Moises Lino e Silva successfully defended his PhD thesis at the University of St Andrews in May 2012. Entitled "Metafreedom? The Carnivalesque of Freedom in a Brazilian Favela", the thesis explored the current state of freedom as lived by a group of slum dwellers. He argued that the understanding of freedom as lived experience requires a radical pluralization of the more established narratives of freedom. At the same time, however, this pluralization also necessarily confronts the very limits of the possibilities for freedom in the favela.

Professor Nigel Rapport acted as the internal convener and Professor Steven Caton from Harvard University acted as the external examiner.

The Department of Anthropology at Harvard University has offered him a Research Fellowship for the 2012/2013 academic year.