaster – based on a book edited by José Eli da Veiga – and coincidentally took place soon after the accident, at a more than appropriate moment; *public policy* (Public policy, territoriality and social participation: dialogue on the floodplain of Tietê River); (The Brazilian forest code: between production and environmental conservation”)<sup>2</sup>, etc.

Our seminars give the utmost importance to strategic intent, including the “2010-2012 Colloquium: a Promising Period for Brazil? – a Tribute to Jose Goldemberg”, held in 2008;<sup>22</sup> and “Environmental challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – a Tribute to Aziz Ab’Saber”, in 2009.

### **Human and Social Sciences**

Below are also some examples of contributions in the field of Human and Social Sciences that have received attention by the Institute, balancing the focus on natural sciences.

Working Group on Current Education Issues: Formative Sense of the Humanities and Sciences cycle; Working Group on Intercultural Dialogue (International Seminar on Interethnic relations and experiences); Working Group on Social and Environmental Psychology (exchange with the University of Puebla, comparative analysis of cities and social groups); Bernardo O’Higgins Chair (coordinated by André Eduardo Aguirre Antunez: academic exchange on psychology with the University of La Frontera, Chile); Elderly population in Brazil (coordinated by David Braga Jr: series of seminars on the demographics, health, and behavior of elderly people); UNESCO Chair on Education for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy and Tolerance (coordinated by Sérgio Adorno: symposia and lectures including “*La catégorie interculturelle juridicité comme dans le contexte of mondialisation*”, Étienne Le Roy, University of Paris I, “Genocides and political violence in a new political order”, Marina Calloni, University of Studies of Milano-Bicocca).

### **IEA Centers**

I remember the surprise of Sujian Guo, from the Fudan Institute for *Estudos Avançados* in the Social Sciences (China), when he saw numbers related to USP –number of institutes, number of undergraduate and graduate courses, number of teachers and students – and turned to me and said: “I thought our University was big, but yours...!” Perhaps because of the size of USP, we are the only IAS in the world with *centers* in various *campuses*, so as to meet their different needs and promote distributed development. Our first center, established in São Carlos in 1997 thanks to the initiative and vision of physicist Sérgio Mascarenhas (Princeton!), is in full development, with a new headquarters set to be built. It is currently coordinated by Roberto Mendonça Faria, who is also a physicist. Created with the support of Dean Suely Vilela, the second center was

inaugurated on November 4, 2009, and is located in the Ribeirão Preto *campus*. Coordinated by Oswaldo Baffa Filho, it has been gaining momentum with projects to establish research groups and chairs for visiting professors. A minimum personnel infrastructure has been secured, and the construction of a permanent headquarters is under negotiation. An exciting prospect, which is still under discussion, will be the implementation of the Piracicaba-IAS center at the Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture (ESALQ).

### **Reflecting on Brazil: the *ADVANCE STUDIES* journal**

In a recent survey, the *Estudos Avançados* (*ESTUDOS AVANÇADOS*) journal emerged as the second most visited (millions of queries are made) among the journals indexed by Scielo, a position that indicates its importance as an outlet for ideas. As well stated by its editor Alfredo Bosi, it is a journal concerned with “reflecting on Brazil and deeply understanding its present in order to help shape its future.” *Water, Epidemics, International Crisis, Social and environmental theories, Biotechnology, Today’s São Paulo* are some of the topics addressed by the journal, which is in tune with the Institute’s focus on socially relevant issues. The journal’s articles are regularly translated into English for the purpose of reaching out to an international audience. In the near future, I believe the English version of *Estudos Avançados* will continue to grow and constitute a major reference source of Brazilian studies.

### **Research groups**

The Institute has worked mainly through multidisciplinary research groups. Projects are freely structured by the coordinators, who are responsible for choosing members and focal themes. The groups decide and discuss issues at regular meetings, which are also attended by one analyst for communications at the Institute, who provide secretarial and infrastructure support. The richness of the groups stems from their varied composition and from their own mechanism for discussing and generating ideas.

