



# **The 2011 annual report of the International Center for Research and Policy on Childhood at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro**

**Concerned about children throughout the world**

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## **Introduction**

CIESPI, the International Center for Research and Policy on Childhood at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, is dedicated to research studies on, and social projects for, children, young people and their families and communities. Its purpose is to support the development and implementation of policies and practices for children and young people that contribute to their full development and the promotion and defense of their rights.

CIESPI's principle lines of work include:

- The development of research and social projects
- Advising on and participating in studies throughout Brazil and internationally
- Building the capacity of students and professionals
- Collecting, analyzing, and disseminating important information

CIESPI's main activities are:

- Developing applied, interdisciplinary research projects that contribute to the debate about policies and practices in the areas of childhood, youth, family and community;
- Promoting lectures, courses and seminars to insert the results of its work in local, national and international forum;
- Disseminating data, research, and methodologies in its areas of expertise through Brazil and internationally;
- Offering training to students and professionals in various areas of knowledge;
- Advising on projects, programs and studies in its areas of expertise;
- Participating in debates and discussions in public forums, government advisory councils, legislative bodies, and elsewhere to contribute to the defense and guarantee of the rights of children and youth.

2011 was a year marked by important accomplishments for CIESPI. The following are some highlights of CIESPI's major projects during that year. More details on each of them can be found at [www.ciespi.org.br](http://www.ciespi.org.br).

## **Promoting the full development of young children in Brazil**

The objective of this project is to broaden the opportunities for the full development of children in early childhood.

One CIESPI strategy is the production of a series of tools that assist key-actors in the formulation and implementation of public policies and actions that prioritize children in the first years of life.

These tools, described below, are now available on the CIESPI website under the title *Ambiente primeira infancia*, the Environment of Early Childhood.

In 2011, four online tools were created or expanded significantly:

- Early childhood data base

The data base contains a demographic profile of children 0 to 6 years-old in Brazil (urban and rural). It includes tables and graphs with key information at the state, regional, and national levels. It also includes definitions of the indicators, information on sources and references and a brief description of the highlights of each table and graph. It is designed for both general and specialized audiences. The early childhood data base is complemented by a data base on vulnerable children and youth in Brazil and a data base on the changing demography of young people.

- Laws, public policies, and programs

This tool includes all Brazilian laws relating to young children and materials on public policies and programs. The tool contains videos, testimonies, and selected texts. In 2011, an International Legal Reference Base was added with a collection that includes international legal devices (accords, treaties, pacts, among others) about the rights of children and adolescents.

We also added a series of key international laws and documents in English and Spanish. This series of standards, including the Federal Constitution of Brazil, The Statute of the Child and Adolescent, The Convention on the Rights of Children and Adolescents is directed at the growing international interest in legal documents pertaining to the rights of children and adolescents.

- Public budgets

No understanding of public efforts to improve the well-being of children and youth is complete without a knowledge of the public expenditures on children, youth and families. While the post-dictatorship democratic governments of Brazil have enacted an impressive series of legal guarantees for children, implementation of these rights has proven to be a very challenging task. One problem is lack of transparent, detailed, line-item, public budgets. This tool presents the basic legal framework of the rights of children and the process of construction and negotiation of municipal public budgets relevant to young children. The tool is aimed at a variety of users who wish to understand, monitor and impact public budgets.

- The community speaks about children: a multimedia webmap

This tool shows how local residents can graphically represent the condition of children in their neighborhood to improve public policies for those children. We use the Rocinha community of Rio de Janeiro, which is the largest favela in Latin America, as the example. Rocinha is a reference community for CIESPI, a place where CIESPI staff can be reminded of the day to day realities of raising children in difficult conditions. It is also a community where CIESPI has important, longstanding partnerships with residents and community organizations. To assist staff on the early childhood project, we formed a community

advisory council made up of educators, young people and community leaders. The council meets regularly both at CIESPI which is located close to Rocinha and in the community itself.

The first iteration of the map concentrates on the provision of safe, open spaces for children.



