The streets of Rio de Janeiro have long been characterized as exuberant and exotic places for social commerce, political expression, and the production and dissemination of culture. *The Street Is Ours* examines the changing uses and meanings of Rio de Janeiro’s streets and argues that the automobile, by literally occupying much of the street’s space and by introducing death and injury on a new scale, significantly transformed the public commons. Once viewed as a natural resource and a place of equitable access, deep meaning, and diverse functions, the street became a space of exclusion that prioritized automotive movement. Taking an environmental approach, Shawn William Miller surveys the costs and failures of this spatial transformation and demonstrates how Rio’s citizens have resisted the automobile’s intrusions and, in some cases, reversed the long trend of closing the street against its potential utilities.

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(Continued after the Index)
The Street Is Ours

Community, the Car, and the Nature of Public Space
in Rio de Janeiro

SHAWN WILLIAM MILLER

Brigham Young University, Utah
A natureza, como a história, não se faz brincando.
(Nature, like history, follows no frivolous course.)

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And my thanks, finally, to companions in travel: Esmé, Lindy, Sadie, Hannah, Miles, and Kelly.
Key
1. Rua do Ouvidor (street)
2. Rua Direita (street)
3. Praça de São Francisco de Paula (square)
4. Largo da Misericórdia (square)
5. Rua da Assembléia (street)
6. Rocio Pequeno (square, later Praça Onze de Junho)
7. Praça da Constituição (square, formerly Rocio Grande)
8. Campo da Aclamação (square)
9. Estação Dom Pedro II (train station)
10. Passeio Público (park)
11. Largo da Carioca (square)
12. Largo do Paço (square)
13. Largo do Capim (square)
14. Largo de São Domingos (square)
15. Praça Municipal (square)
16. Santa Casa da Misericórdia (hospital)
   A. Morro de Santo Antônio (hill)
   B. Morro de São Bento (hill)
   C. Morro do Castelo (hill)
   D. Morro do Senado (hill)
   E. Morro da Conceição (hill)
   F. Morro do Livramento (hill)
Key
1. Assistência Médica Central (first-aid clinic)
2. Santa Casa da Misericórdia (hospital)
3. Avenida Rio Branco (formerly Central)
4. Avenida Vargas
5. Garagem Menezes Cortes (parking structure)
6. Praça Onze de Junho (square)
7. Praça Tiradentes (square)
8. Praça da República (square)
9. Estação Dom Pedro II (train station)
10. Passeio Público (park)
11. Largo da Carioca (square)
12. Praça Quinze de Novembro (square)
13. Largo da Misericórdia (square)
14. SAARA Pedestrian Shopping District
15. Praça Mauá (square)
16. Santos Dumont Airport
17. Aterro do Flamengo (highway)
B. Morro de São Bento (hill)
E. Morro da Conceição (hill)
F. Morro do Livramento (hill)