

# Marcelo Lopes de Souza

## Biosketch



Marcelo Lopes de Souza is a professor of environmental geography and political ecology at the Department of Geography of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro/UFRJ, where he co-ordinates the **Núcleo de Pesquisas em Geografia Ambiental e Ecologia Política/GAEP** (Research Centre on Environmental Geography and Political Ecology). He further co-ordinates the **Rede de Pesquisadores em Geografia (Socio)Ambiental/RP-G(S)A** (<https://geografia-socio-ambiental.webnode.com/>), a network devoted to environmental geography to which dozens of senior researchers and graduate students from eleven universities in Brazil belong.

Marcelo Lopes de Souza holds a degree in geography from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro/UFRJ (1985), a specialisation in urban sociology from the State University of Rio de Janeiro/UERJ (1987), a Master's degree in geography from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro/UFRJ (1988) and a PhD in geography (*Nebenfach* [= minor]: political science) from the Universität Tübingen (Germany) (1993).

He acted as a visiting researcher at the Geography Department of the University of Tübingen (1996 and 2000/2001) and at the Geography Department of the Royal Holloway College, University of London (1999), as well as a visiting professor at the Habitat Unit of the Technical University of Berlin (2005), at the Graduate Program on Latin American Studies of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México/UNAM (2008), at the Europa-Universität Viadrina in Frankfurt [Oder] (2009-2010), at the Colegio de Geografía of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México/UNAM (2012) and at the Department of Political Science and International Relations of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (2013-2014).



Marcelo Lopes de Souza received the first prize of the German Society of Research on Latin America/ADLAF in 1994 for his PhD thesis (which was published in Germany) about the urban question in Brazil, and the Jabuti Award (this prize is given every year to Brazil's best literary and scientific works by the Brazilian Book Chamber) for his book *O desafio metropolitano* (*The Metropolitan Challenge*) in 2001. His book *Fobópolis: O medo generalizado e a militarização da questão urbana* (*Phobopolis: Generalized Fear and the Militarization of the Urban Question*), published in 2008, was nominated for the Jabuti Award in 2009.

Marcelo Lopes de Souza published seventeen books (thirteen monographs and four edited volumes, among them the trilogy *Theories of Resistance*, *The Radicalization of Pedagogy* and *The Practice of Freedom*, edited along with Simon Springer and Richard J. White and published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2016) and more than one hundred and twenty papers and book chapters in different languages (Portuguese, English, German, Spanish, French and Turkish), covering subjects such as epistemology of geography (particularly the nature and prospects of environmental geography), spatial theory,

radical urban planning, social movements theory (focusing especially on the spatial dimension of urban and environmental movements), urban 'utopias'/alternative visions, and urban political ecology. His books include, besides the ones previously mentioned, *Mudar a cidade: Uma introdução crítica ao planejamento e à gestão urbanos* (*Changing the City: A Critical Introduction to Urban Planning and Management*, 2002, 12<sup>th</sup> edition 2018), *A prisão e a ágora: Reflexões em torno da democratização do planejamento e da gestão das cidades* (*The Prison and the Agora: Reflections on the Democratisation of Urban Planning and Management*, 2006) and *Ambientes e territórios: Uma introdução à Ecologia Política* (*Environments and Territories: An Introduction to Political Ecology*, 2019), among others.

Since the mid-1990s, Marcelo has acted as a coordinator or co-coordinator of a number of research projects, funded by the Brazilian Research Council/CNPq, the German Academic Exchange Service/DAAD, the British Academy or the European Union. For instance, he was the Latin American coordinator of the international project 'The Solidarity Economy North and South: Energy, Livelihood and Transition to Low-Carbon Society,' funded by the British Academy (2011-2013), and belonged to the Coordination Committee of the international project 'Contested Cities: Contested Spatialities of Urban Neoliberalism – Dialogues between Emerging Spaces of Citizenship in Europe and Latin America,' funded by the European Union (2012-2016). Furthermore, he is a member of the Organising Committee of the 'Megacity Taskforce' of the International Geographical Union (UGI). He has also received several grants from the Foundation for Research Support of the State of Rio de Janeiro/FAPERJ.



Marcelo Lopes de Souza's projects covered the following themes in the 1980s and 1990s: the spatial practices of emancipative social movements in Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and South Africa; urban violence and the 'militarization of the urban question' in different countries; the potentialities, limits and problems of 'radical planning' and particularly the problems and contradictions of 'participative urban planning and management'; and development theory (examined from a critical and geographical perspective). Since the 2000s and especially since the 2010s, he has increasingly devoted his attention to environmental geography and urban political ecology, with a basic focus on environmental (in)justice and urban-environmental conflicts in Brazil and other Latin American countries.

Marcelo Lopes de Souza is one of the editors of the Brazilian urban studies journal *Cidades* (= *Cities*), and belongs to the editorial collective of the journal *City*, published by Routledge (having acted as associate editor between 2010 and 2019). He co-founded the journal *AMBIENTES: Revista de Geografia e Ecologia Política* (= *ENVIRONMENTS: Journal of Geography and Political Ecology*) in 2018. He also belongs to the Advisory Board of the journals *sub|urban. zeitschrift für kritische stadtforschung* (Germany, since 2012), *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies* (UK, since 2016) and *Territorios* (Argentina, since 2017), among several others. He further belonged to the Advisory Board of *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography* (published by Wiley-Blackwell) between 2010 and 2014. Moreover, he has been a member of the Editorial Board of the Mexican book series *Cómo pensar la geografía*, published by Editorial Itaca (Mexico City) since 2011, as well as a member of the International Editorial Board of the 'Transforming Capitalism' book series published by Rowman & Littlefield International (London) since 2014.



Last but not least, Marcelo has collaborated with urban social movements organisations since the 1980s, especially with different organisations of Brazil's *sem-teto* movement ('roofless' workers' movement, urban counterpart to the better-known landless workers' movement) in different ways, from '*recherche-action*' to the training of activists (within the framework of study groups and political seminars) to the organisation of public events. In recent years, he and his research team have cooperated with (and sometimes belonged to) several organisations and networks of activists devoted to struggles against environmental injustice in Brazil, among them the Rede Brasileira de Justiça Ambiental/RBJA (= Brazilian Network for Environmental Justice).

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[mlopesdesouza@terra.com.br](mailto:mlopesdesouza@terra.com.br)