During 2011, the project team participated in the following events on early childhood:

- Participation in the Brazilian Network of Early Childhood (RNPI). CIESPI was one of the organizations elected to participate in the management group of RNPI. The network's purpose is to propose policy changes to improve the condition of young children in Brazil. CIESPI is one of the few research organizations in the network and can therefore contribute up to date research and policy knowledge about early childhood.
- Colloquium, "Security policies and human rights: Focusing on early childhood, childhood, and adolescents." the Arcor Institute / Equality for Infancy. Centro Universitário Maria Antônia/USP, São Paulo, September, 2011;
- Celebrating twenty years of the C&A Institute. C&A Institute, Atibáia, São Paulo, November, 2011.
- Seminar, Citizens of the future: Policies for development in early childhood. The Secretary of Strategic Initiatives of the Presidency of the Republic (SAE/PR). Alvorada, Brasília, DF, October, 2011.
- General Assembly of *Rede Nacional Primeira Infância* (the National Coalition on Early Childhood), Brasília, December, 2011

- Meeting of the State Forums on Childhood Education in the Southeast Region, Inter-forum Movement of Childhood Education in Brazil (MIEIB), the Federal University of Fluminense (UFF), June, 2011.
- “Early Childhood Education: The International and Brazilian Experience” Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV), Rio de Janeiro, October, 2011.
- Seminar: Early childhood in the media, CIESPI, and the Department of Social Service of PUC-Rio, participants included Globo News, Department of Social Communication and Business and Consulting of PUC-Rio, the Xuxa Meneghel Foundation, and CIESPI. PUC-Rio, Gávea, Rio de Janeiro: November, 2011.
- Various meetings were held throughout the year to debate culture and health with the participation of youth groups from the Rocinha Center of Culture and Education through Play, and the Adolescent Center Paulo Freire/RAP of Health, Mostra Brinquedo ViraRua, and Rua Vira Brinquedo.



**Support** for this project came from the C&A institute

## **The Processes of the construction and implementation of a public policy for children and adolescents in the situation of the street**

This project, which started in 2008, studied the processes of construction and implementation of public policies for children and adolescents in the “situation of the street” in the municipality of Rio de Janeiro. The objective was to support and document the work of the Commission of Basic Policy of the Municipal Council of Rights of Children and Adolescents of Rio de Janeiro (CMDCA Rio) in the construction and monitoring of public policy directives for street children and adolescents. Another goal of the project was to promote similar process in a sample of other cities of Brazil. In all, the research team engaged in a dialogue with, and provided support to, partners in eight different cities in eight different states.

Under federal law, Children’s Rights Councils, which exist in every state and municipality in Brazil, have the duty to propose and monitor local legislation about children and adolescents. In the initial project years, CIESPI successfully assisted the Rio Council to construct, debate and approve the first ever Brazilian policy for street children that emerged from the prescribed Council process. This process is described in several CIESPI publications which can be found on the Institute’s website.

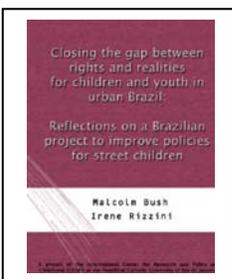
In 2011, the principal focus of the project was to assist the relevant Council committee in Rio plan the implementation of the policy. While implementation remains a distant goal, the Council has approved an implementation plan that includes timetables and the organizations responsible for each section of the plan. CIESPI staff continued to attend and support the Commission for the Implementation of the Policy.

In a partnership with Danielle Strickland of the Children’s Rights Collective (*Coletivo Pro Derechos de la Ninez*), Guadalajara, Mexico, the Center continued its multi-national analysis of the issue of street children.

### Related Seminars:

- Second national seminar: “The processes of the construction and implementation of public policies for children and adolescents in the situation of the street.” CIESPI and the Department of Social Service of PUC-Rio, held with the support of the University of Guadalajara and the OAK Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, April, 2011.
- International Seminar “Children and adolescents whose rights have been violated: the Latin American panorama,” with participation of researchers, professors, and students from various Brazilian states, and representatives from Mexico, Argentina, and the United States. Organized with the support of the University of Guadalajara and the OAK Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, April 2011.
- International Seminar “Social Space and Public Policies: Kids in the Situation of the Street - A critical analysis of their treatment”, Lecture by Irene Rizzini, the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), November 30, 2011.
- The High Commission of the Organizations of the United Nations on Human Rights, expert consultation on promoting and protecting the rights of children working and/or living on the street, and “Good practices for working with national and local government” Irene Rizzini, Geneva, Switzerland, November, 2011.

## Research Reports:



- Closing the gap between rights and realities for children and youth in urban Brazil: reflections on a Brazilian project to improve policies for street children. Malcolm Bush and Irene Rizzini, Rio de Janeiro: CIESPI/ PUC-Rio, 2011.



