

*The Affordable Housing Institute and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*

*present the Exchange:*

*Legal-institutional designs supporting urban planning and  
management in federal systems: US and Brazil*

A Conversation with Gerald Frug and Edesio Fernandes

**Thursday, June 18, 2009 - 8:45am to 10:30am**

**Lincoln Institute of Land Policy  
113 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA**

This Exchange aims to discuss local power and local autonomy vis-à-vis state and federal levels and the possible formats of city and metropolitan management, competences and conditions for urban, land and housing policies.

The guest speakers agree on the fundamental importance of the legal-institutional framework to improve the conditions of land, housing and urban governance, and they share the basic idea that there should be better state-local articulation in their respective countries. However, whereas in the US case there is an argument that local government should be given more legal powers over territorial organization matters, in the Brazilian case it is argued that local government has excessive powers.

Is there a right legal structure? What are the challenges and implications? Hear two committed academics compare and contrast the institutional designs in force in their respective countries.

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[Edesio Fernandes](#), a Visiting Fellow at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and a member of DPU Associates (Development Planning Unit at University College London) is a lawyer specializing in urban planning and management; land reform and informal settlements regularization; constitutional law and human rights in developing countries. He was Director of Land Affairs at the Brazilian Ministry of Cities, and is a member of UN-HABITAT's Advisory Group on Forced Evictions. Among other publications, he is the author of *Law and Urban Change in Brazil* (1995) and editor (1998, with Ann Varley) of *Illegal Cities - Law and Urban Change in Developing Countries*.

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[Gerald Frug](#) is the Louis D. Brandeis Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. His specialty is local government law. Educated at the University of California at Berkeley and Harvard Law School, he worked as Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and as Health Services Administrator of the City of New York. He is the author of dozens of articles on local government, a casebook on local government law, and two books: *City Bound: How States Stifle Urban Innovation* (2008, with David Barron) and *City Making: Building Communities without Building Walls* (1999).

*The event is free but registration is required. [Register online at www.affordablehousinginstitute.org/exchange.php](http://www.affordablehousinginstitute.org/exchange.php) or contact [Rosabelli Coelho-Keyssar](mailto:Rosabelli.Coelho-Keyssar@ahinstitute.org) at 617 502 5916. A light breakfast will be provided*

The Affordable Housing Institute's Exchange Series is a periodic series of dialogues that brings together one expert from the global south and one from the global north to discuss a common theme, with the view of exploring what principles are universal across nations and environments. The Exchange Series engages as participants a diverse group of industry leaders, academic experts, and students from the global north and the global south. The series will explore some of the most challenging urban housing, finance and infrastructure issues facing the world's cities.

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