[Extended] Antifascists: dissident women and bodies

Abstract

Anti-fascist activists claim that Brazilian Maria Lacerda de Moura was the first anti-fascist in the Americas. The purpose of this project is to use the search for the origin of this claim as a method of reconstructing the informational network that existed 100 years ago among anti-fascists on the Americans. The anti-fascist women presented on Wikipedia are scattered and not in the form of knowledge network. Who were the other women? How did they network? Which other dissidents contributed to the anti-fascist resistance? The project includes professionals in cultural mediation, both in translation and in the hierarchy of knowledge. The main expected results are: demonstration of the knowledge network, academic and public activities and training, revision/inclusion of articles on Wikipedia.

Introduction

People are never born with their eyes closed. Maria Lacerda de Moura, 2018.

Anti-fascism is defined as a social and political response to the extreme right. Its origins can be traced to Italy in the 20th century, where it gained prominence, and has since evolved into a transnational phenomenon. A comprehensive and rigorous examination of this subject is therefore essential. The contemporary global political context is characterized by the advancement of social and informational totalitarianism. The anti-fascist women featured on Wikipedia are presented in a dispersed way and not in the form of a knowledge network. Maria Lacerda de Moura (1887-1945) was a Brazilian anarchist with links in the Southern Cone and Spain. When the Italian anarchist Luce Fabbri moved to Uruguay permanently, she joined this network. How was this network built: who participated? Who were the women and dissident bodies belonging to it? What was the design of the construction of anti-fascist knowledge like a hundred years ago? For Wikipedia, the project is important for three reasons. 1) Because the encyclopedia is a place for building knowledge and biography. 2) Because it understands the organization of knowledge and the social practice of people who were already networking for a better world. 3) To strengthen women's biographies and connect them in a knowledge system anchored in cultural mediation studies in both translation and information science/librarianship/libraries science.

And the only real defenses against this multiple and complex danger [fascism] are to be found in each individual, in the rationality and spontaneity of each individual, in the active responsibility of each human being towards others, which is both an affirmation of oneself as an individual and a surrender to the collective. Luce Fabbri, 2019

Date: July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026 (First stage)

Related work

I've been researching revolutionary, anarchist and anti-fascist women since 2015. I have published the only book to date by anarchist Margarita Ortega Valdés (Charlas y Luchas, Tenda de Livros, 2021) and edited *A mulher é uma degenerada* [The woman is a degenerate] by Maria Lacerda de Moura (Tenda de Livros, 2018). I have also translated Luce Fabbri's anti-fascist book *Fascism, Definition, and History* into Portuguese (Tenda de Livros, 2019).
As a translator, editor, activist and visual artist, I dedicate my life to researching working people, women writers of the last century. I keep documents and books from that period. The project is an extension of my academic research and my feminist life project. I am in a privileged position to see the growing interest of other feminist researchers in this topic.
However, the works of anti-fascist men (in the normative sense) are much more prominent, as is the case with Mark Bray's book. Women in history receive much less attention, being relegated to footnotes in collections, and are rarely seen as thinkers. My hypothesis is that there was a network of women, backed by newspapers such as Juana Rouco Buela's *Nuestra Tribuna*, and they also had their own modes of circulation. However, as women's networks were supported by few women (due to the social conditions of women in that context), the long-term maintenance of their ideas or new circulations were weakened (Joanna Russ, 2018).
On the other hand, there has been a revival of research into these women's lives and work by feminist scholars and activists (initiated by academic researchers Margareth Rago at Unicamp and Miriam Moreira Leite at USP in 1980), which this proposal seeks to engage with by anti-fascism as its anchoring point.
Contemporary anti-fascism is related to research within the anti-racist struggle (Muniz Sodré, 2023), body diversity (such as queer studies) and popular struggle. The research aims to have students and doctors connected to these themes on the team.

Methods

The mixed-method approach includes input from Women's History, Information Sciences and Corpus Linguistics, and Literature, and comprises the following:
1) review of bibliographical sources and writing new biographies.2) retrieval of textual sources and systematized organized configuration of text to build an electronic corpus of antifascist women's writings based on the corpus data, information on anti-fascist women will be organized, and classified. Other outputs include wordlists, keyword lists, semantic fields, dictionaries, and/or taxonomies. This step combines manual retrieval and categorization of texts and also automatized corpus processing to produce keywords and retrieve information. Softwares used include Tematres, AntConc and/or Sketch Engine.
3) review and electronic processing of existing Wiki articles.
4) supplement existing and writing of new articles.
5) translation of articles into Portuguese, Spanish, and/or English.

Bibliographic survey and reading of feminist researchers such as Miriam Moreira Leite and Margareth Rago. Additionally, The research questions may be formulated on the basis of the non-circulation of ideas by anti-fascist women and the tensioning of the existing hegemony.
The central basis of the teamwork will be the organization of knowledge: corpus building and structuring information by means of schemes (controlled vocabularies, taxonomies) and semantic relationships.
One of the project partners is Luciana Carvalho Fonseca, is a professor of English at the University of São Paulo, with a background in corpus linguistics (natural language processing)

and feminist research and translation. She and I will coordinate the team, which will also include 4 other PhD candidates (in information science, translation, and history), and 5-10 undergraduate students per 6 months a one year from the three areas of knowledge and consulting from a researcher in controlled vocabulary and knowledge construction (Cibele Araujo Camargo Marques ECA/USP). They will conduct research in Documentary Linguistics and Terminology for the construction of vocabulary. The other ten participants will be recruited via a widely publicized call for proposals. The team will be divided into the project's five structuring axes. The end result will be seen on Wikipedia itself and in at least two scholarly publications, one focusing on the methodology and the other on the final results. USP postgraduate students in information sciences Natali Gaudio de Almeida and Juliana Mendes Santiago will form part of the research team.

