

John D. French is a professor of History and African and African-American Studies at Duke University in Durham North Carolina. After a 1975 Amherst College B.A., he completed an M.A. in the nineteenth century Mexican history at the University of Pittsburgh before defending his 1985 Yale doctorate under Brazilian historian Emília Viotti da Costa. In the fall of 2020, the University of North Carolina Press will publish his fourth book, *Lula: The Politics of Cunning*, which offers the first scholarly biography of ex-president Luis Inacio Lula da Silva from his birth in Pernambuco to his 2018 imprisonment. His earlier books include *The Brazilian Workers ABC* (1992/1995 in Brazil), *Drowning in Laws: Labor Law and Brazilian Political Culture* (2004; 2002 in Brazil), and a coedited volume *The Gendered Worlds of Latin American Women Workers* (1997) in addition to 42 refereed articles and book chapters.

His articles include “Passos em falso da razão anti-imperialista: Pierre Bourdieu, Loïc Wacquant, e o Orfeu e Poder de Michael Hanchard,” *Estudos Afro-Ásiáticos* (2002); “Another World History Is Possible: Reflections on the Translocal, Transnational, and Global,” in *Workers, Across the Americas: The Transnational Turn in Labor History* (2011); “Understanding the Politics of Latin America’s Plural Lefts (Chávez/Lula): Social Democracy, Populism, and Convergence on the Path to a Post-Neoliberal World,” *Third World Quarterly* (2009); and “Social History and the Study of ‘Great Men’? The *Hispanic American Historical Review*, William Spence Robertson (1872-1956), and the Disciplinary Debate about Biography,” *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura* (2013). In 2012, he co-authored “Neoliberalism in Latin America,” a 15,000-word annotated and peer-reviewed contribution to *Oxford Bibliographies Online*.

From 2003 to 2005, he was Treasurer of the Latin American Studies Association as well as serving as director of the Duke Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the Carolina-Duke Title VI Consortium from 2001 to 2004. He ended a five-year term as co-editor of the century-old *Hispanic American Historical Review* in June 2017. His awards, fellowships, and visiting professorships include the SSRC, IAF, Fulbright-Hayes, NEH, ACLS, the National Humanities Center, the University of Richmond, the University of Notre Dame’s Kellogg Institute for International Studies, and the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars.

Over the past six years, he has founded and co-directed the Duke Brazil Initiative, the Global Brazil Humanities Lab of the Franklin Humanities Institute (2014-17), and a collaborative Brazilian/US project on the expansion of higher education access, entitled “The Cost of Opportunity: Social Mobility and Higher Education in Rio’s Baixada Fluminense” (https://sites.duke.edu/project_duke_baixada_project/), which produced a documentary film of the same title that has been shown to thousands of local high school students (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_60ClxvLHY). As a graduate advisor, he has overseen younger scholars working on Bolivia, Brazil (4), Chile, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, Peru, Venezuela, southeastern Pacific marine environmental history, and the intellectual history of early modern Spain.