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Brazil Institute

The Brazil Institute of the Woodrow Wilson Center welcomes you to today's

CONVERSATION WITH

GOVERNOR

YEDA CRUSIUS

OF THE STATE OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL

On Tuesday, April 1, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

4th Floor Conference Room – [Directions](#)

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza

Yeda Rorato Crusius, an economist and university professor, was elected governor of the state of Rio Grande do Sul on October 2006. A leading member of the Brazilian Social Democrat Party (PSDB), Governor Crusius is the first woman elected to the governorship of the state. She was voted into office on a platform of fiscal discipline. Until she took office in January 2007, Rio Grande do Sul had run a 35-year budget deficit, had the worst fiscal position among the 27 states in Brazil, and the smallest rate of public investment. Governor Crusius has used her mandate to pursue and successfully implement necessary fiscal reforms. Under her leadership, the state has reigned-in government spending, generated the highest budgetary surplus in 37 years and increased public investment. Governor Crusius will be in Washington to finalize a negotiation with the World Bank to extend a US\$1 billion credit to reschedule the state's public debt—a deal that has been made possible by recent fiscal reforms.

GOVERNOR YEDA CRUSIUS

One of many Brazilians of her generation who came to politics from the academic world, Yeda Crusius served three mandates as a federal deputy representing Rio Grande do Sul before being elected governor of the state in 2006. As a congresswoman, she held several important posts including, Chairwoman of the Finance and Tax Committee in 1999, and was a member of several House of Deputies committees focused on financial issues, such as the Finance, Tax, Economy, Industry and Commerce Committee, and the Mixed Committee on Budgeting. She was voted one of the most influential Federal Deputies by studies produced by the organizations Diap and Arko Advice.

From 2001 to 2003, Governor Crusius was the President of the Instituto Teotônio Vilela, a PSDB think tank involved in political training and mobilization. As chief executive of Brazil's fourth largest state in GDP and population, her major focuses are growth promotion and fiscal responsibility in government, and the development and implementation of public policies that promote women's rights. She founded her party's National Secretariat for Women (PSDB Women) in 1999 and presided over the organization until 2001. In 1993, she served as Minister of Planning under President Itamar Franco.

During her residency at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, she was a full professor in the *Departamento de Ciências Econômicas*, research coordinator of the *Centro do Estudos e Pesquisas Econômicas (IEPE)* and director of the *Faculdade de Ciências Econômicas e Administrativas*. Governor Crusius received advanced degrees in Economics from the Universidade de São Paulo and Vanderbilt University.