

Cesar A. Zanin

Italian-Brazilian (naturalised British citizen) | Bristol, UK

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Since 2023, member of the Bristol Doctoral College. Since 2024, member of the Reactionary Politics Research Network from the PoLIS department at the University of Bath. Since 2025, member of the Political Studies Association. Since 2026, member of the Society for Latin American Studies.

1. Education

PhD in History (2024 - Present): University of Bristol

Thesis: *Fear, Faith, Freedom, and Force: Bolsonarism as a Counter-Enlightenment Political Religion*

Focus: Bolsonarism, Counter-Enlightenment ideologies, political religion, dangers posed by the contemporary transnational far right against democracy

MPhil in History (2023 - 2024): University of Bristol

Dissertation: *Brasilien über alles: Hitlerist rhetoric in Brazil and its consolidation in Bolsonarist discourse*

Focus: fascist rhetoric, supremacism, symbolic violence, Bolsonarism

BA - First Class with Honours - Modern Language Studies (2021-2023): University of Bristol

Portuguese, Italian, English

2. Occupation

Graduate Teacher – Level 2 (2025 - 2026): conducting seminars and marking of assignments for units within the departments of history and anthropology at the University of Bristol

3. Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

- *'I am your voice': The Populist Temptation in Trumpism and Bolsonarism*, in *Discourse & Society* (SAGE, published)

- *The Long Twentieth Century in Portuguese: An Age Pending to One Extreme*, in *Dictatorships in Portuguese* (MLO/Liverpool University Press, forthcoming)

Printed Articles:

- *As eleições mais cruciais da Nova República e os desafios da frente ampla de Lula* (in Portuguese, 'The most crucial elections of the New Republic and the challenges facing Lula's broad front', written in Nov/2022)

- *Pensador magazine* issue 15 - March/2023; Department of Hispanic, Portuguese, Catalan and Latin American Studies - University of Bristol

Online Articles:

- *Voto impresso ou fraude?* (in Portuguese, 'Printed vote or fraud?')

pragmatismopolitico.com.br (9 Jul 2021)

- *Não é surpresa, não há milagre* (in Portuguese, 'It's no surprise, there's no miracle')

pragmatismopolitico.com.br (12 Ago 2020)

- *A imprensa e o papel das mídias no Brasil* (in Portuguese, 'The press and the role of the media in Brazil')

pragmatismopolitico.com.br (2 Mar 2015)

4. Research Interests

Counter-Enlightenment ideologies and political religion; far-right movements and extremism; social media propaganda and online recruitment; normalisation and social contagion; fake news and conspiracy theories; moral panics and symbolic violence; democratic backsliding and social polarisation; radicalisation and political violence; understand the appeal of the far right in order to safeguard democracy.

5. Professional Experience

Language teacher, translator and interpreter (Portuguese, Italian, English)

Online and in person; privately, via agencies, in various companies and language schools; in Brazil, Italy, and the UK; intermittently from 2004 to 2021

6. Conferences & Workshops

Conference: *76th PSA International Conference* – March and April 2026 - University of Oxford

Paper: 'Trumpism and Bolsonaroism's Counter-Enlightenment Worldviews'

Organised by the Political Studies Association

Conference: *Dictatorships in Portuguese* - March 2024 - University of Bristol

Paper: 'The Long Twentieth Century: Age of Extremes in Portuguese'

Organised by the Department of Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies with the support of the Camões Institute

7. Languages & Skills

Languages: Portuguese (native), Italian (native/fluent), English (fluent)

Research Skills: Archival research, comparative-historical and critical discourse analyses, qualitative research methods