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Luiz Cesar de Queiroz Ribeiro
Editor

Urban Transformations in Rio de Janeiro

Development, Segregation, and Governance

 Springer

Editor

Luiz Cesar de Queiroz Ribeiro
INCT Observatório das Metrôpoles
Rio de Janeiro
Brazil

ISSN 2366-3421 ISSN 2366-343X (electronic)
The Latin American Studies Book Series
ISBN 978-3-319-51898-5 ISBN 978-3-319-51899-2 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-51899-2

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017932418

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Printed on acid-free paper

This Springer imprint is published by Springer Nature
The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

Foreword

In 2005, I was pleased to participate in the attribution of CNPQ's Millennium Institute Statute to the Observatório das Metrôpoles and since then I have been accompanying the consolidation of this research network that currently comprises 14 Brazilian metropolitan regions, corresponding to a total population of 70 million of people. The network of the Observatory, whose annual meetings I have seen with great success, is surely the most developed instrument of comparative urban research in the world. The set of 14 volumes recently published in Brazil, between 2014 and 2015, on the urban transformations occurring there in the last 30 years, is perhaps the largest information and critical source in the field of demography, sociology, economics and metropolitan politics of our days.

The present volume on urban transformations in the metropolis of Rio de Janeiro, home to 12 million people, brings together the work of 18 researchers dedicated to these themes at IPPUR—Institute of Research and Urban and Regional Planning of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), under the coordination of Prof. Luiz Cesar de Queiroz Ribeiro. In it, the demographic, social, labor and school transformations of the metropolis are analyzed successively under the double perspective that, according to the authors, marks the Region of Rio de Janeiro, namely: residential segregation and political culture of a city without civility (*urbs* without *civitas*). In effect, the research summons an exhaustive source of themes and information, while it submits this material to a rigorous analysis inspired by a deep theoretical and methodological knowledge in constant updating. In short, a work that will become a model for the coming decades in Brazil and in any other country.

This book is inspired by the Portuguese version published by the Observatório das Metrôpoles entitled “Rio de Janeiro: Transformações na Ordem Urbana” (Letra Capital, 2015),¹ and this English version contains a very important update of the former volume to consider the latter changes deliberately introduced in Rio's the urban order by the mega-events of entertainment tourism, as they are called by the

¹For further information, visit <http://transformacoes.observatoriodasmetropoles.net>.

authors, such as the Football World Cup of 2014 followed almost immediately by the Olympic Games of 2016. Announced by their promoters—the National, the local State and the City governments, as well as a vast array of private sectors and entrepreneurs that are studied here—as aiming at changing the metropolis well known deep inequalities, the authors have no doubt in stating that “twenty-first century Rio urban order remains the same”. And so, they proceed in numerous chapters to show that in fact Rio’s unequal urban model, having deeply changed morphologically due to the so-called “public–private partnerships” huge interventions, remained nonetheless the same socially and politically. As Prof. Queiroz Ribeiro puts it, “inequalities core-periphery shifted from the quantitative dimension into the qualitative dimension”!

Indeed, “favelas” continue to host 25% of the metropolis population and, though the period since the early twenty-first century has coincided with a huge educational boom under the governments of President Lula and his follower, President Dilma, it is important to note that this greater complexity of the so-called middle classes did not translate into a similar levelling of incomes across the urban network. Far from it, equivalent graduate professionals living in privileged “South Zone” and the peripheral county of Duque de Caxias have remained separated by an average income difference of 1–6 which can only contribute to class reproduction. Under this huge movement of neoliberal modernization of Rio de Janeiro, the patterns of territorial organization expressed by either of the two historical grammars of segregation—social and territorial—are not due to the lack of development but, in fact, to the reproduction of the social, economic and political power relations that support Rio’s/Brazilian urban order.

The authors believe, indeed, that the move from some kind of Keynesian state policies into increasingly liberal entrepreneurship, especially in domains such as transportation and security, as well as gentrification and real-estate appreciation promoted at the same time that social housing, has deepened social and spatial inequalities in Rio due to the two mentioned mega-events. By the same token, this neoliberal modernization has contributed to a parallel move from traditional clientelism into a new pattern of political governance which raises the question of how will urban conflicts evolve as well as the whole future of the metropolis. As a general conclusion about the whole investigation, one can be sure that the reader of this large set of approaches to the urban order and conflict in Rio de Janeiro will be led to question how the old and new cultures and policies will combine to produce the future city as well as its commitment to democratic governance.

