

1968: A Global Perspective

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Two Feminist Moments: Brazil and Portugal in 1968

This presentation will look at two moments in the history of feminism in the Portuguese-speaking world, investigating Brazil and Portugal and their relationship with and response to the 1968 feminist movements in America and Europe (specifically Paris).

Feminist movements are greatly effected by the political climate in which they occur. In 1968, both Brazil and Portugal were dealing with the ramifications of dictatorships. In Portugal, Salazar's regime was coming to an end. In Brazil, the second dictatorial rule was changing command -- Emilio Medici replaced Costa e Silva who was incapacitated by a stroke. Feminist movements in both countries, despite the fact that they are at different stages in their development, maneuver through this dictatorial repression, staking out their own agendas.

This presentation will look at how this moment of feminist revolution in 1968 was a decisive point in determining the future direction of Brazil and Portugal's feminist movement.

The results of the 1968 movements on Brazil and Portugal are significantly different. Despite arriving at revolution and democracy in 1974, Portuguese feminism progressed slowly, especially in comparison to Brazil, which had a dictatorship that persisted until 1985.

Forty years later Portuguese and Brazilian feminism face a similar difficulty: meeting the feminist appeal of 1968.