



Highlighting Rural Researchers

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Alvaro Marques

Communication and Project Management Specialist

GETTING TO KNOW ALVARO MARQUES

Alvaro Marques grew up in the bustling São Bernardo do Campo, within the São Paulo metropolitan area. From a young age, he was deeply attuned to the issues affecting his community and country, igniting a passion within him to contribute to development works. This passion has been a guiding force throughout his educational and professional journey. He first started his academic career at the University of São Paulo (USP). There he pursued studies in communications, paving the foundation for his career in the field. One of Alvaro's earlier positions focused on fostering connections between universities and community. He worked for a national television network whereby he connected with universities to share the work of professors, researchers and students.

Thereafter, Alvaro transitioned to a position as a communication analyst at the Engineering School at USP. During this time, he was able to cultivate an expertise in communication skills while deepening his ties within academia. He spearheaded the production of communication materials, leveraged social networks to amplify outreach efforts, and coordinated various events. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Alvaro embarked on a new chapter in his career, joining the esteemed São Paulo State University (Unesp) team in 2022.

Unesp is a widespread institution based within 24 different cities. Based in São Paulo, Alvaro works as a Project Manager within the Institute of Public Policy and International Relations. His academic and professional background have been fundamental in the transition to this position, as his extensive experience within the field of communications and social sciences have allowed for comprehensive and affective Project Management skills. Alongside Project Management, Alvaro has been contributing to different research projects. Despite being a relatively young institution, Unesp maintains a strong presence both nationally and internationally, and through this position Alvaro has had the opportunity to contribute to impactful projects on a global scale.

Continuing his pursuit of knowledge and professional growth, Alvaro is currently pursuing a Master's degree in International Political Economy at

WHAT'S MORE

- *Through his work as a Communication Analyst at the University of São Paulo, he worked to produce communication materials, build social networks, and organize events on the local, national and international scale.*
- *Alvaro is currently a Master's student exploring the International Political Economy at the Federal University of ABC (UFABC).*
- *As a recent recipient of the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) funding, Alvaro was able to spend time working within the Rural Development Institute as a visiting faculty member. During this time, Alvaro provided insights into Research Partnerships for International Development through the RDI Public Talks Series.*

Rural Development Institute
Brandon University
 270-18th Street,
 Brandon, MB R7A 6A9
 204-571-8515
brandonu.ca/rdi



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We are talking about different realities, but the issues there are almost the same.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:



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E RELAÇÕES INTERNACIONAIS UNESP

the Federal University of ABC (UFABC). This academic pursuit reflects his unwavering commitment to understanding complex global issues and driving positive change in the world.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Alvaro is currently engaged in several projects which utilize the DataLuta - a community and geographically based digital data gathering research tool - to explore a variety of social topics. One of these projects focuses on agrarian work within the context of social movements, agroecology, sustainable communities, and perspectives from the countryside. Additionally, he is collaborating with esteemed researchers at Unesp to explore the experiences of "Landless People," with a special focus on the social movements of Indigenous Peoples across Brazil. Another area of exploration for Alvaro involves studying the patterns of immigration from Venezuela. The objectives of this project is to identify the barriers and challenges faced by immigrants and propose new public policy solutions aimed at addressing these issues. Drawing parallels on an international scale, Alvaro emphasizes the importance of building intercultural competency to foster meaningful integration and support for immigrants.

Importantly, all of these projects are designed to ensure that data and new insights can be shared with policy-makers, whereby recommendations are framed in relation to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Alvaro aims to address pertinent questions surrounding the integration of SDGs into federal and organizational-level policy frameworks and assess the impact of these goals on shaping public policy decisions. By critically exploring the relationship between the SDGs and policy development, Alvaro seeks to contribute to the advancement of sustainable and inclusive development practices both locally and globally.

In the fall of 2023, Alvaro was a visiting faculty member conducting his work through the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University. This study was financed in part by the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior – Brasil (CAPES) – Finance Code 001. In this time, he has been able to expand on his experience and understanding working with the DataLuta, as well as further explore the importance of intercultural competencies and international relations.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Alvaro is grateful to continue his involvement in the DataLuta Canada project. He emphasizes the importance of comparative analysis on a global scale, highlighting the value of sharing experiences and data across different communities. Alvaro believes that examining the practices and movements in other countries can offer valuable insights for social movements in Brazil, ultimately contributing to their effectiveness and impact.



The Rural Development Institute is grateful to be affiliated with a variety of communities, agencies, academics and students across Canada and beyond. These relationships have facilitated the development of unique networks allowing for collaborative projects to take form, and RDI wants to extend its appreciation to all rural researchers.