- The efficacy of public policies in Brazil: The case of policies for children and adolescents in the situation of the street, Irene Rizzini, Marcelo Princeswal, Paula Caldeira, and Malcolm Bush, Rio de Janeiro: CIESPI/ PUC-Rio, 2011.



- Research Bulletin 3. Constructing and implementing new policies for children and adolescents on the “situation of the streets” in Rio de Janeiro: a summary of findings, CIESPI/PUC-Rio, 2011.

**General support** for CIESPI’s work on children in the situation of the streets comes from the OAK Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland.

## The Center for Education, Culture and Leisure of Rocinha

The Center for Education, Culture and Leisure was founded and developed in a partnership between CIESPI and professionals in the areas of education and leisure in the low-income community of Rocinha in Rio de Janeiro. It emerged out of an earlier CIESPI project, the Network of Play and Learning (*Rede Brincar e Aprender*). The purpose of the Center is to construct collectively a space for discussion, study and action that values the history, memories, culture and practical education of and in Rocinha. In 2005 the Center was approved by the federal Ministry of Culture as a “Point of Culture”, a federally recognized center for culture in the community. The Center emphasizes the importance of play as an important means of communication among people of different ages, ethnicities and beliefs. The Center is a founding member of the Forum of Points of Culture for the states of Rio de Janeiro and Espírito Santo.

### Select Events/ Networks, Partners and Products

- Brazil-Argentina meeting. Exchange with a group of professors of the Universidad del Sur and Escuela Ezequiel Martinez Estrada UNS, Bahia Blanca, Argentina, for the visiting of social and cultural projects of Rio de Janeiro, April 15-18, 2011.
- Meetings and exchanges with other cultural sites of in Lumiar, Niteroi, and Rio de Janeiro

- *Mostra Brinquedo Vira Rua*: Cultural display organized by the youth of the Center of Culture and Rocinha Center through Play and from RAP Saude
- Toy Exposition: Messenger of Childhood, an exhibit of the toy collection of the Rocinha Center of Culture with PUC-Rio and the Superior Institute of Education, *Pró-Saber*.
- Creation of the site of the Rocinha Center of Culture and Education through Play which includes the Center's history, work, networks and partners [www.centroludicorocinha.org.br](http://www.centroludicorocinha.org.br)
- Doctorate thesis completed by project staff member, Carla Daniel Sartor, "The public policies on culture and the perspective of transformation: the collective experience at Cultural Sites" Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Department of Social Service.

Support for this project came from the Federal Ministry of Culture / Living Culture Program (MINC)

### **Children with mental disabilities: promoting the right to live in a family environment.**

This study analyzed the possibilities of the promotion of the right of children and young people with mental disabilities to live in the context of the family. Project staff interviewed families in several neighborhoods in Rio de Janeiro as to the amount and form of services and other forms of help they received. In the recent past, the only form of public help available was residential care. While today, there is general agreement about the need to avoid institutionalization, much to be done to implement the right of still needs to be done to enable these young people to remain in the family.

2011 activities and publications:

- Participated in seminar on children and young people with disabilities in contexts of violence with a presentation by Irene Rizzini, National Institute on the Health of the Mother, Child and Adolescent, and the Fernandes Figuera Institute, Rio de Janeiro, September 29, 2011.
- Family Caring and Mental Health: The "Way of Sacrifice" of families with children and adolescents who need help for mental disabilities: *Cuidado familiar e saude mental: A "Via Sacre" das familias com crianas e adolescents que demandam atencao em saude mental.* Irene Rizzini, Aline Deus and Cristiane Diniz, Rio de Janeiro: Editora PUC-Rio/CIESPI (forthcoming).

### **International Projects**

#### **Children and adolescents as citizen participants: Policies and new paradigms.**

This project, which involved CIESPI and the study group on the civic participation of children and youth at the Department of Social Services at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro includes a network of eleven researchers in Brazil, South Africa, India and the United Kingdom. The network was formed during an international meeting at the University of Edinburgh in 2006. The

project's research and discussions of the proceeding years were published in a special edition of O Social Em Questao, Vol. 27, May, 2012.

## **Civic involvement and the emergence of young leaders**

This project examined civically engaged youth in the three cities of Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City and Chicago, and traced the ways in which a sample of youth in each city became involved in civic activity, how the young people perceived their engagement and the consequences of their involvement. The research was conducted by means of interviews and narratives composed by the youth. Some of the young people agreed to extensive interviews and some of them kept diaries of their lives during the study period.

