



# DEBORA DINIZ

Email: d.diniz.debora@gmail.com  
Address: 125 Maiden Lane, 9th Floor, New York  
NY 10038

## Profile

Debora Diniz is a Brazilian university professor, human rights activist, documentarist, and public intellectual. She is an experienced global gender justice voice who works to advance social change on a large scale through various mediums and methods, including research, academia, advocacy, and art. An academic by training, Diniz served as a professor at University of Brasília for almost 20 years and is currently a visiting scholar at Brown University's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Diniz is the founder of Anis – Instituto de Bioética, a feminist non-governmental organization which has been a key player in Latin-American and Caribbean's social and legal mobilization for sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice.

Diniz is currently the Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Fòs Feminista, formerly known as the International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere Region (IPPFWHR), a Global South-based and led international alliance for reproductive justice of over 135 organizations in more than 35 countries. Diniz is a member of the High-Level Advisory Group for the Gender and Health Hub coordinated by the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH). She was also a member of panels at the World Health Organization (WHO) and advisor to Brazilian Executive and Legislative agencies. Diniz's 2016 book "Zika: from Brazilian backlands to global threat" was awarded the Brazilian Health Sciences Jabuti Prize and has since been translated into English and Japanese. Diniz won the 2020 Dan David Prize for her lifelong commitment to gender equality. She is involved with large scale distance training and advocacy projects in social media, with more almost four hundred thousand followers on Twitter and Instagram. Diniz is a prolific writer, having written or organized more than 50 books and has published more than 160 articles in academic journals, more than 80 book chapters and more than 400 opinion pieces in various media outlets.

## Professional experience

- Feb. 2019 – present      Visiting professor at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) at Brown University, United States
- Sep. 2018 – present      Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Fòs Feminista, formerly known as the International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere Region (IPPFWHR), United States (not listed on IPPFWHR's website for personal safety reasons)
- Jul. 2014 – Sep. 2018      Professor at the Law Faculty and at the Graduate Program of Law at the University of Brasilia, Brazil (currently on unpaid leave of absence)

- Mar. 2013 – Member of the Internal Complaints Committee at the University of  
Sep. 2018 Brasília, Brazil
- Mar. 2011 – Professor at the Bioethics, Applied Ethics and Public Health Program at  
Sep. 2018 the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), Brazil
- Aug. 2000 – Professor at the Graduate Program in Health Sciences at the University  
Sep. 2018 of Brasília, Brazil
- Jun. 1999 – Founder and senior researcher at Anis – Institute of Bioethics, Brazil  
Sep. 2018
- Mar. 2004 – Professor at the Social Work Department and at the Graduate Program  
Jul. 2014 of Social Policy at the University of Brasilia, Brazil
- Mar. 2009 – President of the Humanities Institute Research Ethics Committee at  
Mar. 2011 the University of Brasilia, Brazil
- Aug. 1998 – Bioethics consultant at the Brazilian Federal Council of Medicine, Brazil  
Jun. 2000
- Feb. 1995 – Health anthropology researcher at the SARAH Salvador Hospital, Brazil  
Mar. 1996

## Education

- 2003-2017 Visiting fellowships:
- (2017) Center for Research in Crime and Justice, NYU School of Law, United States
  - (2017) Global Health Justice Partnership, Yale Law School and Yale School of Public Health, United States
  - (2014) Department of Anthropology, University of Leiden, Netherlands
  - (2013) CERMES3 (Centre for research on medicine, science, health, mental health, and society), France
  - (2013) Department of Sociology, University of Berkeley, United States
  - (2012) Department of Literature and Portuguese Language, Sophia University, Japan
  - (2010) Faculty of Law/Bioethics Program, Toronto University, Canada
  - (2010) Faculty of Law, Michigan University, United States
  - (2003) Institute of Social Medicine, Rio de Janeiro State University, Brazil
  - (2001) Gender Studies, University of Leeds, United Kingdom
- 1993-1999 Masters and PhD in Anthropology (focus on public health and gender) - University of Brasília, Brazil

