

Dear 21 Club members:

The end of the academic year is only two months away, so it is time to announce the date, time and location of spring meeting of the UNM 21 Club, the last meeting of the academic year: **Monday, April 17, 2017**, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., UNM SUB, Santa Ana A and B. As many of you know, this particular SUB room has an attached outdoor patio – a pleasant setting for the customary social hour (6 to 7 pm) -- and, let's hope for nice weather! Our speaker will be Professor Cassiano R.L. de Oliveira (Department of Nuclear Engineering).

Dinner choices

Apricot and Ginger Glazed Salmon

Apricot and ginger glazed salmon served with chef's choice of starch and fresh vegetable

Vegetarian Dinner Option: Seasonal Vegetable Terrine.

The meal will include Bread and Butter, as well as Water, Iced Tea and Coffee service at the table. Hot tea will be available upon request.

Also included are pre-meal appetizer, a salad and desert.

We should have the abstract of the presentation available soon, but do mark your calendars now for what should be an interesting presentation. As always, you can register for the meeting simply by paying for the dinner, etc. using the Paypal application, which is included for your convenience on the 21 Club website (<http://21club.unm.edu/>), or you can simply mail a check to club treasurer, Daniel Finley: The 21 Club

Physics and Astronomy MSC07 4220
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Note: to guarantee your reservation(s) your online payment or your check (payable to “The 21 Club”) must be **received** on or before **Thursday, April 13, 2017**. This enables us to provide the caterer with an accurate head count. *Also, please email me at lmcfadnm@unm.edu should you wish to have the vegetarian plate.*

The Brazilian Way: the Only Way or the Wrong Way?

Dr Cassiano R Endres de Oliveira

Brazil is the world's 5th largest country (it is bigger than the US without Alaska) and the Amazon forest makes up 60% of its land. It has the world's 5th largest population and it is the world's 3rd largest democracy. It has all the natural resources one can think of and it is not prone to natural disasters. Yet, for reasons still being actively debated, society does not function well there resulting in an extremely uneven wealth distribution and quality of life. Whether a contributing cause or a consequence, life in Brazil is governed by sets of legal, constitutional and societal rules mostly inherited from Portuguese colonial rule, which, whether sensible or not, greatly impact and complicate the lives of everybody. As a result, it has become customary for Brazilians to seek ways around difficulties in their day-to-day lives through the so-called "jeitinho brasileiro" or "the Brazilian way". In this short talk we address the "jeitinho" and try to answer the fundamental question: is this a harmless and clever societal survival mechanism or a morally questionable behavior whereby the clever and/or privileged few take advantage of the good-natured character of the Brazilian population and its institutions? As one would expect the answer might not be simple although the rampant corruption scandals recently exposed provide serious food for thought on what happens when instead of working the system those trusted by the people effectively game the system.

Dr de Oliveira is currently a Professor at the Department of Nuclear Engineering of the University of New Mexico and his main area of research is computational nuclear science. He was born in Brazil and grew up in Rio de Janeiro. After graduating in Physics and obtaining a Masters in Nuclear Engineering he went to London, UK in 1982 to study for his PhD and stayed there for 21 years. He came to the US in 2003, firstly to Georgia Tech and four years later to UNM. His 3 citizenships - US, Brazil, Italy - along with his UK and New Mexico experiences have helped him to develop a more glocalized and less cynical view of the world.