



## BILDNER CENTER

for Western Hemisphere Studies

# BRAZIL'S RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL CRISIS

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David Fleischer holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Florida (1972). He worked as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Minas Gerais and later returned to the UFMG as a visiting professor. Fleischer joined the faculty of University of Brasilia in 1972, where he was Department Chair of Political Science and International Relations and member of the University Council. He has held visiting posts at various universities and has done research and consulting on Legislative Development and Election Systems in Latin America and Africa. Fleischer has published widely on Brazilian politics and North-South Relations.

In late 2008, when the effects of the Global Economic Crisis began to appear in Brazil, President Lula said "If this impacts Brazil, it will be just a ripple." After the large number of jobs lost in November, December and January, plus the very negative GDP result (a -3.6% retraction) in the fourth quarter of 2008--the discourse is now somewhat different--awaiting the results for Brazil's GDP in the first quarter 2009. Recent polls show that as Brazil's economy retracts, Lula's approval ratings have declined. What does this mean to the 2010 presidential succession in Brazil? As Lula's approval ratings drop, his election "coattails" become shorter, regarding his in pectore candidate, Dilma Rousseff. In addition, PT candidates for governor and senator might have considerable difficulties in 2010. Brazil is articulating policy alternatives in the G-20 with the US and France that would: 1) strengthen the regulation and oversight of national banking systems, 2) enhance the voting quotas of emerging nations in the IMF, and 3) attempt to "jump start" the Doha Round negotiations at the WTO.



Location:  
**Room C205**  
The Graduate Center  
365 Fifth Avenue

**Thursday**  
**May 7**  
**4:00 PM**

To reserve, send e-mail to [bildner@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:bildner@gc.cuny.edu)