**FRAMES OF A CIVILIZATIONAL ROAD PROJECT: COLONIAL DURABILITY, RACIALIZATION AND URBANIZATION AT THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON**

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**Abstract**

In the process of formation of the Brazilian national state, the Amazon region has been produced as a privileged invented territory of radical othering. During the period of the military dictatorship (1964-1985), a massive state campaign for colonization and occupation of the “Amazon frontier” made more explicit the ideological aspects of this invention. One of the initiatives of the military governments was the construction of the Santarém-Cuiabá road, a huge and expensive infrastructure project justified as a crucial intervention to “integrate the Amazon into Brazil”. The road was open but remained unfinished with poor traffic conditions for decades. In 2019, the reform and completion of this road - today stated as the “soy highway” - became a priority project of the Bolsonaro government.

Through the results of a research work carried out in the context of these recent transformations, I will describe how this project of infrastructure and urbanization actuates on the sedimentation of durable conceptual practices (re)produced to (re)affirm the urgency to develop and civilize racialized people, regions and territories in Brazil, a national-state shaped by the colonial experience. In my PhD dissertation, I will approach the history of construction of the Santarem-Cuiaba road, and its side effects, jointly with migratory experiences of life and work inhabited along cities created or transformed by the project, so to demonstrate how the neoliberal/neocolonial ideals embodied in Bolsonaro’s election have been strengthened on the Amazon region not only by large-scale state interventions, but also through the most ordinary experiences of everyday.