

MAIN PUBLICATIONS

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- Guimarães NA. 2008. Empresariando o trabalho: os agentes econômicos da intermediação de empregos. Esses ilustres desconhecidos. *Dados*. **51**, n.2.
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Center for Metropolitan Studies

Centro de Estudos da Metrópole
Rua Morgado de Mateus, 615 – Vila Mariana
04015-902 – São Paulo, SP – Brasil
+55-11-5574-0399
+55-11-5574-5928
www.centrodametropole.org.br

RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND DISSEMINATION CENTERS (RIDC)

MAIN RESEARCHERS

Director

Eduardo Cesar Leão Marques – University of São Paulo (USP)

Coordinator of the area of Population and Society

Elza Berquó – University of Campinas (Unicamp)

Haroldo Torres – Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG)

Ismail Xavier (USP)

Marta Arretche (USP)

Nadya Araújo Guimarães (USP)

Main partners institutions

Cebrap, Seade Foundation, Sesc, FFLCH-USP; ECA-USP; Inpe, TV Cultura; Poli-USP



Using geo-referenced technologies such as satellite images, CEM developed a methodology for recognizing precarious settlements – which have sanitation, familiar income and other conditions similar to those of slums – and generated intra-urban cartographies of 371 municipalities in a study for Ministério das Cidades

The *Centro de Estudos da Metrópole* (Center for Metropolitan Studies) – CEM develops advanced studies on themes related to urban processes, with emphasis on the Brazilian context and in a dialogue with the world production in the area. Its central proposal is to investigate the reproduction mechanisms of social inequality in metropolitan environments. It is not the case of merely producing the mapping of these inequalities, but of carrying through an analytical effort in order to understand in depth the dynamics producing and reproducing them, so as to ascertain policies aimed at overcoming them.

Researches taken to effect in the first years of the CEM revealed a paradox: even with a negative scenario in the economy and the labor market, an improvement has been observed in several social indicators concerning health, education, housing, and the ownership of durable goods, even in the more vulnerable metropolitan areas. Such improvement has been associated with the existence of multiple survival and social integration strategies, only in part affected by the properly economic dynamics of the 1990's. From these findings, the present central working hypothesis was elaborated, based on the premise that the social reproduction in São Paulo, and in other similar places, results from the association between general processes inducing the maintenance or the growth of inequality, on one hand, and political and social mechanisms that lessen social vulnerability, on the other. The focuses of the CEM's studies are as much the reproduction of the inequality as the production of social welfare.

The researches developed by the CEM adopt an interdisciplinary approach, bringing together urbanists, sociologists, demographers, anthropologists, political scientists, and communicators. They also emphasize comparative analysis, involving metropolitan areas from different regions of Brazil and other countries. The main objects of study are the access to employment, social services, and social relations (associative movement, religion, and social networks).

MAIN RESEARCH TOPICS

Labor market, intermediation and social networks

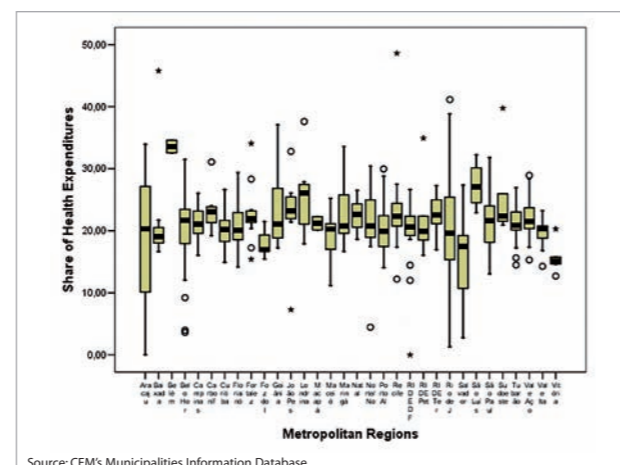
This line of research approaches the labor market and its role in the reproduction of a determined pattern of inequality of opportunities. It is also dedicated to the mechanisms to which the individuals resort in order to face the vulnerability originating from the structure of occupational opportunities, based on intense transitions between situations in the market and in recurrent unemployment. This implies that the recent shifts in supply and demand for work force be investigated, considering the strong impact of structural changes in economic activity, such as the internationalization of enterprises and the displacement of occupations among the sectors of the economy. Studied in the same way are the formal – resulting from the system of intermediation – and informal – made available by the social networks – mechanisms providing access to occupations and the related transitional movements within the labor market.

Life conditions, State and public policies

This line of investigation examines the political institutions as explanatory factors of the access to social services – and, therefore, of life conditions of the poorer sections of the community – and the mechanisms through which they voice their interests. The axes of research intend to analyze the processes – collective and individual – of access to the State: (i) the policies themselves – their design and operational mechanisms; (ii) the networks of access to the State; (iii) the public expenditure and its determinants; (iv) the patterns of representation – representative or participative. This line of research includes comparative studies about localization and spatial dynamics involving shantytowns and precarious settlements, so as to subsidize State actions. In investigating the relationship between inequalities, social networks and spatial distribution, it opened new possibilities for studies on social segregation.