These groups, some of which are in a completion or renovation phase, fall under a broad subdivision of Natural and Life Sciences and Social and Human Sciences, and are listed here along with their coordinators: Environmental Sciences (Wagner Costa Ribeiro); Ecosystem Services (Vera Lúcia Imperatriz Fonseca); Amazon in Transformation: History and Perspectives (Maritta Koch-Weser and José Pedro de Oliveira Costa); Logic and Theory of Science (Jair Minoro Abe); Philosophy, History and Sociology of Science and Technology (Pablo Rubén Mariconda); Unconventional Nuclear Astrophysics (Mahir Saleh Hussein); Center for Innovation and Competitiveness (Glauco Arbix and Mario Salerno); Nutrition and Poverty (Ana Lydia Sawaya); Current Education Issues (Maria Helena Souza Patto); Public Policy, Territoriality and Society (Neli Aparecida de Mello Théry); Intercultural Dialogue (Sylvia Duarte Dantas); Social and Environmental Psychology (Eda Tassara); and Literature and Culture (Al-

fredo Bosi). The 1<sup>st</sup> Intergroup Workshop, scheduled to be held in November 2011, is meant to enhance interactions among researchers.

The Institute has been demanding that the necessary conditions are put in place to receive visiting professors and collaborators on an ongoing basis; it has even influenced the creation of USP grants for visiting professors. The prospects of receiving visitors and collaborators seem to have improved now, as USP shows growing interest in going international and receiving renowned experts in its facilities.

### **Courses**

IAS have a *different* profile from the University's Institutes in that they do not offer undergraduate or graduate courses. Their role is to offer short courses to appropriately fulfill the mission of discussing cutting-edge knowledge and socially relevant issues. The IAS in Jerusalem, for example, offers advanced 4-10 day courses in mathematics, physics etc., sometimes coordinated by Nobel-prize winning professors; courses are part of the routine of Collège de France.

Although no Nobel-prize winning professional was involved, a very successful experience at IEA was the establishment of the São Paulo School of *Estudos Avançados* in Speech Dynamics, with the support of Fapesp and CNPq and under the general coordination of Eleonora Albano (Unicamp).<sup>23</sup> The school mobilized national and foreign professors and had a good audience, well in tune with the spirit of modern University education: crowds of students from different nationalities.

Another graduate-level course was the "First US-Brazil biofuels short course: providing interdisciplinary education in biofuels technology" (Biofuels Network of the US-Brazil Higher Education Council and the Institute of Advanced Studies, supported by Fapesp-BIOEN and CNPq), delivered by professors from both countries to Brazilian and North American students.

"Discovering the Amazon, discovering oneself as a reporter," a course coordinated over successive years by Sérgio Gomes and Pedro Ortiz in partnership with Oboré Special Projects in Communications and Arts, the Army and Air Force Social Communication Center and other institutions, was targeted at journalism graduate students from USP and several Universities in São Paulo, who attended a round of high-level lectures on the Amazon delivered by experts and military officers.

There was also another course, "Philosophy and History of Science," delivered by Fernando Tula Molina from the National University of Quilmes (Argentina).<sup>24</sup>

### **IEA & University**

In 2008, a seminar was held and attended by six USP Deans, Suely Vilela, the then dean, José Goldemberg, Adolfo José Melfi, Antonio Helio Guerra

Vieira, Flávio Fava de Moraes and Jacques Marcovitch (almost a quarter century of management) to address the topic “USP and world-class research universities: priority actions for the next decade.” The meeting symbolically addressed the role of the IEA at the University. The organizers of an international conference in Freiburg distinguished University Based Institutes of Advanced Study (UBIAS) from autonomous institutes such as Princeton’s. University-based IAS are defined according to the University to which they belong.

There are several levels of interaction between the Institute and the University, such as university professors taking part in the institute’s research groups and colleagues being invited as speakers or to participate in roundtable discussions. Many productive partnerships have been established between the Institute and other institutes and university departments (IF, FEA, IB, ICB, IEE, IEB, IP, SIBI, and others) for holding joint symposiums and events or joint programs with international guests.

On occasions, the IEA becomes an appropriate forum for discussing institutional issues related to USP itself, perhaps on account of its atmosphere of neutrality and experience in organizing discussions. In September 2009, a roundtable with an evocative title (“USP needs to change”<sup>25</sup>) was held under the coordination of Renato Janine Ribeiro to discuss issues related to an essay previously published in the media. Janine Ribeiro himself prepared a paper on possible changes in the dean election system that would merit discussion in the IEA style.

Fruitful meetings with directors of USP Specialized Institutes (including IEA), Antonio Vargas de Oliveira Figueira (CENA), Claudio Sergio Pannuti (IMT), José Aquiles Baesso Grimoni (the then director of IEE), José Roberto Machado da Silva Cunha (Cebimar), Maria Ângela Faggini Pereira Leite (IEB), led to the drafting of a paper on the issue of “Diversity and Integration at USP,” which was revised by IEE’s current director, Ildo Luís Sauer, and published in *USP Journal* in July 2011.<sup>26</sup>

In September we were invited by the Provost for Graduate Education Vahan Agopyan and Assistant Dean Arlindo Philippi Júnior to attend a meeting with the chairs of graduate committees at USP units to discuss the possibility of USP preparing a paper to be presented during the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012. At that meeting, in which our participation in major environmental forums (such as Rio 92) was remembered, we were given the responsibility to coordinate the work of the special committee in charge of implementing the project.

