

CLAS Events – Lent Term 2026

Wednesday 11 February - 5:15pm | Talk
Room S1, First Floor, Alison Richard Building

Indigenous Peoples' Letters to Brazil

[Rafael Xucuru-Kariri](#) (King's College London)

[Suzane Lima Costa](#) (University of London)

Summary: This presentation examines Indigenous letter writing to Brazil as a long-standing political, cultural, and aesthetic practice. From the 1970s onward, and with roots reaching back to the seventeenth century, Indigenous leaders, artists, and communities have used letters in multiple formats to demand land rights, justice, freedom, and recognition while showing individual voices and collective authorship. These letters were gathered in a platform called "*Cartas Indígenas ao Brasil*" (Indigenous Letters to Brazil), with more than a thousand documents that reveal how writing operates as a tool of resistance, memory, and imagination. By tracing this epistolary tradition, the talk highlights how Indigenous letters try to reshape historical narratives and assert Indigenous presence, authorship, and political agency across time.



Rafael Xucuru-Kariri belongs to the Xucuru-Kariri Indigenous nation. He is a Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London (2025/2026) and holds a PhD in Social Sciences from the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA). His research examines the political thought of Indigenous peoples, with a focus on public letters written by these communities, and investigates the concepts and interpretations of living and dying as an Indigenous person in contemporary states. He is the recipient of the 2024 CAPES Award for the Best Doctoral Thesis in Sociology, as well as the Lélia Gonzalez Grand Prize, a CAPES distinction for the best thesis in the Humanities.



Suzane Lima Costa is a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies - University of London, and Professor at the Institute of Letters at the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA). She holds a Master's and a PhD in Literature from UFBA and coordinates the Research Centre on Indigenous Peoples' Authored Works, focusing on literature and other Indigenous arts, with special attention on letters, diaries, images, and (auto)biographies.

She has published numerous articles and book chapters in the field, and has developed the digital platform '[\[https://cartasindigenasaobrasil.com.br/\]](https://cartasindigenasaobrasil.com.br/)Letters Written by Indigenous Peoples to Brazil'.

