Building a Multi-disciplinary Approach to Assessing the Quality of Healthcare in Brazil
ViA Award, Cycle 2015

What We Do:

• Designing a custom battery of questions for the Latin American Public Opinion Project’s AmericasBarometer survey to measure Brazilian knowledge and attitudes towards active and latent tuberculosis (TB) infection. The survey will be administered to 1,500 people across Brazil in March and April, 2017. Results will allow the study group to stratify responses by geographic region, socioeconomic status, race and sex of respondents, among other factors.

• Executing focus groups in Rocinha, a Rio de Janeiro favela (low income neighborhood) with high TB burden, to collect data about healthcare seeking behavior, as well as knowledge and perceptions of active and latent TB.

• In addition to a semester-long inter-disciplinary course in 2016, six Vanderbilt undergraduates will participate in immersion projects related to this study in 2017.

Why We Do It:

• Treatment and control of TB is a significant concern in Brazil, one of the world’s 20 top TB burden countries. The concentration of high volume, low-income settings like favelas in Brazil provide an environment for continued TB transmission. Insights gained in Brazil could inform improvements in treatment of latent TB infection around the world.

• This study is focused on studying perceptions and knowledge of active and latent TB across the country and in the high burden setting of Rocinha. A second site in Salvador, Brazil may also be included.

• Brazil has one of the most advanced health systems in Latin American and medical care is free of charge, but Brazilians are much less satisfied with healthcare than other Latin Americans. Our group is investigating reasons for Brazilian dissatisfaction with their healthcare.

Who’s Involved?

College of Arts & Science
Marshall Eakin (PI), Professor of History
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Paula Covington, Senior Lecturer at Central Library
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