

Conference in Lebanon to feature Brazilian professor

An event focusing on social inclusion with PhD holder João Vicente Ganzarolli de Oliveira will run from November 14 to 16 at the Saint Joseph University in Beirut.

Bruna Garcia*

São Paulo – The Brazilian PhD holder João Vicente Ganzarolli de Oliveira, a professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), has been invited by the embassy of Brazil in Lebanon to join the Conference on Inclusion of People with Disabilities at the Saint Joseph University in Beirut. The event is free of charge and open to the general public.



Ganzarolli will deliver four lectures at Amphitheater A of the University's Campus of Medical and Infirmiry Sciences from September 14 to 16. Tuesday (14) from 9 am to 12 pm will see the debate *Disabled people: What is our role regarding them?* At the same time on Wednesday (15), there'll be a conversation on *The relevance, questions, and challenges in including people with disabilities in private and public schools.*

Thursday there'll be two lectures: *The role of NGOs and public and private institutions in promoting inclusion in society*, from 9 am to 11 am, and *An understanding of the strategies for inclusion of people with disabilities in order to involve parents, siblings and the whole family*, from

11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

The event is designed to promote inclusion and social integration within Lebanon and in all Middle East countries According to the professor, "there is still a lot of discrimination against the disabled."

For him, the use of the term "disabled people" is an oxymoron, since "disabled" means lacking in some physical or mental function. He prefers to call them "people with disabilities" or "physically

challenged people,” and explains that accepting one’s condition is the first step towards conquering the disability. You can’t please everyone when it comes to this terminology, someone’s always bound to be displeased, but this should not be the focus of scholars,” he said. The professor mentioned that this will be one of the subjects he’ll cover during the lectures.

Ganzarolli also criticized the current scenario in Brazilian academia regarding inclusion. “Academics end up focusing on politically-correct vernacular, they’re worried about using big words and they don’t get anything done, and the laws don’t work in our country,” he said. “Problems must be approached objectively, we need to provide accessibility and to include these people more and more,” he said.

Curriculum

The Rio de Janeiro-born João Ganzarolli holds degrees in Cartographic Engineering and Languages, a master’s in Philosophy with a major in Aesthetics, and doctorate and postdoctorate degrees in Literary Aesthetics.

He has been doing research on disabilities and art for 20 years now. Ganzarolli is currently a professor of Aesthetics and Art Philosophy at the UFRJ, as well as a collaborator at the Reference Center in Assistive Technology of the UFRJ’s Electronic Computing Department (CRTA-NCE), designing technologies for the visually impaired, people with mobility issues and tetraplegics. The Center puts out software and tools to facilitate people’s access to computers. The project is coordinated by professor Antonio Borges.

Ganzarolli has released six books, two of them on disabilities – *Por que não eles? Arte entre os Deficientes* and *Do essencial Invisível: Arte e Beleza entre Cegos*.

Quick facts

Conference on inclusion of people with disabilities, with professor João Ganzarolli
Saint Joseph University - Campus of Medical and Infirmary Sciences - Rue de Damas - Amphitheater A
November 14 to 16, 2017 - Beirut, Lebanon
Register by email: issp@usj.edu.lb

Nov 14/11 – Tuesday – 9 am to 12 pm – “The different people: What’s our role regarding them?”
Nov 15/11 – Wednesday – 9 am to 12 pm – “The importance, the issues and the challenges of inclusion in private and public schools”
Nov 16/11 – Thursday – 9 am to 11 am – “The role of NGOs and of private and public institutions in promoting inclusion in society”
Nov 16/11 – Thursday – 11:30 am to 1:30 pm – “An understanding of the strategies for inclusion of people with disabilities in order to involve parents, siblings and the whole family”

Free admission

***Translated by Gabriel Pomeranblum**

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