



COMPARATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION
RESEARCH GROUP

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
405 HILGARD AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024-1521

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Dr. Simon Schwartzman
Rua Antonio Vieira 17 apt. 1201
22010 Leme, Rio de Janeiro
Brazil

Dear Simon:

I have just been reading my way through a pile of papers that have accumulated during the last six months and thereby finally had the opportunity to read the reprint you sent me of your article "Brazil: Opportunity and Crisis in Higher Education." I think the paper is simply outstanding. It is very clear and informative throughout and it is particularly well structured with basic concepts. I think your interpretation is extremely sound in pointing to the value of differentiation, incrementalism, and complexity. These concepts have been increasingly rooted in my own thinking during the last ten or fifteen years, particularly in my 1977 case study of Italy, my 1983 System book, my fall 1987 book on American professors, The Academic Life, and in the complexity paper that I gave at the meeting in Sweden where you and I were last together. These concepts, it seems to me, take us a long way in cross-national analysis of national systems and in the understanding of the evolution of each national case. Your closing sentence could not be better: "it is this complexity, rather than any well conceived reform, which will keep Brazil's higher education alive and kicking." Congratulations again on a smashing paper.

I would be interested in visiting with you in Brazil at some time if we can work out an occasion that would fit your needs and my time. Please let me know if any particular time in the remainder of 1988 and especially in 1989 would make sense.

My best regards.

Sincerely,

Burton R. Clark/ps

Burton R. Clark
Allan M. Cartter Professor of
Higher Education and Sociology

BRC:ps