

Ruth Corrêa Leite Cardoso's biographical sketch

(19th September 1930–24th June 2008)

Ruth Cardoso's name remains closely associated with the emergence of a new relationship between state and civil society, and of a new paradigm of social action in Brazil.

Dr. Cardoso received a Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of São Paulo, in 1972, and attended Columbia University on a Fulbright scholarship for post-doctoral studies. She has held academic positions at the Graduate Political Science Program, at the University of São Paulo, the City and Regional Department at the University of California, the Center for Latin American Studies, at Cambridge University (UK), and the Thomas J. Watson Jr. Institute for International Studies, at Brown University.

One of Brazil's leading scholars and intellectuals, Ruth Cardoso has conducted and promoted research on social issues and movements and on youth development, and served on international boards. She has been both researcher and director at the Brazilian Center of Analysis and Planning (CEBRAP), member of the Board of the Public Educational TV of the state of São Paulo, a counselor at the National Council of Women's Rights, a member of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life and a member of the board of the United Nations Foundation.

She served on the editorial board of *Novos Estudos*, was a member of the Joint Committee on Latin American Studies, of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, and was a member of the Advisory Committee of the *Estudos Feministas* [feminist studies].

As the First Lady of Brazil (1995–2002), Ms. Cardoso's vision was the main driver of *Comunidade Solidária*, an entity that promoted partnerships between the

government, nonprofit, and private sectors in her home country to fight poverty and to address social problems. Her focus on the empowerment of people and communities led to a paradigm shift: the investment on human and social capital as the path to a sustainable development.

Ruth Cardoso's ideas and experiences influenced the global debate on development through her participation in UN Conferences, the UN Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank's Commission on Women and ILO's Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization.

She was awarded with several honors such as: the "Eleanor Roosevelt – Val-Kill Award" Medal, United States; the Order of "Infante Dom Henrique", Portugal (Grand-Cross); the "Ceres" Medal, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

She is the author of several books and numerous articles, some of them translated to English, such as:

Cardoso, R. (1989). *Popular Movements in the Context of the Consolidation of Democracy in Brazil*, (Working Paper 120, University of Notre Dame: Kellogg Institute, March, 19 pp.), also reprinted as: Cardoso, R. (1992). *Popular Movements in the Context of the Consolidation of Democracy in Brazil*, In: A. Escobar & S. E. Alvarez (Eds.), *The Making of Social Movements in Latin America* (pp. 291–302). Colorado: Westview Press.

Cardoso, R. (1998). *Familiar structure and social mobility: A study of the Japanese in the state of São Paulo*. São Paulo: Kaleidos-Primus Consultoria e Comunicação Integrada. 2nd ed. Portuguese/English/Japanese, organized by Masato Ninomiya.

Cardoso, R., & Hamburguer, E. I. (1994). *Youth and the Media in Brazil*, *International Social Science Journal*, UNESCO, September, 445–462.