1996-  
2017

Complementary education:

- (2017) Portrait, New York Institute of Photography, United States
- (2017) Seeing Through Photographs, Museum of Modern Art, United States
- (2011) Mental Health, Communication and Information, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Brazil
- (2010) Sex and Equality, Michigan State University, United States
- (2010) Documentary Making, University of Toronto, Canada
- (2010) Principles of Photo Composition and Digital Image Post-Production, University of Michigan, United States
- (2008) Documentary Production Forum, National Institute of Cinema and Audiovisual Arts, Argentina
- (2008) Documentary - Video Advocacy, University of Concordia/Witness, Canada
- (2002) Justice, Equality and the Challenge of Disability, Sarah Lawrence College, United States
- (2001) Legislative Power in the Southern Cone, Organization of American States, Paraguay
- (2001) Ethical, Legal and Social Implications of the Human Genome Program, Dartmouth College, United States
- (1996) Reproductive Health and Sexuality, University of Campinas, Brazil

## Language skills

Portuguese	Native speaker
English	Fluent
Spanish	Fluent
French	Conversational
Japanese	Basic

## Fundraising experience

Advocacy and research grants from over 20 donors, including: Global Affairs Canada, Oak Foundation, Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, UN Women, Wellspring Advisors, Open Society Foundations, Wellcome Trust, World Health Organization.

## Awards

Over 100 human rights, gender equality, academic and documentary filmmaking awards, including:

- 2020 Dan David Prize on Gender Equality, by The Dan David Foundation
- 2017 Jabuti Book Prize, Health Sciences category, for the book "Zika: from the Brazilian Backlands to Global Threat", by the Brazilian Book Chamber (Brazil)
- 2016 100 Leading Global Thinkers 2016, by Foreign Policy
- 2012 Fred L. Soper Award for Excellence in Public Health Literature, by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
- 2006 Best Short Documentary for "Severina's Story" at the It's All True Festival (Brazil)

## Main publications

Over 160 peer-reviewed articles and over 50 books written or organized on issues such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, disability, violence against women and against LGBTIQ people, women's incarceration, mental health and crime, feminist bioethics and research ethics, including:

Diniz, Debora; Griner, Arbel (2021). Who infected her? A moral question about grieving and anger. *Developing World Bioethics*.

Diniz, Debora; Ambrogi, Ilana; Carino, Giselle (2021). Telemedicine abortion: A channel to Brazilian women. *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*.

Fisseha, Senait; Sen, Gita; Ghebreyesus, Tedros Adhanom; Byanyima, Winnie; Diniz, Debora; Fore, Henrietta H; Kanem, Natalia; Karlsson, Ulrika; Khosla, Rajat; Laski, Laura; Mired, Dina; Mlambo-Ngcuka, Phumzile; Mofokeng, Tlaleng; Gupta, Geeta Rao; Steiner, Achim; Remme, Michelle; Allotey, Pascale (2021). Covid-19: the turning point for gender equality. *The Lancet*.

Diniz, Debora; Medeiros, Marcelo; Madeiro, Alberto (2021). Abortion after the Zika virus epidemic in Northeast Brazil. *Revista de Saúde Pública* (Online).

Bäehre, Erik; Diniz, Debora (2020). Women's rights and misogyny in Brazil: An interview with Debora Diniz. *Anthropology Today*.

Diniz, Debora; Ambrogi, Ilana; Brito, Luciana (2020). The vulnerabilities of lives: Zika, women and children in Alagoas State, Brazil. *Cadernos de Saúde Pública*.

Diniz, Debora; Ali, Moazzam; Ambrogi, Ilana; Brito, Luciana (2020). Understanding sexual and reproductive health needs of young women living in Zika affected regions: a qualitative study in northeastern Brazil. *Reproductive Health*.

Diniz, Debora (2020). Maternal mortality: when a pandemic overlaps with the anti-gender crusade. *Developing World Bioethics*.