Manuel Villaverde Cabral
Emeritus Researcher
Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal

Acknowledgements

I am particularly grateful for the assistance given by Pedro Paulo Machado Bastos, for his technical support in this project, and Marcelo Fonseca and Tereza Marques de Oliveira Lima, for translating and reviewing this material.

Luiz Cesar de Queiroz Ribeiro

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About the Authors

Pedro Paulo Machado Bastos holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro—UNIRIO) (2013) and a graduate degree (*lato sensu*) in Urban Planning and Policy from IPPUR/UFRJ (2014). He is currently a Master's student of the Postgraduate Programme in Urban and Regional Planning at UFRJ and a Researcher at the Observatório das Metrôpoles. Contact: pedromacbast@gmail.com.

Adauto Lúcio Cardoso holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and Urbanism from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro—UFRJ) (1974), a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from UFRJ (1988), and a Doctorate degree in Architecture and Urbanism from the University of São Paulo (Universidade de São Paulo—USP) (1997). He is currently Associate Professor at IPPUR/UFRJ and a Researcher at the Observatório das Metrôpoles. He has an extensive experience in the field of Urban Planning, and has been working mainly on the following themes: housing policy and regulatory instruments for the use of urban land. Contact: adcard.cardoso@gmail.com.

Michael Chetry holds a Master's degree in Urban Studies from the Institute of Urbanism of Lyon (Institut d'Urbanisme de Lyon—France) and a Doctorate degree in Geography from the University Jean Moulin Lyon 3 (Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3—France). He has professional experience with urban renewal projects in popular neighborhoods in France. He is Professor of Geography at UFF/Institute of Education of Angra dos Reis (Instituto de Educação de Angra dos Reis—IEAR) and a Researcher at the INCT/Observatório das Metrôpoles (IPPUR/UFRJ). Contact: chetrym@hotmail.com.

Filipe Souza Corrêa holds a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from IPPUR/UFRJ and is a Doctoral student in Political Science at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais—UFMG). He is an Affiliated Researcher at the Observatório das Metrôpoles and at the Centre for Legislative Studies/UFMG (Centro de Estudos Legislativos). Contact: filipescorrea@gmail.com.

Ricardo Antunes Dantas de Oliveira a geographer by profession, holds a Master's degree in Geography from the State University of the State of São Paulo—Rio Claro (Universidade Estadual Paulista—UNESP) and a Doctorate degree in Demography from UNICAMP. He works with the social and spatial dimensions of demographic processes, highlighting the various forms of spatial mobility of the Brazilian population and its impacts on the production of urban spaces in their varied expressions in the country. He is a Researcher at the Rio de Janeiro Center of the Observatório das Metrôpoles at IPPUR/UFRJ, with a Junior Postdoctoral Fellowship from CNPq. Contact: rdo1981@yahoo.com.br.

Ana Lucia Nogueira de Paiva Britto holds a Bachelor's degree in Geography from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro/PUC-Rio (Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro), a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from UFRJ and a Doctorate in Urban Planning from the Institute of Urbanism in Paris—University of Paris XII/Paris-Val-de-Marne (Institut D'Urbanisme de Paris/Université de Paris XII/Paris-Val-de-Marne). She is currently Associate Professor at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism at PROURB/UFRJ (Postgraduate Programme in Urbanism at UFRJ) and a Researcher at the Observatório das Metrôpoles. Contact: anabrittoster@gmail.com.

Luiz Cesar de Queiroz Ribeiro is Full Professor of the Institute of Urban and Regional Planning (Instituto de Pesquisa e Planejamento Urbano e Regional/IPPUR) of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro/UFRJ (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro). He is the Coordinator of the INCT/Observatório das Metrôpoles and responsible for a network comprising comparative studies on 15 Brazilian metropolises. He holds a Doctorate degree in Architecture and Urbanism from the University of São Paulo/USP (Universidade de São Paulo). He has an extensive bibliographical production developed over 30 years of academic studies which records his investigations on the Brazilian urban reality. Currently, he is the editor of *Cadernos Metrôpoles* and *emetropolis Journal*. Contact: lcqribeiro@gmail.com.

Luciana Corrêa do Lago an architect by profession, received Doctorate degree in Architecture and Urbanism from USP (1998). She is Associate Professor at IPPUR/UFRJ and a Researcher at the Observatório das Metrôpoles networking. She has been developing investigations on the fields of urban sociology and urban

politics, with emphasis on the following topics: work and structuring of the urban territory; urban self-managing; housing cooperativism and production and representation of the city. Contact: lucianacorrealago@gmail.com.

