



International Science Council

The global voice for science

Professor Luiz Davidovich
President, Brazilian Academy of Sciences

Professor Miriam Pillar Grossi
President, National Association of Post-Graduation and Research in Social Sciences (ANPOCS)

cc:
Marcos Cortesao Barnsley Scheuenstuhl
Executive Director for International Relations of the Brazilian Academy

Ana Lúcia Pastore Schritzmeyer
Executive Secretary, ANPOCS

Professor Elisa Reis
Vice-President (Social Sciences) of the International Science Council.
Professora Titular, IFCS/UFRJ

Paris, 6 May 2019

Subject: Concern regarding the proposal to withdraw funding for the study and teaching of philosophy and sociology at public universities in Brazil

Dear Professors Davidovich and Grossi

The International Science Council (ISC) values deeply the membership of the Brazilian Academy of Science and the National Association of Post-Graduation and Research in Social Sciences, and the opportunity this has afforded us for increased communication and closer co-operation to foster the development of science via international exchange and collaboration.

In the light of our shared vision to promote cutting-edge science to secure effective and equitable solutions to some of the most urgent problems facing the world in the 21st Century, we note with concern the recent statements of the Presidency of the Republic and the Ministry of Education regarding the proposal to withdraw funding for the study and teaching of philosophy and sociology at public universities in Brazil.

The ISC is the primary international non-governmental organisation bringing together the natural and social sciences, and the largest membership-based science organization of its type. We work actively with our members and partners to provide opportunities for international scientific collaboration, and through our members and programmes, reach hundreds of thousands of scientists working across a wide range of disciplines and representing all parts of the world.

We wish to add our support to the efforts of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and ANPOCS to promote and strengthen the social sciences and the humanities. Philosophy and Sociology are fundamental disciplines of any university, crucial for the development of other sciences. Resources invested in the social sciences and the humanities play an important role in critically thinking about and assessing the human condition and for the understanding, foresight and governance of contemporary societies.

The risk of discontinuing funding for teaching and research in these areas will be the diminution of the interdisciplinary web of ideas critical for generating the interconnected knowledge and skills required both for reflection and for innovation and growth.

Innovations arising from philosophy and sociology and their contributions to multiple disciplinary scientific studies are critical to solving problems facing society, to generating the diversity of ideas and skills that have, and will continue to contribute to Brazil's national development and economic competitiveness.

We believe that diminishing social science and humanities studies will weaken academic excellence of the scholarly tradition of public universities in Brazil.

In this context, please let me know if the ISC can assist you in any way, to preserve and reinforce sociology and philosophy studies and research, and to emphasize the importance of strong and vibrant public universities in Brazil.

Yours sincerely



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