

The 12th Annual Gilder Lehrman Center International Conference at Yale University
Co-sponsored with the Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies at Yale

American Counterpoint: New Approaches to Slavery and Abolition in Brazil

October 29-30, 2010
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Constructing Communities: The Black and Pardo Brotherhoods of Central Brazil

Mary Karasch, Oakland University

Available online at <http://www.yale.edu/glc/brazil/papers/karasch-abstract.pdf>
© Do not cite or circulate without the author's permission

This draft copy of an essay to be published in the *Revista de História* of the Federal University of Goiás examines the associational and religious life of the free, freed, and enslaved blacks and pardos of Central Brazil, i.e., the modern states of Goiás and Tocantins. Themes elaborated here include origins of the *irmandade leiga dos pretos* (and pardos); membership, including ethnic and racial identity; the saints of their devotion; activities, such as fundraising and assistance to those in need; and relations to church and state, including elections of kings and queens. Historical studies now point to the rich associational life that those of African descent created in Brazil and the rest of the African Diaspora, and the captaincy of Goiás shared in that tradition that enabled the enslaved to survive the trauma of enslavement and create their own communities and cultures.