The research will be published in Citizens in the Present, Maria de los Angeles Torres, Irene Rizzini and Norma del Rio Lugo, Carbondale, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, forthcoming.

## **Cooperation with international researchers and partners**

- In the first semester of 2011, Danielle Strickland, a U.S. specialist in research and practice on street children in Mexico joined the CIESPI team as a visiting scholar. Danielle is president of the Children's Rights Collective (CODENI) in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- CIESPI also welcomed Dean Ricardo Fletes Corona, from the University of Guadalajara, and two Norwegian professors, Kaare Peterson and Trond Heitmann from the University College of Ostfold in Fredrikstad, Norway.
- Professor Rizzini worked with professors Peterson and Fletes Corona to facilitate separate formal agreements between PUC-Rio University and their respective universities. These agreements will facilitate research cooperation and student and staff exchanges.
- Professor Maria Belen Nocett, from the University Nacional Del Sur, Argentina, was another visitor.
- We continue to work with other researchers in Latin America through the Childwatch International and Equidad para la Infancia networks.

### **CIESPI in the Media: Select references**

#### Videoconferences

- Videoconference for students and professionals in the state of Paraná., International aspects of the human rights of children and adolescents, Federal University of Paraná, Curitiba: October 24, 2011.

#### Articles in print (interviews)

- The Peoples Gazette. "Children's shelters have 36,900 children." São Paulo, August 14, 2011. <http://www.gazetadopovo.com.br/vidaacidania/conteudo.phtml?tl=1&id=1157803&tit=Abrigos-tem-369-mil-criancas>.

- PUC-Urgent. Seminar debate on the violation of rights. Rio de Janeiro, April 25 – May 1, 2011.
- The Peoples Gazette. “Twenty three thousand children still live in the streets of Brazil.” São Paulo, March 22, 2011. <http://www.gazetadopovo.com.br/vidaecidadania/conteudo.phtml?tl=1&id=1108319&tit=23-mil-criancas-ainda-vivem-nas-ruas-no-Brasil>.

#### Articles on the internet (interviews)

- The Peoples Gazette. “Children’s shelters have 36,900 children.” São Paulo, August 14, 2011. <http://www.gazetadopovo.com.br/vidaecidadania/conteudo.phtml?tl=1&id=1157803&tit=Abrigos-tem-369-mil-criancas>
- Present Day. “School is ally in the rescue of childhood.” Minas, August 8, 2011. <http://www.hojeemdia.com.br/minas/escola-e-aliada-no-resgate-da-infancia-1.322508>
- Present Day. “Misery condemns development of 10 million children.” Minas, August 8, 2011. <http://www.hojeemdia.com.br/minas/miseria-condena-desenvolvimento-de-10-milh-es-de-criancas-1.322404>

#### Articles from PUC-Rio (interviews)

- PUC Journal. Launch of “Early Childhood” on CIESPI’s website, December 14, 2011. <http://jornaldapuc.vrc.puc-rio.br/>
- PUC Journal. Participation of Social Service Department Professor Irene Rizzini in Harvard University conference “Adolescent Rights. What Progress?” Rio de Janeiro, December 1, 2011. <http://jornaldapuc.vrc.puc-rio.br/>
- Portal PUC Rio Digital. Writers and professors discuss how to develop a lecture, Rio de Janeiro, June 8, 2011. <http://puc-riodigital.com.puc-rio.br/cgi/cgilua.exe/sys/start.htm?infoid=9619&sid=55>
- PUC Journal. Two decades of respect for rights. Rio de Janeiro, August 16, 2011. [http://jornaldapuc.vrc.puc-rio.br/cgi/cgilua.exe/sys/start.htm?buscador=publique&infoid=2183&query=simple&search\\_h\\_by\\_authurname=all&search\\_by\\_field=tax&search\\_by\\_keywords=any&search\\_by\\_priority=all&search\\_by\\_section=all&search\\_by\\_sthttp://jornaldapuc.vrc.puc-rio.br/](http://jornaldapuc.vrc.puc-rio.br/cgi/cgilua.exe/sys/start.htm?buscador=publique&infoid=2183&query=simple&search_h_by_authurname=all&search_by_field=tax&search_by_keywords=any&search_by_priority=all&search_by_section=all&search_by_sthttp://jornaldapuc.vrc.puc-rio.br/)
- PUC Journal. Drugs: a path to life behind bars. Rio de Janeiro, August 16, 2011. [http://jornaldapuc.vrc.puc-rio.br/cgi/cgilua.exe/sys/start.htm?buscador=publique&infoid=2163&query=simple&search\\_h\\_by\\_authurname=all&search\\_by\\_field=tax&search\\_by\\_keywords=any&search\\_by\\_priority=all&search\\_by\\_section=all&search\\_by\\_sahttp://jornaldapuc.vrc.puc-rio.br/](http://jornaldapuc.vrc.puc-rio.br/cgi/cgilua.exe/sys/start.htm?buscador=publique&infoid=2163&query=simple&search_h_by_authurname=all&search_by_field=tax&search_by_keywords=any&search_by_priority=all&search_by_section=all&search_by_sahttp://jornaldapuc.vrc.puc-rio.br/)

