

Brazil's October Elections: Bye Bye Bolsonaro?

Dr Deborah Barros Leal Farias, The University of New South Wales

Thursday 22 September 2022: 5pm for 5.30pm – 6.30pm at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

On October 2nd, close to 150 million Brazilians are expected to head to the polls to choose their next president. Assuming no dramatic unexpected event, the competition will be between the incumbent, President Jair Bolsonaro, and former president Luis Inacio 'Lula' da Silva.



President Jair Bolsonaro's most recent term has been defined by numerous controversies, propagating right-wing political positions. His opponent, Luis Inacio 'Lula' da Silva has gained substantial traction as a presidential candidate, given his stance on economic disparity and pledge to tackle hunger. Passionate supporters of both Bolsonaro and Lula represent a substantial portion of the Brazilian public, as oftentimes violent rallies have unfolded in the lead up to the election.

In the aftermath of the accelerated deforestation in the Amazon rainforest and the delivery of a public health response during the COVID-19 pandemic, the outcome of Brazil's general elections will have long-term ramifications for the nation's resilience. Dr Barros Leal Farias will provide an overview of this election in the context of contemporary Brazilian politics.

What are the key principles framing the Bolsonaro and Lula campaigns, and what are their strengths and weaknesses? What kind of future will the outcome of this election secure for the Brazilian public? With growing concerns of political violence, will the events of October enhance or undermine regional security?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Deborah Barros Leal Farias in a compelling discussion about the implications of these contentious elections for Brazilian politics.



Deborah Barros Leal Farias is a Brazilian-born Senior Lecturer at UNSW Sydney's School of Social Sciences, where she teaches Politics and International Relations. She has a multidisciplinary background: PhD in Political Science from UBC (Canada), as well as an MA in International Relations, and bachelor's degrees in economy and in Law from Brazilian institutions. Her current main areas of interest involve international organizations, as well as Brazilian politics and populism.

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