

***LET THE DRUMS SOUND: THE TEACHING
OF THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE
HISTORY IN BRAZIL***

**Monica Lima
Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro
(UFRJ)
Brazil**

HISTORICAL CONTEXT (1)

- ✘ Almost 45% of all Africans who were victims of the Transatlantic Slave Trade entered in the Americas through Brazilian ports, and the majority of them stayed in the country
- ✘ Between the end of the XVIII century and the beginning of the XIX century, the centre of the slave trading activity was in Brazil, mostly in Rio de Janeiro city
- ✘ Brazil has today the first place in population of African descendents, outside Africa → almost half of the Brazilian population

CONTEXT (2)

- ✘ Long struggle for a real inclusion of Afro-Brazilian History in the curricula
- ✘ 9 January 2003 : Law # 10.639 made compulsory the teaching of History and Afro-Brazilian Culture in the public and private schools of Brazil
- ✘ June 2004 : the National Council of Education published some orientation to teach Afro-Brazilian and Africa History and to prepare teachers to do it in the schools.

WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT ...

- ✘ Why there was the need for a law to to validate the presence of such an evidently fundamental content in Brazilian History ?
- ✘ > Brazilian history of denial of Africans and African Slavery as fundamental in our history; > academic racism;
- ✘ > elitistic bias of the curricula choices
- ✘ > fear of stimulating conflicts (the myth of our racial democracy would be broken)

BUT...

- ✘ many school teachers do want to change
- ✘ students, inside the University, want to make their studies part of this new approach
- ✘ Black social movement struggles for this

THE MAIN CHALLENGES (HOW TO ...)

- × Prepare the teachers
- × Produce materials, tools
- × Choose the approach and the subjects
- × Dialogue with other disciplines
- × Dialogue with the academic world

SOUNDS OF CHANGE(eight years after ...)

✘ Many projects have been done .

Ex: www.acordacultura.org.br

✘ Some texts have been produced

✘ The subject is 'on the table' of the most important universities and research centers

✘ Some government support has appeared

(but there is still a long way to go...)

THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE...

- ✘ We need to share what we have done in the field
- ✘ We need to learn to work together with other countries
- ✘ We need to establish close communication with the teachers
- ✘ We need to make a strong network connecting us with places and peoples interested in the TST subject

AND MAKING THE DRUMS SOUND...

Prof. Dr. MONICA LIMA
Laboratório de Estudos Africanos
(LEÁfrica)*
UFRJ

*African Studies Laboratory – Federal University of Rio de Janeiro,
Rio de Janeiro - BRASIL