

**INTRODUCTION TO DISCUSSION:
BRAZIL – UNITED STATES COOPERATION IN KANT STUDIES**

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Since September 2005 when the Sociedade Kant Brasileira hosted the X Congresso Kant Internacional, I have been working to increase interaction between Kant scholars in Brasil and in the United States. The papers that follow are one result of that effort. I organized a session of the North American Kant Society held at the Annual Meeting of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association in Chicago, April 20, 2007, with the theme “Kant in Brazil.”

At that session, Daniel Omar Perez presented “Development of Kant Studies in Brazil”, a review of the history of work on Kant from the first documented appearance of a book on Kant on Brazilian soil in 1808 to the present extensive, diverse, and growing work of living researchers. Perez’s paper was based in part on his “Dois Séculos de Leitura de Kant no Brasil” in *Kant no Brasil*, ed. Daniel Omar Perez (São Paulo: Editora Escuta, 2005) and in part on a longer version by him and Juan Bonaccini “Two Centuries of Kantian Studies in Brazil”, forthcoming in English in the book *Brazilian Work on Kant*, edited by Perez and myself (see below for more about this book). Because Perez’s paper is available in other versions in print, it is not included in this discussion in *Kant E-prints*. Similarly, my own contribution to that session, “US-Brazil Cooperation in Kant Studies”, is not included because it involved demonstrations of computer technology that will be applied to the project; however, a summary of the projects is included here (see below).

Darlei Dall’Agnol’s “Kant and Contemporary Brazilian Philosophy” completed the first part of this session. He argued for the value of incorporating work on Kant into Brazilian philosophy. Dall’Agnol does not claim that Brazil has a national philosophy, nor that it should, but rather than Brazilian philosophers must heed Kant’s call to “think for themselves”. He calls for work on Kant to put less stress on exegetical work and put more stress on appropriating resources from Kant’s philosophy to contemporary issues.

The session highlight was the Mary Gregor Memorial Lecture “Kant’s Semantic Turn” by Zeljko Loparic. The Mary Gregor Fund was set up by the North American Kant Society after

the death of noted Kant scholar and translator Mary Gregor in 1994. The fund sponsors a visit from a guest lecturer from outside the United States. Loparic is the first non-German to be invited to give this talk. His paper as well as the commentary by Robert Hanna are included below. Loparic's paper serves as an introduction to his semantic reading of Kant, with a particular application to the first Antinomy.

The session on Kant in Brazil is just one area in which Brazilian work is being presented to U.S. scholars. The forthcoming book *Brazilian Work on Kant* (edited by Perez and myself) will include twenty essays by Brazilian Kant scholars translated into English. This book will be published by University of Rochester Press in the series "North American Kant Society Studies in Philosophy." All members of the North American Kant Society (www.naks.ucsd.edu) will receive free copies of the book as part of their membership benefits, so hundreds of the most active Kant scholars in the U.S. and even overseas will soon be reading some of the best and most influential work of Brazilians.

Another project is the development of a web site devoted to interaction among Brazilian and U.S. Kant scholars. This web site will be in both Portuguese and English. Plans for the website include listings of conferences, colloquia, and other meetings in Brasil and the United States, listings of calls for papers for journals and conferences, a searchable bibliography of work on Kant in Portuguese, and links to other national Kant societies. If possible, the web site will include translations into English of Portuguese-language abstracts and perhaps entire papers, making more work from Brazil available to scholars in the United States. When the website is ready, announcements will be made through the North American Kant Society, Sociedade Kant Brasileira, and other places.

The Kant Congress in São Paulo was a big step toward bringing Brazilian work to the attention of Kant scholars in the rest of the world. By promoting special ties between Brazil and the U.S., I hope we can move closer to an international community of Kant scholars transcending national borders and linguistic differences.