The process of integrating our Institute into USP is underway. Contacts have been initiated with the Provost for Research and Culture and Extension, in the person of provost Maria Arminda do Nascimento Arruda; Luiz Roberto Giorgetti de Brit

3to has been working at our Institute in the Research Council alongside Provost Marco Antonio Zago. We are in touch and cooperating with Provost Adnei Melges de Andrade (Executive Provost for International Relations) and have maintained dialogue with Provost Hélio Nogueira da Cruz. As I said at a meeting of former IEA directors with Dean João Grandino Rodas, the Institute's heart is beating at the same pace as USP.

### **Brazilian IAS**

The idea of promoting greater interaction between Brazilian IAS stems from gratifying visits received, as all visitors brought news of relevant activities carried out in other contexts. Apart from Adilson de Oliveira, the then director of the Brazilian College for *Estudos Avançados* of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro - UFRJ, the Institute also received visitors such as Pedro Paulo Funari, director of the Unicamp Center for *Estudos Avançados* (*Centro de Estudos Avançados* - CEAV), and Maurício Alves Loureiro, director of the Institute for Transdisciplinary *Estudos Avançados* (- IEAT) of the Federal University of Minas Gerais. We were coming into contact with the diversified yet consistent nature of national IAS, so it was natural to think of exchanges.

I had the chance to participate in meetings organized by CEAV on two different occasions: at the symposium “Challenges Facing an Institute of *Estudos Avançados* in Brazilian Universities”, in October 2010, which was also attended by Jacques Marcovitch and the scientific director of Fapesp, Carlos Henrique de Brito Cruz, and at the “International Symposium on Advanced Studies-Unicamp”, held in March 2011, also attended by Iris Litt, from the Stanford's Center for Advanced Study, Peter Goddard, from the Princeton IAS, and Eliezer Rabinovici, from the IAS in Jerusalem, apart from study group coordinators at CEAV. Funari and I attended the Freiburg meeting, also in October 2010. Both meetings were attended by Unicamp's Dean, Fernando Ferreira Costa.

I was invited by Maurício Loureiro to participate in the 2010 IEAT Annual Seminar – Retrospect and Prospect, at the Federal University of Minas Gerais. It was a positive experience to get in touch with IEAT researchers and their research topics and interact with UFMG's Dean, Clélio Campolina Diniz, who was present on the occasion.

These contacts resulted in a meeting between Funari, Loureiro and myself at the IEA in June 2011, in which we decided to hold what would be the first workshop of Brazilian IAS, titled “*Estudos Avançados* and University”. This event, to be held in October 2011, will be attended by five institutes: besides those mentioned above, the Latin American Institute for *Estudos Avançados* and Public Policy (*Instituto Latino-Americano de Estudos Avançados e Políticas Públicas* - ILEA) of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) and the Multidisciplinary Center for *Estudos Avançados* (*Centro de Estudos Avançados Multidisciplinares* - CEAM) of the University of Brasilia (UnB).

The presentations will be the following: Maurício Loureiro (IEAT),

“Transdisciplinarity and excellence: IATE’s mission at UFMG”; Guillermo Juan Creus (ILEA), “The Latin American Institute for *Estudos Avançados* and Public Policy”; Pedro Paulo Funari (CEAV), “Considerations on strategic aspects of advanced studies”; Ricardo Caldas (CEAM), “CEAM and prospective studies. “Looking into the future, I will talk about the “Challenges facing the IAS in the twenty-first century”. The possibility of a Brazilian network of IAS will also be discussed.

### **International**

Internationalization has been a present element at the IEA since its inception. We always receive the visit of international researchers for lectures or events; agreements have been signed with College of Mexico, Collège de France and other institutions; and chairs have been created. The cycle “Five centuries of French presence in Brazil,” produced in 2009 by the Brazilian-French Research Center<sup>27</sup> (under the coordination of Gilberto Pinheiro Passos), is one of IEA’s international initiatives whose texts will be published by EDUSP in a book edited by Leyla Perrone-Moisés.

In partnership with College of Mexico, the Institute will implement the project “Urban research compared: São Paulo and Mexico City,” coordinated by Martha Schteingart, from College of Mexico, and Camilla D’Ottaviano, from FAU-USP. Maria Lígia Prado coordinated the College of Mexico/IAS agreement until the middle of this year.

