

Jessica Sklair: Interviews with Philanthropy Professionals in Brazil

Interview Question List

This question list was adapted to the specific circumstances of each interviewee, dependent on my prior knowledge of their professional activities in the fields of philanthropy and impact investing. Questions were translated into Portuguese for interviews conducted in this language.

1. What are the most significant changes you have seen in the practice of foundation philanthropy in Brazil over the last ten years? What do you think has brought these changes about?
2. What aspects of philanthropic practice have not changed during this time, and why?
3. What have been the priorities for [your organisation] during this period, and in what ways have you been working to promote them?
4. Grant-making by Brazilian philanthropic foundations to civil society organisations has not increased significantly during this period, despite the work of many intermediary organisations to promote it. Why do you think this is the case?
5. The last ten years have seen a rise in the number of family foundations in Brazil. Why do you think this is the case, and what are the implications of having more family philanthropy within the sector?
6. How do you account for the rising interest in impact investing among Brazilian philanthropists over recent years? Has [your organisation] been engaged in promoting impact investing, and if so how and why?
7. In what ways does impact investing differ from more traditional models of Brazilian philanthropy? What innovations does it bring?
8. Can particular causes (health, education, housing, etc) benefit more than others from impacting investing models as opposed to direct philanthropic programmes? Why?
9. Do you think impact investing and other social finance models have the potential to replace earlier forms of philanthropy in Brazil? What would be the pros and cons of this?
10. In thinking about the ways the philanthropy sector has changed over the last ten years, do you see global influences at play? Or aspects that are particularly Brazilian – or Latin American - and aren't seen in other parts of the world?
11. In what ways do you think very recent political events in Brazil – over the last two years or so – have influenced philanthropic practice here? How have they influenced the work of [your own organisation]?