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## Melanie Wyffels

Society, Equality, and Change Study Trip  
Trip Leader

*Melanie has worked with international education most of her professional life. She has been involved in cultural projects in Brazil, and ESL exchange programs in the US for the last fifteen years. Melanie was born to a family of renown educators in Brazil and, since her earliest age has been exposed to the challenges and, as a result, to some very creative solutions derived from the countless educational and political reforms in that country. She is fluent in Portuguese and English and has extensive experience in intercultural communication.*

### Career Highlights

As assistant curator of a private museum in São Paulo, Brazil – *Acervo Fernando e Catherine Silva* – Melanie organized a number of cultural events, - “*Arte na 9 de Julho*”- to promote the work of young contemporary Brazilian artists. These bi-monthly events were open to the public and included theater, street art, performances, media, music and literature. During these events, special art workshops were offered to students at public and private schools in the city of São Paulo.

As Executive Director of the *Brazilian Center of Philosophy for Children* during the 90’s, Melanie and a team of 63 teacher educators traveled around the country to promote the development of critical and caring thinking skills with children from K-12. For two years as Vice-President of *ICPIC*, the *International Council for the Advancement of Philosophical Inquiry with Children*, she helped organize international seminars in Australia, Spain and Brazil.

Melanie moved to the US in 1999 with her family to work at Internexus, a network of schools specialized in International Education and exchange programs. She was the marketing manager and international internship coordinator for the Latin American and Asian markets until 2006.

Melanie is a member of the Board of Directors of Yazigi International, a network of language schools in Brazil and is a dedicated promoter of community projects related to fair trade, ethics in business and sustainable initiatives.

Melanie holds degrees in Business Administration and Philosophy of Education – University of São Paulo, Brazil. She is an active Bahia Street volunteer, both in the U.S. and in Brazil.