

“Tropical Riffs” offers a wonderful introduction to jazz in Latin America in the early- to late mid-twentieth century, tracing and following jazz in Latin America, and Latin jazz in the U.S. as an evolving hybrid art of musical expressions, engaged in broad debates and politics of race, nationality, and cultural appropriation. Someone now needs to continue telling the story of jazz and of the relations between Latin and jazz in the early twenty-first century. In this part of the story, I believe that new musical idioms, mainly hip hop, will play a big role.

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JAMES N. GREEN, *Exile within Exiles: Herbert Daniel, Gay Brazilian Revolutionary*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2018.

Writing a biography is a complex and very delicate task, especially when it also involves a historiographical treatment, with all the trappings that this implies. James N. Green undertakes this challenge in a masterful manner in this biography of Brazilian writer and political militant Herbert Daniel, showing great sensitivity and clarity while writing during a crucial juncture in Brazil.

At a time when Brazil is experiencing a “turn to the right” politically speaking, James N. Green brings to our attention the story of a left-wing militant who participated in several organizations engaged in armed struggle: POLOP (“Organização Revolucionária Marxista – Política Operária) in 1967; COLINA (Comandos de Libertação Nacional) in 1968; VAR-Palmares (Vanguarda Armada Revolucionária- Palmares) in 1969 e VPR (Vanguarda Popular Revolucionária) in 1970. Writing at a moment in which “gender ideology” is in the crosshairs of groups decrying feminism, the struggles of LGBT+ groups, and gender studies, claiming that they promote the “destruction of families,” James N. Green reminds us of the crucial role that Herbert Daniel played, after his returning from exile in 1981, in the struggle for homosexual rights, especially in relation to the AIDS/HIV epidemic, towards the end of the 1980s and start of the 1990s.

According to Sabrina Loriga, this is the unique perspective that biographies can offer on history, as they focus on one person’s story, with its specificities, its particular action, and its “little X” in order to simultaneously address the issues of an epoch, a region, and a society. James N. Green excels in this biography by evoking the entire political history of Brazil in the years of the Dictatorship (1964-1985) as well as the transition to democracy, while also highlighting questions that are relevant in the present day.

The book is divided into chapters, and provides great detail about Herbert Daniel’s life, including his childhood and adolescence, his participation in the

student movement of the Faculty Medicine in the Federal University of Minas Gerais, his involvement with Marxism and in the organizations advocating armed struggle. The chapters describing his participation in these organizations are vital for understanding the dynamics of the Brazilian Left during the dictatorship. These chapters are followed by a narrative of the period during which Daniel took on a clandestine existence in Brazil, in a kind of domestic exile, at the same time as he publicly assumed a homosexual relationship. His flight from Brazil to Europe, where he lived as an exile, and his subsequent return to a country attempting to rebuild its democracy also makes this an essential text for studies of Brazilian political exiles in Europe. The final chapters recount the new forms of militancy embraced by Herbert Daniel, in movements linked to homosexual rights, but within a leftist program, and his final years, during which he lived with HIV and was involved in the struggle for social recognition and state responsibility for infected people.

One of the book's central questions is the extremely problematic relationship of the Brazilian Left to sexuality, especially those who assumed homosexual identities. Herbert Daniel had known he was homosexual since he was a teenager, but he was also aware that the Brazilian Left did not accept the homosexuality of its members, submitting them to various constraints. In order to be taken seriously as a political leader and militant, especially in organizations engaged in armed struggle, a person needed to display characteristics linked to masculinity, which at the time was considered to be incompatible with homoerotic sexual practices. The biography of Herbert Daniel shows how this conception is completely mistaken and prejudiced, and highlights how important it is for the Left to incorporate the cause of LGBT+ groups to its own, as a part of its militancy and demands, as it has done with feminist and anti-racist struggles.

The high point of this biography is the historical research carried out by James N. Green, who sought out all the available types of documents on the life of Herbert Daniel. His use of oral history is also noteworthy. Green interviewed family members and colleagues from political organizations, including former president Dilma Rousseff, who was a fellow member in Colina and VAR-Palmares. Friends, and even the relations of his life partner since 1971, Claudio Mesquita, were also interviewed. The interviews, which are used throughout the book, also provide access to personal documents and photos, which are strategically inserted in the chapters, guiding the reader with images.

The tone of the writing is often very personal, as in the Introduction which details the author's wish to have met Daniel, ever since 1981 when their paths almost crossed. James N. Green is an American, but he lived in Brazil for six years during which time he was also involved with left-wing groups and helped to form the country's first ever political organization of homosexuals, SOMOS,

in São Paulo. Green has written extensively on the history of Brazil, the history of homosexuality in Brazil, and about the dictatorship period that began in 1964. However, at no stage does his personal involvement with this story cloud his methodical and detailed investigation of Herbert Daniel's life. To the contrary, this involvement certainly facilitated his access to sources, as did his overall knowledge of Brazil's political and social situation at that time.

The many twists and turns of Herbert Daniel's life are well recounted here and reinforce a certain aura of invincibility that this Brazilian leftist political figure possessed. His participation in the armed struggle, with episodes of robberies and kidnappings of ambassadors, and particularly his role in the rural guerrilla training camp in Vale do Ribeira, led by Carlos Lamarca, reinforce this aura, since he wasn't imprisoned, and unlike most of his colleagues, he survived. The period he spent in hiding and domestic exile in Rio and Barbacena where he decided to open a night club with his partner Cláudio Mesquita, which seems almost unthinkable for someone who wanted to hide from the police, also speak of Daniel's courage and daring, and Green's incredible research.

The VPR slogan, attributed to Carlos Lamarca, "dare to fight, dare to win," seems to have been Herbert Daniel's philosophy as well, especially the first part of the motto. He dared to fight on many fronts; he dared to strive for his political ideals; he dared to assume his homosexuality in front of his left-wing comrades; he dared to live with AIDS and fight for LGBT+ rights. Winning is a relative question, but Green's book is certainly a victory, one of memory and history.

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MARTIN NESVIG, *Promiscuous Power: An Unorthodox History of New Spain*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2018.

In an aptly Rabelaisian, dense, and intellectually rigorous new book, Martin Nesvig delves deeply and irrepressibly into the annals of the sixteenth-century conquest of Michoacán, an Edenic outpost of the Spanish early modern empire in what is now western Mexico. The goal is original: to take readers on a wild ride through the quotidian processes of colonialism via a finely grained examination of the public lives (or microhistorical biographies), excessively violent judicial disputes, and the personal attitudes of Spanish officials, representing both church and state. And one of the central figures in the cast of characters is a river crocodile. This book entertains readers as Nesvig translates the conquistadors' rough phrasings into hilarious chapter headings, which are taken directly from his archival sources. By the way, only those who have not worked intensely in

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