The Congress “University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study in Global Perspective: Promises, Challenges, New Frontiers”, hosted by the Freiburg Institute for *Estudos Avançados* (FRIAS) at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, represented an important turning point. It could not be held in April 2010, its originally scheduled date, due to the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland that brought European airports to a halt. Fifty professors representing 32 IAS from several countries were finally able to meet in Freiburg on October 25-27 of the same year. Pedro Paulo Funari, from CEAV, and I, representing IEA, were the participants from Latin America.

The experience of interacting with colleagues from such different places was rich, as we were able to get in touch not only with a great variety of structures and modes of operation, but also with a profound unity of purpose. Major topics were addressed in thematic sessions, such as: choice of areas of expertise (Technical and Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities); the relationship of each institute with their respective university; the issue of interdisciplinarity; creation of productive research contexts; and funding and its sometimes scarce sources. A greater emphasis was placed on the topic of *cooperation between Institutes of Advanced Studies*. A steering committee, of which I am part, was created to take responsibility for international meetings and for keeping the cooperation on the right track. Werner Frick, Carten Dose and other colleagues from the Freiburg Institute for *Estudos Avançados* have done an excellent work in analyz-

ing the global landscape for IAS using the participating institutions as a basis, pointing out problems, and laying the groundwork for potential development. From an immediate standpoint, we, from the IEA, were able to establish contacts that will certainly yield results in terms of exchange and cooperation.

An immediate outcome of the Freiburg meeting was the organization of the international conference “Social Sciences and Humanities meet the changing world: challenges, opportunities and frontiers” at the Fudan Institute for *Estudos Avançados* in the Social Sciences of the FUDAN University of Shanghai (June 25-26, 2011), to which we were invited by Sujian Guo. Wagner Costa Ribeiro, from IEA, attended the meeting and made a presentation entitled “International environmental policy and the emergence of new powers”, which he also presented at the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Beijing University, at the invitation of Director Tu Weiming. Renato Janine Ribeiro, a member of IEA’s board was unable to attend the meeting at FUDAN University in person, but his paper (“Other cultures come to the political fore”) will also be published in the proceedings of the meeting.

The steering committee made positive decisions at its Shanghai meeting. Werner Frick put forward a proposal for setting up a global network of IAS with a website based in Freiburg and with a logo (with the acronym UBIAS). The next meeting of the steering committee will take place in Delhi in 2012, while the next international conference of IAS will be held at the University of Johannesburg in 2013.

The IEA has experienced a positive uptrend with respect to its internationalization process. The support and partnership of USP’s Executive Provost for International Relations will be essential for this process to be fully completed.

### **Future**

The activities carried out by an IAS have the charm of innovation, non-conventionality and, as is the case with the IEA, of the contact with social problems to which science is tempted to contribute. An IAS represents a special space within the university where the necessary conceptual experimentation can be carried out to advance knowledge in every way possible, and where different perspectives come together not by chance, but as the matrix from which new ideas are originated. There is a special freedom to explore, even if it implies stepping off the path (but isn’t exploration always a step off the path?), and also an understanding that the fields of knowledge, arts and ethics can be seen as a possible synthesis, beyond mere classifications. These perennial university motivations are expressed and *agitated* (an expression borrowed from one of my collaborators) at an Institute of Advanced Studies.

In this paper I wanted to convey the image of an Institute of *Estudos Avançados* that is not only active and diversified, but also exploratory and reflective, focused on building links, friendly, constantly interacting and participating with other sectors of the University, sensitive to social issues and to what is best

and what is right, excellence-oriented, interested in expanding its participation in networks with other Institutes and other institutions of society, and aware of the sense of internationality that has increasingly become the focus of science and culture, while at the same time centered on its own context. Its 25 years of existence are an honor for the IEA and pave the way for further developments, which can be strategically forecasted and planned.

Welcome to the IEA.

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\*I her present the selective and personal notes about the period i was director at the Institute. Not always have i registered the mention of the events held, the partnerships with other institutions of USP and outsiders, ther were many and always essential, and i couldn't do justice to all who have contributed and contribute to the life of the Institute. Thanks go to the vice directors Hernan Chaimovich Giogetti Britto and Luiz Roberto, for members of the Advisory Board, for all researchers of IEA-USP, with special recognition for Marilda Gifalli, Mauro Bellesa and Tizuko Therese Sakamoto Imamura, Fatima Moreno, and all the staff of the IAS that always rolled up their sleeves.

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