

The Center, its creation and its evolution

The International Celso Furtado Center for Development Policies was inaugurated on November 22 2005, and its principal mission was to take part in and help enrich the debate regarding different strategies for development, in line with the views of its patron Celso Furtado, and especially that of Brazil and Latin America.

The Center's creation represented an important tribute to the memory of one of the most important economists of the 20th Century. Both an intellectual and a public figure, Furtado became a worldwide reference in the struggle against underdevelopment. For over fifty years, his intellectual output exerted an extraordinary influence on the shaping of a critical conscience in Latin America. We owe him our understanding of the fact that structures of power and production need to be modified in order to enable development to break with the logic of dependence and the concentration of wealth. The asymmetries highlighted by Furtado from the late 1940s on, between nations and within nations, were accentuated by the new conditions imposed by global capitalism. The development agenda assumes there to be on-going adaptations to the transformations that have taken place in the economy and in society in recent decades. However, the challenge remains to build the institutions entrusted with reconciling the creative impulses of private initiative with the republican principles of equality and liberty. This was Furtado's dream and the task that the Center that bears his name has taken upon itself.

Activities

The Center's program has been compiled by its Board of Directors in conjunction with the Deliberative Council, with the approval of the General Assembly, and is being sponsored by its Associate Patrons. The thematic is diverse and encompasses the development in its diverse conceptions, through, for instance, economics, social policies, regional development, South American integration and international economics studies, and also on the works and ideas of Celso Furtado.

Academic activities are focused on seminars, roundtables and conferences. Briefly, in 14 years, the Centre organized:

- *52 seminars and lectures with Brazilian and international teachers on topics such as Regional Development and Environment; Middle Cities; South American integration; Communications and New Media; Health and development; China and South-South relations.*
- *5 conference cycles, including "The Celso Furtado Thought" and "Recent transformations of contemporary capitalism."*
- *9 major international congresses.*
- *5 documentary research: "Memories of development institutions: the BNDES: 1) The role of the BNDE in Brazilian industrialization; 2) Golden developmentalism years: 1950-1980; 3) Between developmentalism and neoliberalismo: 1982-2004 "(4 vol published); "Inflation"; "The South American integration"; "Boêmios Cívicos - the Economic Advisory of Vargas"; "The Celso Furtado's SUDENE".*
- *11 courses, taught in several Brazilian cities, in partnership with universities and academic institutions.*
- *Course "Macroeconomics and development" held in more than twenty cities in partnership with IPEA, state governments and development agencies.*
- *Concession of 36 master's and doctoral scholarships in partnership with the Banco do Nordeste.*

Publications

The Center publishes a six-monthly academic magazine entitled *Cadernos do Desenvolvimento* (Development Journal), which specializes in the interdisciplinary debate on the subject of development. With printed and virtual editions and its own website, this publication offers readers previously unpublished academic articles, reviews and at least one full interview with a proponent of development in Brazil or abroad.

Special editions of the academic magazine *Memórias do Desenvolvimento* (Memories of Development) deal with historical documents and research into the institutions that fund development in Brazil. The Center also has a regular editorial output in the form of three special collections: *Pensamento Crítico* (Critical Thinking), which publishes its own investigative and research projects, jointly published with *Fólio Digital*; with *Editora Contraponto*, *Arquivos Celso Furtado* (The Celso Furtado Archives) which brings to light previously unpublished texts from Celso Furtado's personal archives; and *Economia Política e Desenvolvimento* (The Political Economy and Development), which re-publishes classic works which have disappeared from the shelves, or that by great authors of the present day and that deal with the political economy and development.

Also publish a number of books considered to be seminal to the study of development, such as *Brasil, sociedade em movimento* (Brazil, a society on the move). This work, which in 2015 commemorated ten years of the Celso Furtado Center's activities, is a collection of 45 articles by national and international researchers who reflect on the obstacles, the aspirations and the demands of the Brazilian development model.

Website and social networks

The Center is present on the social networks Facebook and Twitter and runs a Celso Furtado Center Channel on YouTube where it publishes videos of all its events.

The Celso Furtado Center portal has links to other websites, such as that of the activities partners, such the Clube de Engenharia (Engineering Club); Escola de Sociologia e Política de São Paulo (School of Sociology and Politics of São Paulo); Rede de Cidades Médias (Medium-sized Cities Network); Rede de Desenvolvimento (Development Network); Procondel (Sudene document research website) etc.

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