



European Association of Social Anthropologists  
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux

**To: HE President Jair Bolsonaro**

Presidente da República Federativa do Brasil  
Gabinete do Presidente  
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**From:**

Sarah Green,  
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**Re: Concern regarding the planned higher education reforms of the Brazilian government**

15/05/2019

Your Excellency

The Executive Committee of the European Association of Social Anthropology (EASA) wishes to express its deep concern about the proposed reforms of the higher education sector in Brazil. Brazil's humanities and social science departments and scholars currently make a crucial contribution to their academic fields internationally, and these reforms are likely to significantly damage future ability of Brazilian universities to continue to do so. We wish to extend our full support for the national day of action against these reforms planned by colleagues and students for the 15th of May 2019.

The Government-proposed withdrawal of funds for philosophy and sociology, the 30% budget cuts to all federal universities, the curtailing of partially used PhD and MA scholarships and the form in which commercial interests are being introduced to the higher education sector are all likely to severely damage the principles of academic freedom and publicly-led higher education that allows rigorous and open research and learning.

These reforms particularly harm the potential for the humanities and social sciences to provide diverse and critical perspectives that can contribute to the further development of an equal and just society in Brazil. These academic fields foster the ability of all people, in all walks of life, to critically examine the wider social consequences of their actions.

We believe that the planned reforms will severely compromise the independence of social sciences and the academic freedom and autonomy of individual scholars, disciplines and public institutions in Brazil. We urge the government of Brazil to reject these reforms so as to safeguard the democratic social dialogue that is fostered by the humanities and social sciences.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Green  
President, EASA  
On behalf of EASA's Executive Committee