Monique Carneiro Assunção

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EDUCATION

PhD in Geography and Planning, Queen's University (2022 to December 2026 expected)

Dissertation: Universal by Exception: Racial Uneven Development in Brazil's Water Privatization

Co-supervisors: Dr. Carolyn Prouse and Dr. Dan Cohen

MA in Urban and Regional Planning, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, UFRJ (2020 to 2022)

Graduated with First Class Honours. Thesis: Infrastructure and Land Management: Investments in Water Services under Neoliberalism in Brazil

BA in Public Management for Economic and Social Development, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, UFRJ (2015 to 2019)

Graduated with First Class Honours. Student Representative, Academic Board

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Olen Paul Matthews and Kathleen A. Dwyer Fund for Water Resources Award, Water Resources Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers (2026)
- Invited Participant, 12th Summer Institute in Economic Geography, Toronto (July 2026)
- Graduate Student Research Award, Economic Geography Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers (2025)
- Margaret Anderson Graduate Scholarship, Queen's University (2025 to 2026)
- Bowen Graduate Fellowship in Human Geography, Queen's University (2024)
- CAPES Graduate Fellowship, Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel, Government of Brazil (2020 to 2022)
- Best Graduate Paper Award, IV National Teaching and Research in the Public Sector Meeting, Brazil (2021)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, BLCK/GNDS 280: Special Topics in Gender Studies and Black Studies. Black Feminist Thought: Race, Gender and Development. Departments of Black Studies and Gender Studies, Queen's University (Winter 2027, 4 January to 5 April 2027)

Cross-listed undergraduate course designed from scratch: sole responsibility for the syllabus, reading list, assessment design and delivery.

Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography and Planning, Queen's University (2022 to present)

- GPHY 333, Environment, Markets, and Society (2022, 2023, 2024)
- GPHY 229, Space, Place, Culture, and Social Life (2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)
- GPHY 228, Geographies of the Global Political Economy (Head TA, 2024)
- GPHY 227, Cities: Geography, Planning, and Urban Life (Head TA, 2025)

Guest Lecturer, Queen's University

· The Colour of Debt: The Financialization of Sabesp and Its Social Costs. DEVS 392, The Global Political Economy of Debt, Finance and Development (2025)

· Finance, Infrastructure, and Racial Capitalism in Brazil's Water Sector. GPHY 228, Geographies of the Global Political Economy (2024)

· Designing a Research Framework: Fieldwork, Ethics, and Epistemology in Brazilian Water Politics. GPHY 240, Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Geography (2024, 2025)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed articles

Arefin, M. R., Prouse, C., Wittmer, J., Amin, N., **Assunção, M**., et al. (2025). Making waves: A justice-centred framework for wastewater-based public health surveillance. Water Research, 268, 122747. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.watres.2024.122747

Manuscripts under review and in preparation

Cohen, D., Mahmoudi, D., & **Assunção, M.** (2026). Don't be 'too creepy': Personalized pricing, surveillance, and geography in the corporate enclosure of the common price. Under review, Economic Geography.

Werner, D., Hirt, C., & **Assunção, M**. (2026). Assetização e neoextrativismo urbano no Brasil: o papel do Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social na concessão de saneamento [Assetization and urban neo-extractivism in Brazil: the role of the National Development Bank in water services concessions]. In preparation.

Book chapters

Assunção, M. (2024). The participation of BNDES in the privatization process of water services in Rio de Janeiro. In D. Werner (Ed.), Novos Espaços de Estado [New Spaces of the State] (pp. 106 to 124). Editora Consequência.

Conference proceedings

Assunção, M. (2021). The National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) participation in logistics infrastructure investments, 2002 to 2020. Annals of the IV National Teaching and Research in the Public Sector Meeting (ENEPCP).

