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Education: BA in History from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, 1976. Master in Anthropology from the Postgraduate Program in Social Anthropology / National Museum / UFRJ, 1982. PhD in Anthropology from the Postgraduate Program in Social Anthropology /National Museum/ UFRJ, 1993. Postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University, NY (1999/2000 and Sept./Dec. 2006)

Professional experience:

- Professor of Anthropology at the Graduate Program in Sociology and Anthropology (PPGSA). Institute of Philosophy and Social Sciences/ Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Since January 1994.
- Professor at the Department of Cultural Anthropology, IFCS / UFRJ. Jan. 1994 to April 2016 when she retired.
- Researcher at the National Folklore Institute of the National Art Foundation from 1984 to 1993. Coordinator of Studies and Research from 1985 to 1990. Associate Director from 1985 to 1989.
- Professor of Anthropology, Department of Philosophy, City University. 1982 to 1990.
- Researcher in the History Sector at Casa de Rui Barbosa Foundation from 1977 to 1981.
- Researcher-Trainee at the Center for Afro-Asian Studies at Faculdades Candido Mendes, 1975-1976

Ongoing research: Ethnography, narrative and fiction. Anthropology in perspective. Carnival without borders: samba schools and their arts around the world. CNPq researcher.

Author of numerous articles in scientific journals and chapters in several collections, her main books are:

- Carnaval, ritual e arte [Carnival, ritual and arts]. Rio de Janeiro: 7Letras, 2015.
- Reconhecimentos: antropologia, folclore e cultura popular [Recognitions: anthropology, folklore and popular culture.] Rio de Janeiro: Aeroplano, 2012
- Carnaval Carioca: dos bastidores ao desfile. [Carnival in Rio: from the backstage to the parade]. Rio de Janeiro: EdUFRJ 3rd., 2006.
- O Mundo Invisível: cosmologia, sistema ritual e noção da pessoa no Espiritismo [The Invisible World: Cosmology, ritual system and notion of the personhood in kardecism]. Rio de Janeiro: Zahar Eds, 1983.