## Interviews on Television

- TV *Cabo Branco*/Globo. Good Morning Brazil. The effectiveness of the rights of children and adolescents Brazil and Paraíba, João Pessoa, Paraíba, October 17, 2011.
- TV of the Federal University of Paraíba/TV Brazil. The art of governing children in the Brazil of today. João Pessoa, Paraíba, October 17, 2011.
- TV Brazil. Debates on education: the family, Rio de Janeiro, August 18, 2011.
- National Journal. Rio determines that minors detained in “Cracklands” will have to be treated. Rio de Janeiro, May 26. <http://g1.globo.com/rio-de-janeiro/noticia/2011/05/rio-aprova-mudanca-na-forma-de-lidar-com-menores-usuarios-de-crack.html>

## Other Events

### National

- Seminar: Violence, rights, social service, and intersecting policies, Department of Social Service PUC-Rio. PUC-Rio, September 1, 2011.
- Seminar: Human Rights of Children and Adolescents – 20 years of the Statute of the Child and the Adolescent, CIESPI, the Department of Social Service, and the Department of Law, PUC-Rio. Launch of the book, Human Rights of Children and Adolescents – 20 years of the Statute, (coordinated by CIESPI). Secretary of Human Rights, UNESCO, PUC-Rio, May 17, 2011.
- Conference: Municipal Council of Children and Adolescents’ Rights. Opening Lecture: Challenges to the efficacy of children and adolescents’ rights, Rio de Janeiro, December 17, 2011.
- International Seminar of Social Space and Public Policies, Children in the “Situation of the Street.” State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ). November 30, 2011.
- Seminar: Human rights of children and adolescents: 20 years of the Statute. The Child, Adolescent, and Family Group (NECAD) of the Department of Social Service, the Federal University of Santa Catarina, November 17, 2011.
- Research meeting with the Center of Citizenship and Human Rights and the REMAR network (Network of action in favor of children and adolescents’ rights). João Pessoa, Paraíba, October 1, 2011.
- Seminar: Advancement and challenges in the efficacy of children and adolescents’ rights: the role of the university in the network of defense and protection, the Citizenship and Human Rights Group the Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB). João Pessoa, Paraíba, October 17 and 18, 2011.
- Seminar: Children and adolescents with disabilities in violent situations: invisible and vulnerable?, National Institute of Health of Women, Children, and Adolescents and the Fernandes Figueira Institute. Rio de Janeiro, September 29, 2011.

- Seminar for the elaboration of the Municipal Plan for Living with the Family and Community, Living with the family and community as a fundamental right of children and adolescents. The Children's Rights Council of São Luis. São Luis, Maranhao, August 30-31, 2011.
- International Seminar: "Children and Adolescents with Violated Rights: Latin American Panorama.", CIESPI and the Department of Social Service PUC-Rio with University of Guadalajara and the OAK Foundation., PUC-Rio, Rio de Janeiro, April 28, 2011.

#### International

- Harvard University International Seminar. "Challenges and opportunities in connecting low-income young people in urban Brazil to the mainstream job market", Harvard School of Public Health, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, December 8-9, 2011.
- Participation in the meeting of the Education Advisory Council of the Fetzer Institute, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, September 13-16, 2011.

#### Acknowledgments

The CIESPI team thanks the many partners whose contributions and encouragement allow us to reach our goals. Their names are listed on the CIESPI web page. We would like to highlight the support we receive from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. Special thanks go to PUC-Rio's Department of Social Service.

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