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

· The Development Bank and the Racial State: BNDES and the Historical Production of Self and Other in Brazil, 1952 to 1975. Panel: Reclaiming Narratives: Black Youth, Filipino Nurses, and Afro-Brazilians in the 20th Century. Canadian Historical Association Annual Conference, Prince Edward Island (June 2026)

· From Public Good to Private Profit: The Financialization of Sabesp and Its Social Costs. Capillary Critical Geographies Network, Montreal (2025)

· Privatization and Financialization of Brazilian Water Services: The Role of BNDES. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Detroit (2025)

· International Financialization of Brazilian Water Services: Canada, Brazil, and Global Financial Investment. Capillary Network, Carleton University (2023)

· Petrobras in the Geopolitics of Green Capitalism. V Congresso Internacional do Centro Celso Furtado, Rio de Janeiro (2022)

· The National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) participation in investments of logistics infrastructure, 2002 to 2020. IV National Teaching and Research in the Public Sector Meeting, Brazil (2021)

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Global Economies and Everyday Lives Lab (GEELS), Queen's University (2022 to present)

Coordinated by Dr. Beverley Mullings (University of Toronto), Dr. Kesha Fevrier, Dr. Grace Adeniyi-Ogunyankin and Dr. Carolyn Prouse. Research community working on social reproduction, racial capitalism, urban transformation and diasporic experience. Participate in lab meetings, collective reading and collaborative writing on everyday economic practices.

Biosecurities and Urban Governance Research Collective, Queen's University and University of British Columbia (2022 to present)

Coordinated by Dr. Carolyn Prouse and Dr. Mohammed Rafi Arefin (UBC). Co-authored the 2025 Water Research article on wastewater surveillance. Co-organized two international workshops: Moving from Privacy to Justice in Wastewater Surveillance (2023) and Cities and Infectious Disease Crisis: COVID-19 Lessons from Four Continents (2025).

Engine of Inequality?, Queen's University (2024 to present)

Coordinated by Dr. Dan Cohen. Research on inequality and finance in contemporary capitalism, contributing literature reviews and conceptual work on the racialized dimensions of financialization.

Conversations with Regulation Theory Workshop, UBC and UFRJ (2021 to 2022)

Coordinated by Dr. Jamie Peck (UBC) and Dr. Hipólita Siqueira (UFRJ). Bilingual workshop series on state restructuring, neoliberalism and regulation theory, contributing case material on Brazilian infrastructure finance.

Infrastructure and Land Management, IPPUR, UFRJ (2018 to 2022)

Coordinated by Dr. Deborah Werner. Research on privatization and state investment in infrastructure, focused on BNDES and the financialization of Brazil's water and sanitation sector.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

Grant Manager, Abolition Worlds School, São Paulo, Brazil (2026)

Coordinated by Dr. Ruth Wilson Gilmore (CUNY) and Dr. Vanessa Thompson (Queen's University). Coordinated logistics, budget and communication across international collaborators and Brazilian movement partners.

Grant Manager, Cities and Infectious Disease Crisis: COVID-19 Lessons from Four Continents, Urban Studies Foundation (2024 to 2025)

Coordinated the grant application, budgeting, logistics and communication across international collaborators.

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

· Student Coordinator, Studies in National and International Development (SNID), Queen's University (2022 to present). Organize the SNID Lecture Series, coordinate speakers, manage event logistics and communications, and liaise between faculty and students.

· Communications Coordinator, Global Economies and Everyday Lives Lab (GEELS), Queen's University (2022 to present)

- Graduate Student Representative, Department of Geography and Planning (2024 to 2025)
- Graduate Mentor, Faculty of Arts and Science (2025 to 2026)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

ONDAS, Observatório Nacional dos Direitos à Água e ao Saneamento (National Observatory for the Human Right to Water and Sanitation), Brazil

Affiliate of a national network for democratic water governance. Contribute research on the racialized and regional dimensions of water privatization and support community-led advocacy on water services reform.

Just Water Futures Network

Collaborate with researchers and community partners on decolonial and justice-oriented approaches to water governance, connecting Brazilian cases to international movements.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Data Analyst, CapGOV, Government Policy Support Centre, Brazil (2020 to 2022)

Research and data analysis on public policy implementation and state investment strategy, on projects concerning infrastructure governance and social development.

Data Analyst, Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro (2019 to 2020)

Analysis of fiscal and administrative data on infrastructure and service delivery, supporting policy planning and evaluation across state agencies.

Intern in Public Management, National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) (2017 to 2019)

Analysis of investment portfolios and infrastructure financing programmes at Brazil's federal development bank, including the mechanisms structuring privatization and public-private partnerships.

LANGUAGES, METHODS AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Languages: Portuguese (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), French (basic), Italian (basic)
- Quantitative and spatial analysis: linkage of administrative registries to census-tract data, analysis of public lending and tariff records, QGIS and ArcGIS, Power BI, Tableau, Excel
- Qualitative research: semi-structured interviews with institutional actors and residents, archival and policy analysis, document analysis of contracts, tender documents and financial models