

## **DNA identifies Brazil's 'disappeared'**

**A new DNA extraction technique developed at the University of Sheffield will enable the remains of hundreds of Brazilians, who disappeared during periods of military rule from the 1960s onwards, to be identified.**

Collaborative work between Dr Marco Gxxxx of Sao Paulo University and Dr Martin Exxxx of the Academic Unit of Forensic Pathology at the University of Sheffield focused on methods of DNA extraction from forensic and ancient skeletons.

“DNA recovery from the skeleton is a very difficult technique,” explained Dr Exxxx. “Usually, there’s hardly any DNA left, and what there is is extremely difficult to recover. In these cases, we’ve been using the DNA extraction technique developed in Sheffield.”

The practical implications of their research were made clear recently when the authorities in Brazil used the technique to identify the skeletonised remains of two murder victims dumped near Sao Paulo in the late-1990s.

When Dr Gxxxx returns to Brazil, he’ll be sharing his knowledge with forensic pathologists in the identification of the remains of twelve hundred bodies found on the outskirts of Sao Paulo.

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