Expected output

List the s Results x Target audience:
1) Scholarly publication coauthored by the coordinators on the methodology. Target audience: academic community in Linguistics, History, Information Science/ Libraries Sciences and Translation Studies.
2) University out-reach course for women and people of sexual dissidence. Target audience: undergraduates and young professional Translators, Journalists, Librarian, Historians, and Linguists.
3) Revision of articles and production of new bibliographies on Wikipedia. Target audience: wiki community and users.
4) Academic articles by team members (5 to 6 publications) to be presented at a feminist academic conference In the University. Target audience: academic community, including young and senior feminist researchers.
5) Presentation of project results at the Wikipedia event. Target audience: Wiki community.

Risks

The challenges would be financial management and people management.
The measures to mitigate the challenges are:

1) Financial environment

- hiring a financial manager;
- meeting monthly demands and payments;
- transparent management of resources.

2) Personnel

- Methodological structuring with well-defined roles and activities to be carried out;
- Timetable drawn up based on the methods, evaluation of the methods and expectations;
- Team meetings on a regular basis (fortnightly);
- Work allocated to groups of people. For example: controlled vocabulary researchers work together to build this topic;
- Monthly meetings with the whole team to collectively evaluate the progress of the project and its challenges.

Community impact plan

This research will reach and have an impact on audiences in academia and popular movements. The impact on the university community is increased discussion on the topic, wide dissemination of the methodology and new research in the future. The impact on grassroots movements of sexually dissident people, grassroots women and the student movement: is the shortening of the distances between academia and social movements; broad dissemination of the research and method; application of the method in community activities and new independent researchers. The impact on the Wikipedia community is the creation of a replicable methodology; 15 to 20 new biographies of anti-fascist women and

review of inconsistencies in existing biographies.

Evaluation

The project will be documented monthly on its own Meta Wiki:Research page. The proposed project will be evaluated by:
- increasing the number of biographies of women anti-fascists in the encyclopedia;
- Explanation of the way in which women acted, for example through diagrams;
- discovering events, activities, biographical elements, new texts by anti-fascist women in the Americas;
- training new researchers;
- integration between researchers, social movement and the wiki community.

Budget

The budget is in the Wiki model in the other document. The budget stipulated there is for one year and focuses on supporting researchers. The intention is for the project to be two years, with a budget study for the second year after the execution of the first year. The administrative part will be the responsibility of Oliva Finanças Ltda (CNPJ: 30.980-958/0001-57) under the responsibility of Débora de Almeida Malveira Rosignoli

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	Sheet Objective: *Applicant applying for a Fund can use this template to provide the requested budget details.*		**Your local currency** *Please select your local currency in E1*	**BRL**	**Ano 1**	**2025**
Expense type	**Expense details**	**Number of Units**	**Unit Price (Local)**	**Unit Price (USD)**	**Expense Total (Local)**	**Expense Total (USD)**
Please select an Expense type	*Please describe any related details regarding this expense. The details listed below should serve as examples. You can modify them according to your needs.*	*State the number of units or requested quantity*	*Please state the cost of each Unit in your local currency*	*Please convert the cost stated in column D to the US Dollars using OANDA Currency Converter. If the local currency is US Dollars, plase copy paste column D in here.*	*The calculations are automatically generated If not, please multiply Column C * Column D*	*The calculations are automatically generated If not, please sum up as neeeded*
Personnel Support	Research Assistant for Proofreading and Librarian	48	1,200.00	$203.62	57,600.00	$9,773.76
	PhD Student Support for Translation and Controlled vocabulary	48	3000	$509.25	144,000.00	$24,444.05
	Faculty Support for Scientific advice	12	3000	$509.25	36,000.00	$6,111.01
	Project coordinators	24	5000	$849.53	120,000.00	$20,388.72
					0.00	$0.00
Total Personnel Support			12,200.00	$2,071.65	357,600.00	$60,717.54
Dissemination Activities	Present research output at Wikimania	1	500	$84.90	500.00	$84.90
	Open access publishing cost	1	500	$84.90	500.00	$84.90
	Professional services (editing and translation)	2	500	$84.90	1,000.00	$169.80
					0.00	$0.00
Total Dissemination Activities			1500	$254.70	2,000.00	$339.60
Institutional Overhead (up to 15% of total budget)	Overhead	12	5000	$849.53	42,000.00	$10,194.36
					0.00	$0.00
					0.00	$0.00
Total Institutional Overhead			5000	$849.53	60,000.00	$10,194.36
Compute Resources						0
	Software costs	1	2000	$339.82	2,000.00	339.82
Total Compute Resources					2,000.00	$339.82
Travel	Conference travel, registration, and accommodation	1	20000	$3,398.12	20,000.00	$3,398.12
					0.00	$0.00
Total Travel					15.00	$3,398.12
Total requested					**421,615.00**	**$74,989.44**