

# CALL FOR ACADEMIC PARTNER INSTITUTIONS 2020

## RioOnWatch

COMMUNITY REPORTING ON RIO

**RioOnWatch**  
COMMUNITY REPORTING ON RIO

HOME COMMUNITIES POLICIES VIOLATIONS ORGANIZING UNDERSTAND RIO

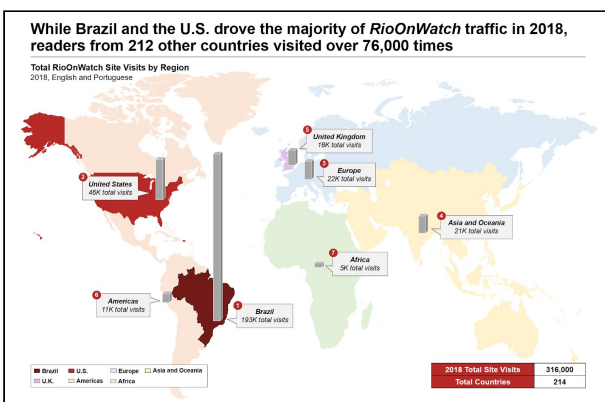
Latest News November 6, 2019 in #MediaWatch // In Three Months, Rio de Janeiro Print Media Published 80 Negative Cover Stories About Favelas

**In Three Months, Rio de Janeiro Print Media Published 80 Negative Cover Stories About Favelas**

**This Week**

**'Marvelous Port,' Rio's Largest Urban Redevelopment Project, 10 Years On**  
November 18, 2019

Launched in 2009 in the lead up to the 2016 Olympic Games, Porto Maravilha (Marvelous Port) is [...]



## Background

*RioOnWatch* is a non-profit reporting platform focused on realizing the potential of Rio de Janeiro's favelas as sustainable communities and defending residents' human rights. Since its launch in May 2010 as a community watchdog platform to keep a strategic spotlight on the changes happening to Rio de Janeiro's favelas in the lead up to the 2016 Olympic Games, the site has published over 3100 articles in English and Portuguese, always emphasizing favela opinions and experiences, data and impacts of public policy.

A strong editorial line and hundreds of solidarity reporters, interns from universities around the world, community journalists, and volunteer translators produce a particularly low-cost, high-impact platform. It is a network endeavor. Together, we have grown into a tool that has helped stop forced evictions, improved negotiations for residents, informed and inspired community organizers, empowered grassroots communicators, and noticeably shifted the broad understanding of favelas in Rio de Janeiro and around the world.

As part of the broader *RioOnWatch* program, we hold monthly support group sessions to check in with favela journalists about their safety and to keep a pulse on stories erupting in their communities. And twice a year we hold a meet-up where these community reporters debate reporting on their communities with the international correspondents that cover them for publications ranging from *AFP* and *The New York Times* to *Deutsche Welle* and *CNN*. Today, [RioOnWatch.org](http://RioOnWatch.org) continues to grow, receiving 51,000 readers from 169 countries each month. More importantly, it is read by and influences opinion formers from Rio's favelas to international aid agencies, global media outlets to top universities. In fact, *RioOnWatch* has become a worldwide reference as a critical academic source and model of practitioner-academic

**bridge-buiding.** Providing a mix of first-hand accounts from residents themselves and original research, *RioOnWatch* is commonly cited in academic journals and widely used by faculty at hundreds of universities worldwide. And we reach **350,000 people every month** through our publications and social media, not to mention being a **Webby Award honoree**.

**All of this is done for just US\$8000 per month.**

## An Invitation

In May 2020 *RioOnWatch* will turn ten. With each passing year the site has become a **deeper and more critical resource**, intimately documenting the unfolding reality of some of the **longest-established informal settlements** in the modern world, Rio de Janeiro's favelas. However, the special fund that launched and allowed *RioOnWatch* to continue for a decade **is running out**. The only way to guarantee *RioOnWatch* continues to flourish moving forward is by **engaging dependable partners who know and rely on its value** and will commit to ensure it continues not only to exist but to thrive.

With this goal in mind, *RioOnWatch* is **inviting 20-40 academic institutions** who intend to place interns with us or depend on the site's research and reporting to sponsor its content and broader activities for 2020.

**Interested? Please contact us at [partner@catcomm.org](mailto:partner@catcomm.org).**

---

\*Sponsorship includes predetermining a subject area of interest to your students which may be one of the following (or another subject): human rights, architecture, racial justice, education policy, community innovation, community participation, mental health, etc. Once *RioOnWatch* editors have identified a compatible and timely article topic, the assigned faculty member responsible for the partnership at your institution will confirm their satisfaction with the topic, and will have a chance to confirm the article prior to publication. Upon publication, your institution will be widely recognized in all promotions of the article. See an example from [our partnership with](#) San Diego State University [here](#).

## Here's what's in it for your department and your students:

\$200/month partnership	\$400/month partnership
Sponsorship of bimonthly column on pre-agreed subject area*	Sponsorship of monthly column on pre-agreed subject area*
Application, coordination and oversight of 2 3-month internships with Catalytic Communities per year for qualified students, in Rio de Janeiro or virtually	Application, coordination and oversight of 6 3-month internships with Catalytic Communities per year for qualified students, in Rio de Janeiro or virtually
<i>RioOnWatch</i> Editor available to participate in a 1-hour call-in class session	Dr. Theresa Williamson available to participate in a 1-hour call-in class session
<i>RioOnWatch</i> Digest emailed to students and faculty up to twice monthly with Portuguese digest option for Portuguese students; recognition of partnership with your university in Digest that goes out to 10,000 people each month	<i>RioOnWatch</i> Digest emailed to students and faculty up to twice monthly with Portuguese digest option for Portuguese students; recognition of partnership with your university in Digest that goes out to 10,000 people each month
Privately curated, quarterly update for faculty and students documenting the latest democracy, human rights and environmental news coming out of Brazil	Privately curated, quarterly update for faculty and students documenting the latest democracy, human rights and environmental news coming out of Brazil
Sponsorship of <i>RioOnWatch</i> Facebook and Twitter feeds as aggregators of daily and real-time relevant Brazil and Rio de Janeiro community and global news; recognition of partnership on these social media channels	Sponsorship of <i>RioOnWatch</i> Facebook and Twitter feeds as aggregators of daily and real-time relevant Brazil and Rio de Janeiro community and global news; recognition of partnership on these social media channels
Sponsorship of transportation costs to allow 5 community journalists to participate in monthly community reporters' and international journalists' meet-ups	Sponsorship of transportation costs to allow 10 community journalists to participate in monthly community reporters' and international journalists' meet-ups