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# Doing a Brazilian

lessons on culture and community  
from Rio 2016

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and

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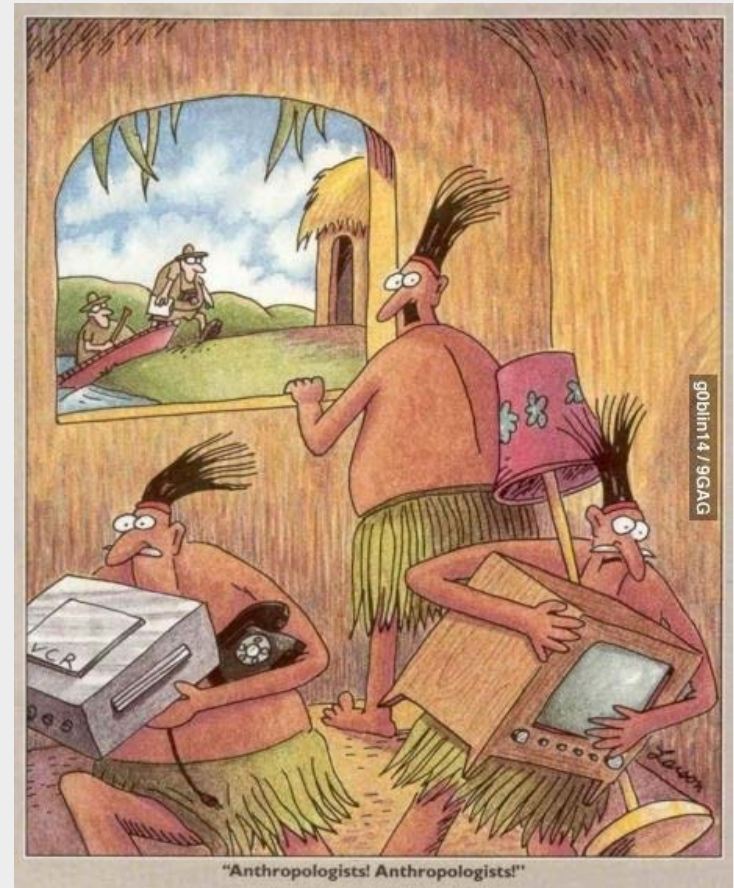
# Outline

- Anthropological Methods
- Risks
- Favela of Rio
- Santa Pobreza
- Access to support
- Summary



# Anthropological methods

- Ethnography
  - ‘Snap-shot’ participant observation
  - Fieldwork
  - 1986 to present
- *“The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human difference”* – Ruth Benedict



# Risk of working in areas of social change

- Informed Consent
  - Covert versus overt participant observation
  - Diachronic investigations
- Privacy
  - The public/private debate
  - Problem of distortion of evidence by community members
- Harm (seldom physical damage)
  - Process of doing research
  - Publication of findings
- Exploitation
  - Using research to further a career
  - Issues related to empowerment/disempowerment



# Favela of Rio

- A **favela** - Portuguese for slum, is a low-income historically informal urban area in Brazil.
- Access by a chance meeting of the train
- Security precautions
- Standing out like a 'sore thumb'





# Santa Pobreza

- ‘There is some much impairment in the region there is no need for the Paralympics to bring it to our attention’
- Poverty means there is a higher degree of impairment
- Embarrassment in government
- Silent ‘majority’

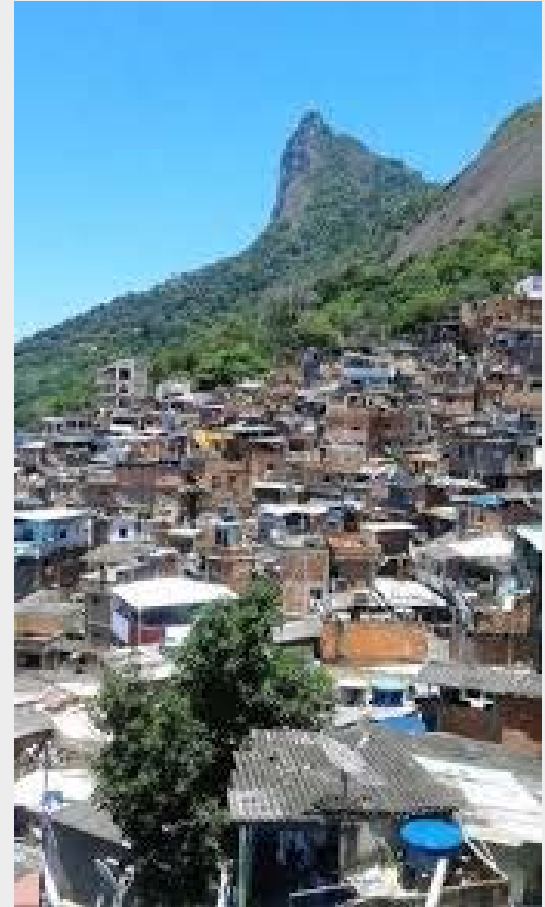


# Access to support – on the political-economic margin

- The impaired population of Santa Pobreza had grave difficulty accessing ‘the outside’ world.
- They expressed the desire to be physically active – but opportunities were limited.
- There was no influence of the SDP sector here
  - Yet these people were eager to celebrate the Paralympic movement – many of who were confined within the favela
  - great enthusiasm for life despite the obstacles

# Summary

- This pilot study highlights a need for greater research.
- The need to capture the voices of the ever present ‘underclass’ where impairment is all too often a huge impediment
- In spite of the rhetoric of the IPC and the UN - an inclusive world is still a Utopian dream.





# Questions?

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