

# Public Health during the Anthropocene: A Survey of Brazil's Unified Health Care System

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## Introduction

- Casa de Oswaldo Cruz (COC) is a research nexus for documenting the history of sciences
- Focusing on research in the Anthropocene in Brasil with SUS (Sistema Único de Saúde) in mind

## Objective of Internship

I wanted to explore the confluence and growing intersectionality between global/public health and ecology defined during the Anthropocene.

## Work Profile

- Provide an overview of SUS and engage in discussions regarding the ecological role in public health
- I worked and socialized with gubernatorial and health officials to understand the importance and their current role in bridging health equity and social justice
- I discussed with several Fiocruz professors about the role of education and philosophy behind Anthropocene and how to look forward

## Reflection

- Aside from readings and discussions with professors, I visited different sites such as the women's and children's health center (IFF), nationally protected ecological sites such as Burle Marx's house, and other Fiocruz campuses in Petrópolis and Mata Atlântica to understand the sweeping role of SUS and how they are incorporating environmental justice within their public health system.



Public meeting on health studies following Brumadinho mining disaster. Photo taken by Johnson Lin.



Working in NAPEC in IFF. Photo taken by NAPEC official. Pictured (Left to Right): Fabiane Gaspar, NAPEC director, Johnson Lin

- Working directly with communities and observing their reactions to health studies highlighted the key significance and struggles of communication
- The varying technical visits provided an overview of services the U.S fail to incorporate in its public health system such as ecological restoration education sites
- There is much more to be said about Brasil's strong sense of community and unification in its diverse culture and warm/easy-going people
- Not only did I learn so much about the integrative approach to Brasil's health care system but also about the overall cultural dynamic that is reflected within SUS

## Looking Ahead

- I hope to advocate for an unified public health system that encompasses individual health and prioritizes ecological concerns in an equitable way.

## Questions

- Is it possible to negate or prevent further environmental degradation (and in part capitalism) through robust public health policies? If so, what philosophical undertaking is needed to garner such support?

## Conclusion

- Substantial and urgent work must be needed to fully address the public health crises we face during the Anthropocene.

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