Lilia Moritz Schwarcz is one of Brazil’s most distinguished public intellectuals. A pioneering cultural historian and social anthropologist, she has devoted her career to examinations of the complex legacy of slavery in Brazil, shedding new light on the country's intertwined issues of race, diversity, and national identity.

She is a prolific writer with a remarkable academic range, from scholarly monographs, biographies, and edited anthologies to a five-volume history of Brazil. Her books have won numerous awards, including Brazil’s highest literary honor, the Jabuti Prize, and the Brazilian Academy of Letters’ Júlio Ribeiro Medal. She also writes screenplays, curates exhibitions, is a frequent guest on television and radio programs, and pens regular columns for Brazilian daily newspapers and the online edition of The New York Review of Books. In addition, she is co-founder of Companhia das Letras, one of Brazil’s most successful publishing houses.

Schwarcz has taught and lectured around the world, holding fellowships at the Guggenheim Foundation and Brown University's John Carter Brown Library; visiting professorships at the universities of Oxford, Leiden, and Princeton; and the Tinker Professorship at Columbia University. In her native Brazil, she is a professor of anthropology at the University of São Paulo (USP), the top-ranked university in Latin America. She teaches undergraduates, supervises graduate students’ doctoral dissertations, and directs USP’s “Africa-Brazil Network” for leading scholars and graduate students working on the history of slavery and racism.

As a Princeton Global Scholar, Schwarcz co-teaches courses on the history and culture of Brazil and advances student and faculty discussions on concepts of racism and identity. Her areas of expertise — the Portuguese Atlantic, colonialism, race, slavery — are a tremendous resource for scholars in an array of departments: history, anthropology, Spanish & Portuguese languages and cultures, the Program in Latin American Studies, and the Center for African American Studies.

Her appointment, which was made possible in part by a generous gift from Robert Lloyd-George, builds on Princeton's existing ties with USP. Schwarcz is committed to strengthening this important bridge for scholarly exchange and is developing a series of research-oriented workshops at Princeton for students and faculty from both institutions. With her connections and support, more Princeton students will be able to take advantage of USP’s rich academic environment and acclaimed professional schools — to learn new skills, broaden their perspectives on issues of race and inequality, and gain the international experience that is increasingly valuable in an interconnected, globalized world.