Orlando Alves dos Santos Junior is Professor at IPPUR/UFRJ. He holds a Master's and a Doctorate degrees in Urban and Regional Planning from IPPUR/UFRJ. He is a sociologist and a Researcher at the Observatório das Metrôpoles. He has published many articles focusing on Urban Planning and Urban Sociology. Contact: orlando.santosjr@gmail.com.

Mariane C. Koslinski is Adjunct Professor of the Faculty of Education (Faculdade de Educação) at UFRJ, and Researcher at the Observatório das Metrôpoles and Observatório Educação e Cidade. She holds a Doctorate degree in Sociology from the Institute of Philosophy and Social Sciences (Instituto de Filosofia e Ciências Sociais/IFCS/UFRJ), and completed her postdoctoral studies at IPPUR/UFRJ. She is the author of various articles in Sociology of Education, focusing on topics related to social, urban and education inequalities, civil society and the state, and assessment of educational policies. Contact: mckoslinski@gmail.com.

Igor Pouchain Matela holds a Bachelor's degree in Geography from the Institute of Geosciences (Instituto de Geociências—IGEO) at UFRJ (2004) and a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from IPPUR/UFRJ. Contact: igormatela@gmail.com.

Marianna Olinger holds a Doctorate degree in Urban and Regional Planning at IPPUR/UFRJ. She holds a Master's degree in Social Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics. She is Associate Researcher at Observatório das Metrôpoles and a member of the editorial committee of the *emetropolis Journal*. Politics and policy making related to urban planning, urban violence, public safety and human rights have been object of her investigation interests in recent years. Contact: mariannaolinger@gmail.com.

Marcelo Gomes Ribeiro holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Goiás (Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Goiás—PUC-Goiás), a Master's degree in Sociology from the Federal University of Goiás (Universidade Federal de Goiás—UFG), and a Doctorate degree in Urban and Regional Planning from IPPUR/UFRJ. He is currently a Researcher at the INCT/Observatório das Metrôpoles and an Adjunct Professor at IPPUR/UFRJ. Contact: marceloesmeraldino@gmail.com.

Rosa Maria Ribeiro da Silva a sociologist, holds a Bachelor's from PUC-Rio (1964), a Master's in Social Sciences from the Practical School of High Studies

(École Pratique des Hautes Études) at the University of Paris (Université de Paris) (1969) and a Doctorate degree in Sociology and Humanities from the University Institute of Research of Rio de Janeiro (Instituto Universitário de Pesquisas do Rio de Janeiro—IUPERJ) (2005). She is a Researcher and a grantee of a CNPq Fellowship at the Observatório das Metrópoles, IPPUR/UFRJ. Contact: rosaribeiro@globo.com.

Juciano M. Rodrigues is Researcher at the Observatório das Metrópoles. He holds a Doctorate degree in Urbanism from the Postgraduate Programme in Urbanism (PROURB/UFRJ). He is a postdoctoral researcher at IPPUR-UFRJ through the *Programa de Pós-Doutorado Nota-10* of Carlos Chagas Filho Foundation for Research Support of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Fundação Carlos Chagas Filho de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado do Rio de Janeiro—FAPERJ). Contact: juciano@observatoriodasmetrosoles.net.

André Ricardo Salata holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from the University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro—UERJ) (2007), a Master's (2010) and a Doctorate (2014) degrees in Sociology from the Postgraduate Programme in Sociology and Anthropology at UFRJ. During his doctorate, he was an Academic Visitor for a year at the University of Oxford, England (2012–2013), and a Fellowship grantee of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico—CNPq). He was a Research Assistant for five years (2009–2014) of the National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT)/Observatório das Metrópoles. He is currently Professor of Sociology in the Postgraduate Programme in Social Sciences at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul—PUC-RS). Contact: andre_salata@yahoo.com.br.

Hipólita Siqueira holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics, a Master's degree in Social Sciences and a Doctorate degree in Economic Development from the Institute of Economics at the State University of Campinas (Universidade Estadual de Campinas—UNICAMP). She is Professor at IPPUR/UFRJ. Contact: hipolitaufjf@gmail.com.

Érica Tavares holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from the State University of Norte Fluminense Darcy Ribeiro (Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense Darcy Ribeiro—CCH/UENF-2004). She has a Master's degree in Population Studies and Social Research from the National School of Statistical Sciences (Escola Nacional de Ciências Estatísticas—ENCE/IBGE-2006). She has a Doctorate degree in Urban and Regional Planning from IPPUR at UFRJ. She is currently developing research at the National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT)/Observatório das Metrópoles. Contact: ericatavs@hotmail.com.