



**Please join the Woodrow Wilson Center's Brazil Institute and the Latin American Program
for**

"The Political Challenges of Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff"

Thursday, January 24th, 2013

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

4th Floor Conference Room

Featuring: **Maria Herminia Tavares de Almeida**, Director, International Affairs Institute,
University of São Paulo

Discussants: **Fabio Cereda Cordeiro**, Embassy of Brazil

Maurício Moura, Visiting Scholar, The George Washington University

Moderator: **Paulo Sotero**, Director, Brazil Institute

Please RSVP to brazil@wilsoncenter.org (acceptances only) with your name and affiliation

After surprising her critics in the first two years by asserting her authority and winning approval while the economy was stalling and key members of the government of her popular predecessor and mentor, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, were tried for political corruption and sentenced to jail terms. Now President Dilma Rousseff faces challenges that could make or break her administration. First and foremost, she has to deliver on the promise of higher sustainable GDP growth rates of around 3.5%-4% a year in an economy that has not improved productivity and competitiveness, is confronted with prospects of electricity shortages and could be undermined by inflationary pressures and growing fiscal deficits that are being masked by unorthodox accounting. To do so, Rousseff has to reverse negative attitudes some policies and her forceful style have bred among Brazilian and international investors. Will Dilma, as she is popularly known, surprise the skeptics for a second time? What political factors will influence her choices on the economy? With Lula waiting in the wings and still very active, influential and popular, and the opposition in apparent disarray, does Rousseff's decision to run or not to run for reelection matter?

On January 24, Political Science Professor Maria Herminia Tavares de Almeida, from the University of São Paulo (USP), will discuss the obstacles facing the first Brazilian female president and the complex political scenario in which she moves. A member of the Advisory Boards of the Wilson Center's Brazil Institute and Latin American Program, Tavares de Almeida is Professor Emeritus of USP's International Relations Institute and past president of the Latin American Studies Association. Maurício Moura, visiting scholar at the George Washington University, and Brazilian diplomat Fabio Cereda Cordeiro will offer comments.