**Beyond the national: Theodoro Sampaio (1855-1937) and the visuality of indigenous archaeology**

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Abstract:

Our paper explores two writings by Brazilian intellectual Theodoro Sampaio (1855-1937) on indigenous and pre-colonial archaeology, emphasising on the role of interpretation and visual representation in his research. Our examination begins with Sampaio's 1916 text, where he presents his visual interpretations of indigenous stone inscriptions in the Paraguassú Valley. We then delve into another text from 1919, in which Sampaio evaluates the project to standardize legends for archaeological maps in South America. Our argument is that Sampaio's emphasis on the visuality of indigenous archaeology was a strategic move that enabled him to become part of research networks that extended beyond Brazil's national production context. In our presentation, we want to claim that the task of decolonizing the histories of geography needs to include more the theme of knowledge mobility and transnational scientific networks and less the obsession with the stagnant and isolated national scientific context. We firmly believe that decolonizing geography entails moving beyond national landmarks and discarding outdated essentializations. Decolonizing the histories of geography must to be more than finding exotic and peripheral authors and incorporating them into the old geopolitics of knowledge.