

The Serrapilheira Institute

June 30th 2021

Private

Non-profit

Research & Outreach

World-class science

Make science more
accessible

Fields

Natural sciences &
mathematics

Basic research

Who are we?

An initial endowment of US\$ 110 million was set up in 2016.

Serrapilheira is the first private, endowed institution supporting science and science outreach in Brazil.

Structure & governance

Board of trustees

Executive team

Scientific Advisory Board

Panels of experts

Our principles

Address a big question – Night Science

Young world-class scientists

Create a community of scientists and science communicators with a common set of values:

Excellence

Promoting diversity (ethnic and gender)

Citizen science

Transparency

Our Programs

Science

Training

Science outreach

Science

Night science

There exist two ways of « doing science ». One that I could call « **day science** ». “Day science” results from impeccable reasoning and certainty of the expected results. Day science is proud of its past and certain about its glorious future.

Oppositely, “**Night Science**” is blind. It hesitates, goes backward at times

...“**Night Scientists**” have doubts about everything. Night scientists explore all “possible” in a disarticulated way. But when night science resists logic and reasoning, it will finally be considered as day science.

François Jacob

Community

A **label** Serrapilheira

A common set of values: Excellence, high risk/high gain, citizen science, proximity

Support/train scientists from **underrepresented** groups

Participate in **science outreach initiatives**

International training in biology, ecology and biodiversity sciences

Objectives

Harness Brazil's potential in biological sciences, ecology and biodiversity sciences and complement training in the area by exploring its interfaces with mathematics, physics and computer science

Create a network of world-class Brazilian researchers who can contribute in a significant way to advances in the area, both at home and abroad

Science outreach

Media and science

Our objectives

Getting science visible to a large public

Explaining the scientific method in a simple way

Showing that believing in science does not mean rejecting other visions of the world

Promoting the approximation of Brazilian journalists and scientists

Who can/should be a science communicator?

Scientists are not always the only communicators

Scientists must produce science

Communicators must communicate

Policy makers must make policies

Who can/should be a science communicator?

Scientists are not always the only communicators

Scientists must produce science, but should always be the source of information of communicators and/or policy makers

Communicators must communicate about science and do not need to be scientist and are not policy makers

Policy makers must make policies based on science and therefore be in touch with scientists

Language battle

In extremely unequal populations, one needs to lead with different languages within the same country/city.

While science communication historically was uniquely dedicated to higher social classes, social networks has changed the public one can communicate with.

Language battle

Social networks are free and open and are often outside academia in Brazil

- How can we fund them?
- Can they be regulated?

In highly religious countries, it is not fruitful to oppose science to religion or other ways to perceive the world

Thank you