LSE Review of Books Podcast launches three-part series on Brazil

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LSE Review of Books in Brazil: Episode 1: Rio in transition

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Episode 2: Favelas, Identity and Grassroots Movements – Coming soon!
Episode 3: Politics and Economics in Brazil – Coming soon!

In the first episode of a three-part series on Brazil, the LSE Review of Books Podcast takes a closer look at the city of Rio de Janeiro to uncover wider issues that face the world’s fastest growing cities. Before talking to LSE and Brazilian authors about their books on Brazil, LSERB podcast producer, Cheryl Brumley, made her first stop at the annual Urban Age Conference to hear how politicians, academics and planners from cities around the globe grapple with city transformations. The conference, put on by LSE Cities and the Alfred Herrhausen Society, is a globetrotting event which invites 70 experts to participate in a two-day investigation of cities. The conference took place in Rio amidst unprecedented urban transformation and ambitious redevelopment projects, spurred on by the impending World Cup and Olympic Games.

This podcast features Ricky Burdett, Director of LSE Cities, and architectural adviser to the London 2012 Olympics; Washington Farjado, Adviser on Urban Affairs to the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro; Dame Tessa Jowell, MP and former UK Minister for the Olympics; Enrique Peñalosa, former Mayor of Bogota; Amanda Burden, Director of the New York City Department of Planning; and many others.
The twentieth century saw an acceleration in the process of urbanisation, of a speed and pace of change that outstripped the genteel and planned expansion of Paris, Barcelona, Berlin and even London in the previous century. This process has accelerated even further since 2000, completely transforming the physiognomy of some cities in response to profound changes in global economic and social trends. Rio de Janeiro stands out today as a city that is embracing change and undergoing profound transformation. As such, it provides the ideal setting for an informed debate on the impacts of city transformations across the globe. The newspaper features commentary from renowned urbanists and academics such as Deyan Sudjic, David Harvey, Richard Sennett.

Here are some photo highlights from our adventure in Rio de Janeiro:
Portuguese colonial architecture overlooks a street market in Rio’s Centro neighbourhood — its business and financial centre. © 2013 Cheryl Brumley
A sandcastle on Avenida Atlantica in Copacabana. © 2013 Cheryl Brumley