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# Trends. Psychology and SIN in Brazil: What Will the Future Bring?

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Political psychologists--at least those with the usual academic credentials--are most frequently characterized by their writing of theoretical, empirical, and experimental studies. Rarely, has the term, political psychologist denoted a formally credentialed psychologist who has directly entered the political fray as high-level governmental leader. One example would be psychologist Hendrik Verwoerd who became the political leader of the Republic of South Africa during the apartheid era.

As another example, the Brazilian government recently has announced that psychologist Marisa [Almeida] del'Isola e Diniz has been chosen to face Senate confirmation as the head of the Brazilian Intelligence Agency--a successor to the National Intelligence Service (SIN). SIN controlled all aspects of state security during an era wherein thousands of Brazilians were "disappeared."

So, will her psychological background (interacting with her intelligence background in personnel and training) facilitate moral, ethical, and strategically effective functioning of Brazilian intelligence? Another human rights disaster like Verwoerd's? Be completely unrelated to the discharge of intelligence leadership responsibilities? Stay tuned. (See Blowers, G.H. (1998). Chen Li: China's elder psychologist. *History of Psychology*, 1, 315-330; Celeste, B. L. (2000). We must be the change we want to see in the world: Psychologists in the statehouse. *Professional Psychology: Research & Practice*, 31, 469-472; Harris, B. (1998). The perils of a public intellectual. *Journal of Social Issues*, 54, 79-118; Rohter, L. (December 14, 2000). Spy agency in Brazil is accused of abuses. *The New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com>.) (Keywords: Brazil, Brazilian Intelligence Agency, Disappeared, National Intelligence Service, SIN.)