

## **Sociocultural and Critical Approach for Summer Study Abroad Program in Higher Education**

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**Abstract :** This paper presents the empirical and the theoretical principles associated with the Duke in Brazil Summer Program. Using a sociocultural model and critical theory, this study abroad maximizes students' ability to enrich language competence, intercultural skills, and critical thinking. The fourteen-year implementation of this project demonstrates the global importance of foreign language teaching as the program unfolds into real life scenarios within the cultures of distinct regions of Brazil; Cosmopolitan Rio, in the southeast, and rural Belém, northern Amazon region.

**Keywords :** study abroad, critical thinking, sociocultural theory, foreign language, empirical, theoretical

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