Diniz, Debora (2019). Bolsonaro threatens survival of Brazil's Indigenous population. *The Lancet*.

Diniz, Debora (2018). Is there an end to an epidemic? *Developing World Bioethics*.

Diniz, Debora; Gumieri, Sinara; Bevilacqua, Beatriz Galli; Cook, Rebecca J.; Dickens, Bernard M. (2017). Zika virus infection in Brazil and human rights obligations. *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*.

Rasanathan, Jennifer J. K.; MacCarthy, Sarah; Diniz, Debora; Torrelle, Els; Gruskin, Sofia (2017). Engaging Human Rights in the Response to the Evolving Zika Virus Epidemic. *American Journal of Public Health*.

Diniz, Debora (2017). *Zika: from Brazilian Backlands to global threat*. London: Zed Books.

Diniz, Debora (2016). The Protection to Women's Fundamental Rights Violated by the Zika Virus Epidemic. *American Journal of Public Health*.

Diniz, Debora; Medeiros, Marcelo; Madeiro, Alberto (2016). National Abortion Survey 2016. *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva* (Online).

Diniz, Debora; Tykanori Kinoshita, Roberto (2015). Penrose hypothesis and ethical implications. *Developing World Bioethics*.

Diniz, Debora; Gumieri, S.; Costa, Bruna (2015). Nomear feminicídio: conhecer, simbolizar e punir (Naming femicide: to understand, symbolize, and punish). *Revista Brasileira de Ciências Criminais*.

Diniz, Debora (2015). *Cadeia: relatos sobre mulheres* (Prison: women's stories). Rio de Janeiro: Civilização Brasileira.

Diniz, Debora; Rosana Medeiros de Oliveira (Eds.) (2014). *Notícias de homofobia no Brasil* (News of homophobia in Brazil). Brasília: LetrasLivres.

Diniz Debora; Cavalcanti, Maria Tavares (2013). Mental illness and crime in Brazil. *Lancet* (British edition).

Diniz, Debora (2012). Harm Reduction and Abortion. *Developing World Bioethics*.

Medeiros, Marcelo; Diniz, Debora (2012). Recommendations for abortion surveys using the ballot-box technique. *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva*.

Diniz, Debora (2011). Conscientious objection and abortion: rights and duties of public sector physicians. *Revista de Saúde Pública*.

Diniz, Debora; Santos, Wederson (Eds.) (2010). *Deficiência e discriminação* (Disability and discrimination). Brasília: LetrasLivres; EdUnB.

## Opinion pieces

Since 2018, regular columnist for the Spanish newspaper *El País*, with trilingual (English, Spanish and Portuguese) opinion pieces published twice a month. Over 400 opinion pieces published in Brazilian and international newspapers, such as *New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, *Folha de S. Paulo*, *O Estado de S. Paulo*, *O Globo*, *Marie Claire*.

## Other professional activities

### Expert testimony

Over 15 expert opinions provided to Brazilian and international bodies, including:

- 2018 Decriminalization of abortion (for the Brazilian Supreme Court)
- 2016 Police sexual violence (for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights)
- 2015 Mental health and crime (for an United States court)
- 2015 Homophobic violence (for the Brazilian National Congress)

### Ethnographic films and photographs

9 documentary films produced, all available online with English subtitles at:

Eu vou contar (My abortion story) (2018)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ViV3xzxUuo>

Hotel Laide (2017)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eGhHUu6y6M>

Zika (2016)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9tqt0jaoG0>

A casa dos mortos (The house of the dead) (2009)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noZXWFxdtNI>

Solitário anônimo (Alone and anonymous) (2007)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTZEDtx8noU>

À margem do corpo (A disembodied woman) (2006)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PoxtwM8nik>

Quem são elas (Four women) (2006)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pM1aCmkTn9g>

Uma história Severina (Severina's Story) (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65Ab38kWFhE>

Habeas corpus (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEbbDEQMI9c>

3 photographic exhibitions held, one of which available online at:

<https://deboradiniz.portfoliobox.net/>.