



BRAZILIAN STUDIES PROGRAMME
THE LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
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LESLIE BETHELL ELECTED TO THE ACADEMIA BRASILEIRA DE LETRAS

Leslie Bethell, Emeritus Professor of Latin American History at the University of London, Emeritus Fellow of St Antony's College Oxford and founding Director of the University of Oxford Centre for Brazilian Studies (1997-2007), was elected a *Sócio Correspondente* of the Academia Brasileira de Letras on 30 September 2010.

The 40-member Brazilian Academy has 20 foreign members. Leslie Bethell will occupy Chair number 16, whose patron is José Bonifácio de Andrada e Silva (1765-1838). This chair was left vacant by the death in June 2010 of the Portuguese author and Nobel laureate José Saramago. Professor Bethell will be the eighth occupant of this Chair since the establishment of the Academy in 1897. He is only the second English scholar to be elected to the Academy (the first was Herbert Spencer, who occupied Chair number 14 from 1898 until his death in 1903), and the first English-speaking scholar to be elected since Fred P. Ellison, Emeritus Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Texas at Austin, in 1983.

Professor Bethell is currently a Senior Research Associate at the Centro de Pesquisa e Documentação de História Contemporânea do Brasil (CPDOC), Fundação Getúlio Vargas in Rio de Janeiro and a Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington. He was elected a member of the Academia Brasileira de Ciências in 2004.