

CIESPI

INTERNATIONAL CENTER
FOR RESEARCH AND POLICY ON CHILDHOOD

In association with the
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro



concerned about children throughout the world

Annual Report, 2018

The International Center for Research and Policy on Childhood at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (CIESPI at PUC-Rio)

The International Center for Research and Policy on Childhood (CIESPI) is a center for research and policy studies and a reference center on issues affecting children and youth, their families and their communities. Its goal is to assist the development and implementation of effective policies and practices to assist the full development of young people and the protection of their rights. The Center is particularly concerned about children who grow up in contexts of vulnerability. CIESPI operates in association with the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro.

Principal activities

- Developing interdisciplinary studies and social projects to contribute to the policy and practice debates and decisions in the areas of childhood, youth, families and communities.
- Organizing debates, courses and seminars to discuss and disseminate the results of its own and others' research and policy practices in Brazil and abroad.
- Convening working groups of public, university, community and non-profit actors to debate and advance improved policy priorities and agendas for children and youth.
- Disseminating research, data and methodologies from national and international studies
- Providing courses and training to students and professionals from a wide array of fields who have interests in children and youth.
- Active participation in forums, councils, meetings and events to contribute to the improvement of public policy and the implementation of children's rights.

Projects in 2018

Highlights

- Beginning of project with the Beneficent Association of the Young Nazarene which cares for street children and youth in institutions in a national project involving a study of street children and youth in ten cities.
- Continuation of the Project with the Young Nazarene on young pregnant women and mothers on the street in Rio de Janeiro
- Continuation of the project Contrasts: Listening to children and youth in the city, with University College, Ostfold, Norway.
- International research and policy on child and youth participation in public decision making organized by Ryerson University Canada in five countries

1. Knowing in order to care: a project with the Beneficent Association of the Young Nazarene



The project is collecting quantitative and qualitative data about street children who live in shelters concentrating on ten cities in Brazil with populations of over 1 million people. These cities are São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Brasília, Fortaleza, Belo Horizonte, Manaus, Curitiba, Recife, Porto Alegre, Belém, Goiânia, Guarulhos, Campinas, São Luís, São Gonçalo and Maceió. The project includes a sample survey of street children on the streets, and of street children in institutional care. With the help of a group of specialist practitioners the project will also develop a guide to best practices for the care of this population. Three different questionnaires are being used: a survey of services being provided in shelters and institutions, a sample survey of street youth, and a survey of street youth in institutional care about their lives on the streets and in the institutions. The surveys were conducted by field workers trained by the project. The work has also included training sessions for field workers in collaboration with the *National Campaign: Children don't belong on the streets*. Local networks helped with these trainings in the ten cities.

CIESPI is responsible for the research and will analyze the profile of the young people surveyed, the services they are being offered and the characteristics of the children in institutional care including their passage from home to the streets. CIESPI will also collaborate with a group of professional organizations to put together a guide about institutional care for young people. The project will help inform Brazilian and Latin American organizations on work to improve policies and practices for these young people.



2. I am pregnant: so now what? Pregnant women and young mothers on the street



Starting in 2016, this project conducted with the Beneficent Association of Saint Martinho in Rio has already completed a first set of interviews with young pregnant women and mothers on the streets and conducted a workshop with similar young people that included discussions on gender and affectivity; exercising motherhood and fatherhood; conflict with the law; exercising rights; female health care; breast feeding, and sex and drugs. At the same time, the Rio Children’s Network organized an online course “May I speak” with the object of acquainting more people of the reality of street children’s lives and encouraging a discussion of their lives among young people.

In the current stage of the project, the team from the two organizations are conducting a survey of the service centers run by Saint Martinho in the Rio districts of Lapa and Central City, a profile of youth living in around those centers, and the needs of the young women in relation to pregnancy and maternity. This survey will also include the situation of young people occupying or “squatting in” otherwise unoccupied buildings.

Both organizations will use the learning from the project to help develop and promote better policies for young pregnant women and mothers on the streets.

3. Between home, the streets, and institutions: Children and adolescents in the situation of the streets and youth institutions in the State of Rio de Janeiro

With the assistance of FAPERJ, the State of Rio de Janeiro Foundation for Scientific Studies



The goal of this project is an analysis of the institutional care of street children and youth

in the State of Rio de Janeiro. In 2017 project staff conducted an analysis of the national literature on the topic including public policies and government plans and practices.

In 2018, CIESPI published the results of the research literature reviews, and a separate report on government policies and practices. It also identified all the institutions that cared for street children in the state. The Institute organized an open seminar “Violence in context: the dilution of rights and forms of resistance”.



