As a white cisgendered woman, I have worked to center the voices of Brazilian Americans, Latinx, and Hispanic individuals within this Zine. I sought after tweets, interviews, forums, facebook comments, and other forms of online communication from Brazilian Americans in order to amplify their experience navigating their identity. As demonstrated, there is no easy yes or no to the question “Are Brazilian Americans Latinx?” It boils down to “It depends.” It depends on the individual and their life experiences. This Zine was intended to sort through and highlight the different ways Brazilian Americans relate to Latinidad and the panethnic labels of Latinx and Hispanic.
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What comes to mind when you hear Latinx?

What comes to mind when you think of Brazilian Americans?
Brazilian Americans in the United States

It is uncertain how many Brazilians are living in the United States. The Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that it is over a million. However, the American Community Survey only reported 346,000 in 2007.

This disparity has roots in the fact that many Brazilian immigrants are undocumented and the US census does not clearly specify what Brazilian Americans should mark.

The US Census labels Hispanic or Latino people as any “person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.”

Latinx refers to the people from the geographical area of Latin America.

Hispanic is used to highlight a connection to the Spanish language.

Latino

Includes Brazil.

Does not include Spain.

Hispanic

Includes Spain.

Does not include Brazil.

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* [1] "[Debated]: I sent 2 yrs ago
* [2] "I'm living in the US and when I was filling one of the immigration forms I was going to check the Latino option but it said said clearly "all countries from Latin America except Brazil" I checked Caucasian, then."
“Panethnicity- the generalization of solidarity among ethnic subgroups- is largely a product of categorization. An imposed category ignores subgroup boundaries, lumping together diverse peoples in a single expanded ‘ethnic’ framework”
- Yen Le Espiritu in “Asian American Panethnicity”

Often times, individuals do not see themselves or their cultures reflected within the panethnic labels of hispanic/latinx. More often than not, those individuals are not included within the naming process.

Only 24% of those with roots in Spanish speaking countries say that they identify as hispanic or latinx with 21% identifying as simply American and 51% choosing to state their country of origin.
In her article “Coming To Terms With ‘Latinx’” Arianna Davis says, “Latino has become the name most widely embraced by its people. It unites millions of people in America whose cultures are not the same, but share similar commonalities, whether they are through our food, music, or our language.” Despite the vast differences between the cultures of the many countries labeled Latinx/Hispanic by the US, there is a common experience or feeling that unites these people. This connectedness is...

Juana María Rodríguez defines Latinidad as encompassing "within it the complexities and contradictions of immigration, (post)(neo)colonialism, race, color, legal status, class, nation, language, and the politics of locations."

Are Brazilian Americans Latinx?

"Ummmmmmmmmm..."

"I Don't Know"

Do Brazilian Americans identify with Latinidad?

"It depends"

"No!"

"Sí!"

Brazilian Americans from NPR's podcast "Are Brazilian-Americans Latino?" hosted by Latino USA
Where Brazilian Americans do not Identify with Latinidad: Coloniality and Language

"I am Brazilian. Never Latina. We were colonized by the Portuguese and we have a completely different culture from those who speak Spanish."
- Brazilian American woman from NPR's podcast "Are Brazilian-Americans Latino?" hosted by Latino USA

"As a Brazilian, I have never really felt included in Hispanic culture, So I would be fine being left out of it. Hispanics have a very distinct culture when it comes to language literature and music and I reckon that bundling everything together would eclipse Brazilian culture. It is bad enough that people 'joke' that the capital of Brazil being Buenos Aires."
- waspbr, Reddit User

"No, we do not identify as latino, since we speak another language, have other heritages and a very different mindset than the rest of Latin America"  
- Zuzarte, Reddit User

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**Portuguese Basics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>SPANISH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hello</td>
<td>Olá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodbye</td>
<td>Adeus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Sim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Não</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please</td>
<td>Por favor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorry</td>
<td>Lo sinto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You're welcome</td>
<td>De nada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you</td>
<td>Gracias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't understand</td>
<td>Não entendo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't know</td>
<td>Não sei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you speak more slowly?</td>
<td>¿Puedes hablar más despacio?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you help me?</td>
<td>¿Puedes ayudarme?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you repeat please?</td>
<td>¿Puedes repetir por favor?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you speak English?</td>
<td>¿Hablas inglés?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Personally, I don't identify myself with the Latino culture, after all, my ancestors were not exploited in silver mines and didn't speak Spanish. My ancestors were Brazilian landowners and merchants of Portuguese, Spanish and Italian origins. I might have some native Brazilian or African blood, considering that the Portuguese settlers had second families with native Brazilian Indians and freed slaves in the absence of white women.

In the United States I'm perceived as a white person of unknown nationality. People say I might be French, Spanish, Italian, Eastern European or even American.

"As a Brazilian, I have never really felt included in Hispanic culture, So I would be fine being left out of it. Hispanics have a very distinct culture when it comes to language literature and music and I reckon that bundling everything together would eclipse Brazilian culture. It is bad enough that people 'joke' that the capital of Brazil being Buenos Aires."
- waspbr, Reddit User

"No, we do not identify as latino, since we speak another language, have other heritages and a very different mindset than the rest of Latin America"  
- Zuzarte, Reddit User
Where Brazilian Americans Identify with Latinidad:
Food and Soccer

"When you think of Latins you think of Mexicans but we are Latins too"
- Brazilian American from NPR's podcast "Are Brazilian-Americans Latino?" hosted by Latino USA

"We are not very different. Latinos like soccer. The culture is basically the same"
- Brazilian American from NPR's podcast "Are Brazilian-Americans Latino?" hosted by Latino USA

"I have always felt a lot of kinship. We love soccer, we have rice and beans, blah, blah, blah. It feels really good to say, well, here is a team of my people. Here is a larger group of people that I have something in common with."
- Julia Furlan, Brazilian American Audio Editor for Buzzfeed
"Brazilians like to think of themselves as better than Latinos: We are the best soccer players, the best dancers, but when I started filling out college forms, I started checking the Latino box. If we are discriminated against as Latinos in the U.S., you have to buddy up with the others. Being Brazilian and special is not going to get you far."

- Caroline Braga, a Brazilian American law student interviewed by businessinsider

Some Brazilian Americans identify as Latinx while others do not. Coming to terms with one's identity through different panethnic labels can be a challenging journey. Brazilian Americans who identify as Latinx find community and comfort in the larger community they find.

However, other Brazilian Americans have a hard time relating to the experiences and cultures within the Latinx community. These murky cultural borders and similarities between Brazilian Americans and the Latinx community show that identity is created both through personal experience and heritage but also the labels that those in power assign to groups.

So, are Brazilian Americans Latinx? The answer is complicated in its simplicity.

It depends.