Sociability and urban life

This line of research examines the social relations and their impact on the experience of urban life and the opportunities of escaping from the situation of poverty. Two analytical dimensions are central to this line of investigation: (i) to analyze the effects of social networks upon the reproduction of poverty, based on the hypothesis that they can be a virtuous mechanism for reducing vulnerability, by providing access to the labor market and to public policies; (ii) to understand the role of family and migration in the reproduction of the religious sphere, starting from the hypothesis that new structures – not social, but rather communicational – would mold the foundations of contemporary urban experience.



The boxplot shows the share of health expenditures on the total budget for the municipalities located in each of the 29 metropolitan areas in Brazil. It reveals they give high priority to this policy, since this expenditure median was around 20% in 2006, a rate which is quite representative of previous years. It is explained by policy-specific regulations of the central government over local governments spending decisions

SUMMARY OF RESULTS TO DATE AND PERSPECTIVES

Research

- Brazilian municipalities give greater priority to redistributive than to developmental policies. Their participation in health and education programs has varied from 30% to 70% of total expenditures. In urban infrastructure and the public transportation, this proportion has varied from zero to 35%. Inequalities in expenditures are much higher in redistributive than in developmental policies. This outcome is explained by central government regulation.

- Surveys applied to the poor population in São Paulo (1991 and 2004) show that the employment situation has been deteriorating while social services have been considerably improved; they also show that the access to services relies mainly on institutional means and not on clientelistic practices. Research carried out in Salvador in 2006 arrived at similar findings.

- In a context of diminishing job opportunities, private services of job intermediation become more central, regardless of the governmental efforts for organizing a public system of employment allocation. However, the most important mechanism for the search for jobs in São Paulo, differently from Tokyo and Paris, is still the participation in personal networks, even for those who usually search through private institutions.

- Segregation has a strong effect on poverty, as well as on the access to public services.

- Residential (income) segregation in São Paulo is similar to (racial) segregation in New York, and has increased between 1991 and 2000. However, the access of the poorer to social services is more related to policy design than to the patterns of intermediation or spatial segregation.

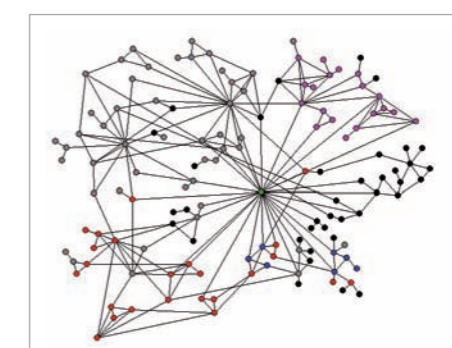
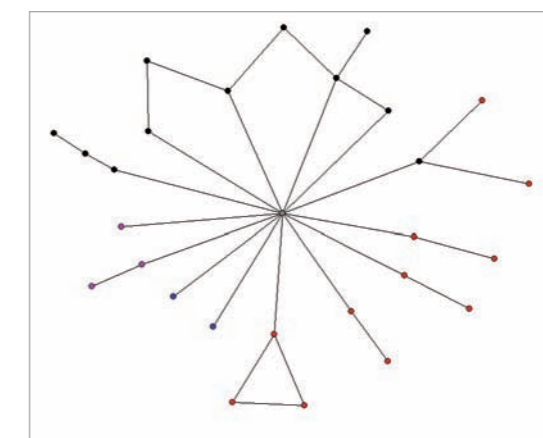
- The provision of infrastructure is strongly affected by networks linking bureaucracies within the State and private companies. Notwithstanding, the outcomes differ according to right and left wing administrations, as well as to the policies' institutions.

- The size of personal networks and the type and variability of the individual's sociability help to explain income, job status, and poverty. Variability in income is more extensively explained by networks than by traditional variables such as job status and schooling years.

- The strength of civil organizations does not affect their propensity to engage in the formulation of public policies. Such engagement is explained by the relationship with political parties and governmental agencies.

Technology transference

- Development of the software *TerraView Política Social*, in an agreement with the National Institute for Space Investigation, available for free download from the website.



CEM's researches revealed that personal networks of the poorer (above) in Brazilian metropolitan regions tend to be smaller, more local, less heterogeneous and have less diversity of spheres than those of middle-class people (below). Quantitative analysis has added that relational indicators explain poverty conditions, measured by income, social precarity, job status and job tenure. The results suggest that these patterns of sociability must be taken into account by public policies designed to address social inequality and poverty

- GIS courses for habilitating professionals and researchers.

- Creation of a Geographic Information System with more than 140 layers of information for the metropolitan region of São Paulo. The most important databases are available for free download from the website.

- Studies directed to public policies, such as the Map of Vulnerability – which identified the spatial distribution of basic needs and has been used by the Municipality of São Paulo in formulating local policies – and the project for the *Ministério das Cidades* – which developed a methodology for recognizing precarious settlements, generated intra-urban cartographies of 371 municipalities, and undertook an extensive analysis on local governments' managerial capabilities concerning housing policies.

- Development and maintenance of Web Mapping servers the regions of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador, as well as about the municipalities of the State of São Paulo.