4. Public policies and the struggle of implementation: the case of the policies for caring for street children in Rio de Janeiro



This four-year project had the goal of analyzing what factors helped and hindered the implementation of the Policy for Street Children in Rio de Janeiro passed in 2009. In the final project year of 2018, CIESPI published two studies summarizing the project’

- a) The struggles of implementing public policies for children and adolescents in the situation of the streets: A guide
- b) A summary of recent studies of street children and adolescents in Brazil



5. Monitoring the processes of youth participation in policies and programs for youth protection in Canada and internationally



CIESPI is the Brazilian partner in a project organized by Ryerson University in Canada involving seven universities and the five countries of Canada, Brazil, China, Scotland and South America. The project continues CIESPI's long involvement in the topic of youth participation in public debates about policies, an activity mandated by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The project involves case studies of youth participation in four of the countries including Brazil. CIESPI is monitoring as a participant observer mandated youth participation in Children' Rights Councils particularly in the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Volta Redonda.

6. Childhood without violence: a goal for Rio



CIESPI has long been concerned with the long-term negative effects for children of growing up in overcrowded, violent and unhealthy communities. This project, in partnership with the Bernard van Leer Foundation, aimed to research and put into action strategies to reduce violence and improve the conditions of small children (0 to 8 years old) living in low-income neighborhoods, and expanding opportunities for their full development. In the initial years, CIESPI conducted a population and a sample survey of safe places for young children to be in the communities of Rocinha and Parada de Lucas, concentrating in particular what assistance early childhood centers needed to improve their services to

young children and to expand. In 2018, the last year of the project, CIESPI and community colleagues in Rocinha launched a pilot campaign to dramatize the plight of children 0-8 in the community and to develop priorities for change. CIESPI maintains a presence in the community on this topic as it seeks funds to expand the work.

7. Contrasts: Listening to the voices of children



CIESPI has always been guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child's mandate for age appropriate child participation in public decisions that affect their lives. One issue in child participation is how to listen effectively to the voices of children. Collaborating with Østfold University College (OUC) in Norway, CIESPI produced a series of photographs illustrating the variety of childhoods in Rio in particular the differences between lower-income and middle-income childhoods. These photographs have been displayed in a variety of locations in Brazil and in Norway.

CIESPI staff then started to experiment with how the photographs could be used to help teachers elicit the thoughts and feelings of their young students. They developed a method of extracting from the photographs silhouettes of the children but concealing the rest of the context of the photographs. Children in classrooms were then invited to "complete" the silhouettes turning them into drawings which helped to reveal the children's concerns about their families and communities. CIESPI and OCU have always seen the photographs and the silhouette drawings of bringing the reality of children's lives and thoughts into the public arena to inform public policy.

In the latest phase of the project, the CIESPI team, having already applied the methodology in municipal schools, is working with it in a private school in Rio. Østfold University College colleagues are doing the same in a very diverse public school with students representing twenty different language groups. In Brazil, almost twenty percent of students attend private schools and CIESPI wishes middle class children and youth to be listened to and to be exposed to issues affecting other children.



[Visit the photo gallery](#)

8. Enhancing cultural, play and educational opportunities for young children in low-income communities

The Play Center in Rocinha

In 2018, CIESPI, who worked with residents to establish the Play Center in the low-income community of Rocinha, close to CIESPI's offices, developed a new stage of the collaboration which included prose circles, play circles and the production of short audio-visual material for play centers. CIESPI was active with the Rio de Janeiro Points of Culture Forum's activities in the debates with 2018 electoral candidates.

The Playfulness of Memory

Starting in 2012, CIESPI became a Point of Memory working in the Rocinha community on activities to promote a dialogue between the community's memory of itself and of its history and playfulness. The project is working on three videos, the Memory of Water in the Community, the Samba which sings of Rocinha, and Playful walks.

The Lucidity of memory

CIESPI became an official Rio Memory Point in 2012. It then began to develop action and research entitled "Ludicidade da memória", the lucidity of memory, designing different activities that promote a permanent dialogue between memory and playfulness with exhibitions about the community of Rocinha. The program is a member of the Network of Memory Points and the Network of Social Museology.

CIESPI AS A REFERENCE CENTER: PROVIDING KEY DATA TO INFORM PRACTICES AND POLICIES ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

From its beginning, CIESPI has been a reference center for diverse audiences interested in data

and information that assist the task of improving conditions for children, their families, and their communities. Much information is now available on line on the CIESPI website.

Major activities

- Childhood in numbers collects and displays in accessible form key data about children, youth and families in Brazil.

This activity has been made possible in part by grants from the Oak Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland, and the Bernard van Leer Foundation, The Hague, the Netherlands.

- The Legal Database (Base Legis) is an ongoing, virtual, historical archive on Brazilian constitutions, laws, bills, and decrees on children and adolescents. It also contains international treaties, declarations, accords, and agreements on children and adolescents. Its 300 documents stretch from the beginning of the 19th Century to the present. This database is updated on a continuing basis, is open to the public, and has search capacities.

