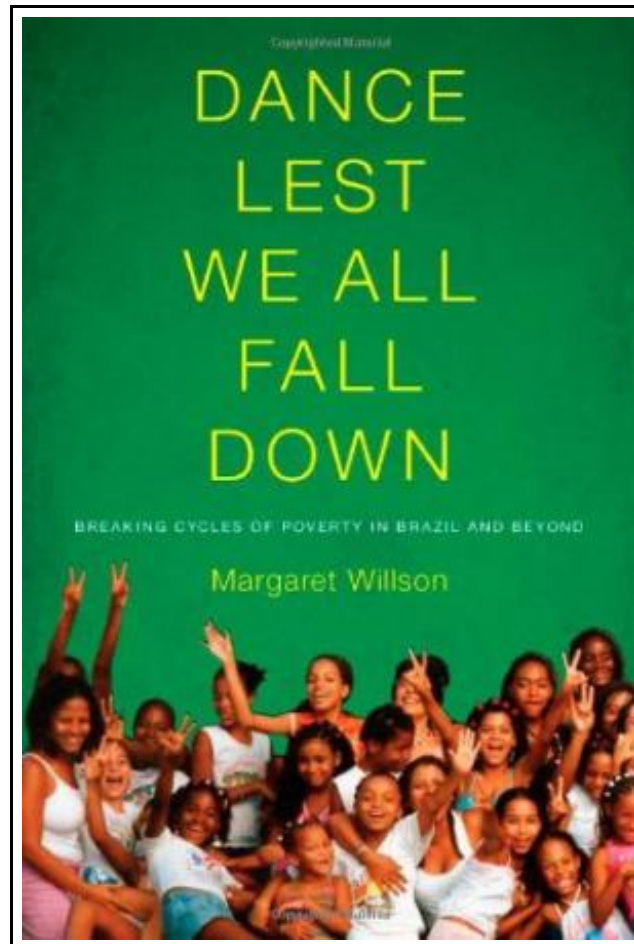


## Dance Lest We All Fall Down: Breaking Cycles of Poverty in Brazil and Beyond



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## DANCE LEST WE ALL FALL DOWN: BREAKING CYCLES OF POVERTY IN BRAZIL AND BEYOND



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University of Washington Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 320 pages. An unexpected detour can change the course of our lives forever, and, for white American anthropologist Margaret Willson, a stopover in Brazil led to immersion in a kaleidoscopic world of street urchins, capoeiristas, drug dealers, and wise teachers. She and African Brazilian activist Rita Conceicao joined forces to break the cycles of poverty and violence around them by pledging local residents they would create a top-quality educational program for girls. From 1991 to the graduation of Bahia Streets first college-bound graduate in 2005, Willson and Conceicao's adventure took them to the shantytowns of Brazil's Northeast, high-society London, and urban Seattle. In a narrative brimming with honesty and grace, *Dance Lest We All Fall Down* unfolds the story of this remarkable alliance, showing how friendship, when combined with courage, insight, and passion, can transform dreams of a better world into reality. Always poignant and often productively uncomfortable, *Dance Lest We All Fall Down* is a highly personal, beautifully written, and theoretically sophisticated ethnography of modern connections in Brazil's northeast that focuses on the successes as well as the shortcomings of nongovernmental institutions and contemporary means of addressing social inequality. -John Collins, Anthropology, City University of New York An ideal text for classroom discussions about the cultural politics of development. *Dance Lest We All Fall Down* illustrates both how transnational solidarity can improve livelihoods and how it is not free from the tensions and contradictions that have always accompanied outside efforts to do good in the Global South. This book gives proponents and skeptics of NGOs plenty to think about. -Maria Elena Garcia, Comparative History of Ideas and the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington A very moving tale about race, gender, and class in the Capital...



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