CIESPI is most grateful to the group of skilled professionals who volunteer their time to maintain this database. They are listed in the CIESPI website.

Select Recent publications

CIESPI publications are edited by Irene Rizzini (president), Maria Cristina Bo (executive coordinator), and Malcolm Bush (senior consultant)

Crianças e adolescentes em conexão com a rua: pesquisas e políticas públicas, Children and teenagers in connection with the street: research and public policies, (Editora Cortez, 2019, Irene Rizzini.

Adolescentes, direitos, e medidas socioeducativas com meio aberto, Adolescents, rights, socio-educational measures and probation, (Laein-PPGP-IFCH, 2019), Irene Rizzini, Aldaiza Sposati, Antonio Carlos de Oliveira.

População infantil e adolescente nas ruas: principais temas de pesquisa no Brasil, The children and youth population in the situation of the streets: principal themes in Brazilian research (CIESPI 2019), Irene Rizzini and Renata Mena Brasil do Couto.

Revisitando a velha questão da redução da maioridade penal, Revisiting the old question of the age of majority in criminal procedures (CIESPI, 2019), Irene Rizzini and Juliana Batistuta Vale
Maternidade adolescente no contexto das ruas , Adolescent maternity in the context of the streets (CIESPI, 2018), Irene Rizzini e Renata Mena Brasil do Couto.

A casa o mundo lá fora: Cartas de Paulo Freire para Nathercia, The house and the world outside: Letters of Paulo Freire to Nathercia, (Grupp Editorial Zit, 2018) Nathercia Lacerdo
Work force training and connections to the world of work for low-income youth in urban Brazil: do the main training systems adequately serve this population? (CIESPI, 2018), Malcolm Bush with the assistance of Renata Tavares da Silva Guimarães.

Anais do Seminário Internacional Infâncias Sul-Americanas: crianças nas cidades, políticas e participação, Proceedings of the Latin American Conference on youth in cities: policies and participation (CIESPI 2017).

Olhares das crianças sobre suas cidades: reflexões sobre aportes metodológicos, Children's views of their cities, (CIESPI, 2017), Cristina Laclette Porto and Irene Rizzini
Young childhood, sanitation and the Zika virus Primeira Infância, Saneamento e Zika (2ª edição) (CIESPI,2017) Irene Rizzini, Maria Cristina Bo and Malcolm Bush
Juventude e cumprimento de medidas socioeducativas em meio aberto, Youth and fulfillment of socio-educational measures for youth on probation(CIESPI, PUC-Rio and PUC SP, 2017).

Primeira infância no Brasil: ampliando oportunidades para o desenvolvimento saudável de crianças de 0 a 8 anos, Early childhood in Brazil: expanding opportunities for the healthy development of children from 0 to 8 years, (CIESPI, 2017), Cynthia Ozon Boghossian, Malcolm Bush e Renata Tavares.

Contextos de vulnerabilidade na América Latina, Contexts of Vulnerability in Latin America, (CIESPI, 2017), Irene Rizzini, Juliana Batista Vale, and Renata Mena Brasil.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AGREEMENTS

CIESPI is an international research center with strong links to children's researchers and policy makers in several countries. Its founder and director was, for many years, president of Childwatch International, a network of university based research centers in over 40 countries, established by the Norwegian government. CIESPI, through the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro and its Department of Social Work, has formal research and intellectual exchange agreements with the following:

- Department of Social Sciences at the University of Guadalajara, Mexico. The Mexican coordinator is Dean Ricardo Fletes.
- Department of Health and Social Services at University College, Østfold, Norway. The Norwegian coordinator is Professor Trond Heitmann.
- National University of San Martin, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Argentinian coordinator is Professor Valeria Llobet.
- Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada. The Canadian coordinator is Professor Tara Collins.

MEMBERSHIP OF KEY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Learning from and sharing with others is key to CIESPI's work. The following is a short list of active memberships:

- The Rio Network for Street children, Rede Rio Criança
- Advisory board, Casa da Árvore, Rio de Janeiro
- Advisory board, Instituto Alana, São Paulo
- Advisory board, the Brazilian Association of Terre des Hommes
- The Brazilian National Network on Early Childhood
- The Brazilian National Network on Street Children, Criança não é de rua
- Childwatch International and its Latin American Network
- The Research Council of the International Consortium for Street Children, London, United Kingdom.
- The Being Heard Advisory Board of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) and Gender and Health Research, South African Medical Research Council, South Africa, and the

International Center, Switzerland.

- The Equity for Children, Latin America, and Equity for Children of the New School University, USA.

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH AND OTHER SEMINARS

Throughout the year, CIESPI staff participate in research and policy seminars and forums across Brazil and internationally. The details of these are listed in the 2018 report in Portuguese.

PARTICIPANTS AND PARTNERS

CIESPI is blessed with an active and creative board of directors, staff, consultants, and advisors and these are listed on the website.

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