

# CHILDREN AND THE CITY

## Methodologies for listening to children



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# MAKING RIGHTS REAL FOR CHILDREN: LEARNING FROM SOUTH AMERICA

Leverhulme seminar series, Scotland

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centro internacional de estudos e pesquisas sobre a infância  
international center for research and policy on childhood  
centro internacional de estudios e investigaciones sobre la infancia

in association with **PUC**  
RIO



The International Center for Research and Policy on Childhood at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (CIESPI at PUC-Rio), is dedicated to engaging in 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 is particularly concerned with children growing up in contexts of vulnerability including poverty.

# Children and the City: methodologies for listening to children



Where to begin (De que lugar falo)

- 1 - Brazil, South and Latin America (basic facts handout)
- 2 - Children's rights and participation in Latin America
- 3 - Children and the city: methodologies for listening to children

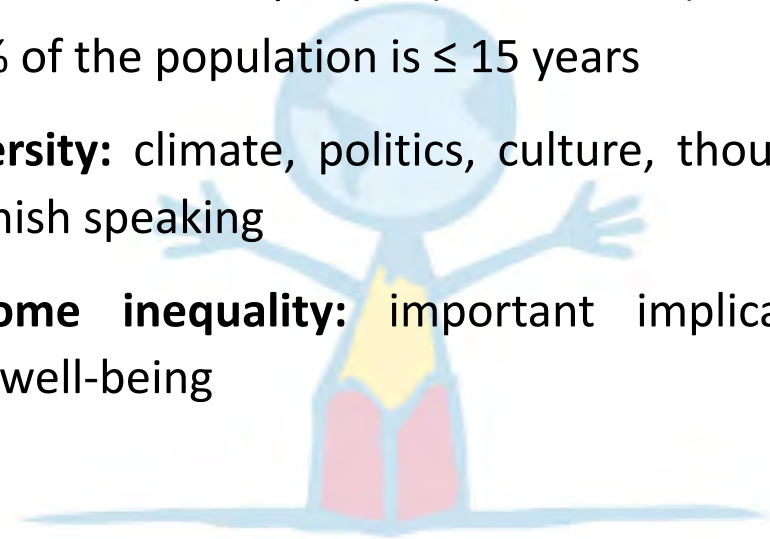


# 1. Brazil, South and Latin America



## BASIC FACTS:

- **Vast region** with 8,62% of the world's population:
  - LAC: 26 countries; SA: 12
  - Over 600 million people (UNDP, 2017);
  - 26% of the population is  $\leq 15$  years
- Huge **diversity**: climate, politics, culture, though all but Brazil Spanish speaking
- **High income inequality**: important implications for children's well-being



# Young people: contrasting numbers

Total population, total of young people and percentage of young people (thousands) - 2017			
Location	Total	0-19	0-19 (%)
World	7.550.262,101	2.553.722,16	33,8%
Europe	742.073,853	155.041,363	20,9%
United Kingdom	66.181,585	15.408,366	23,3%
South America	424.393,617	135.952,966	32,0%
Brazil	209.288,278	62.595,623	29,9%

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017.



# Cidade partida

Divided city: 2 sides/2 worlds in a neighbourhood



## 2. Children's rights and participation in Latin America

### Reflecting on 2 important concepts in Latin America

- **Participación ciudadana** - emphasizing young people's social participation and engagement as citizens.
- **Protagonismo** - Emphasizing their place and role in society as proactive actors, having autonomy, a sense of agency.

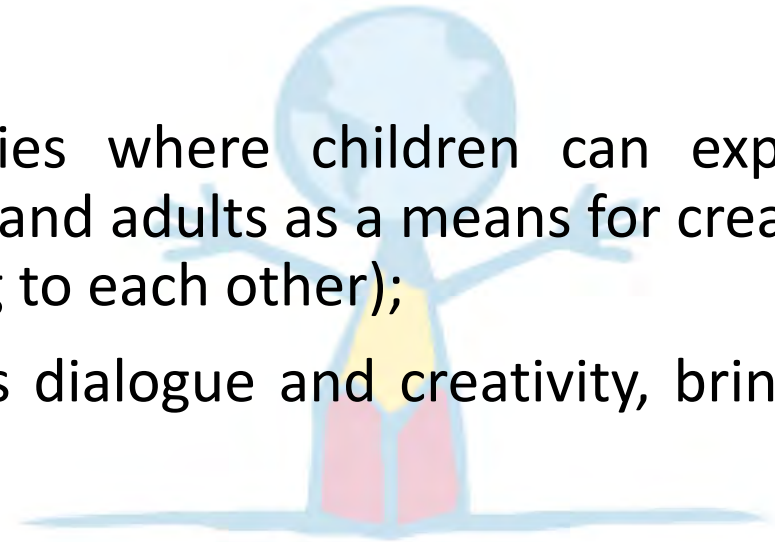
*Strong appeal to listen to Children's voices. Where are those voices?*

*Where do the children want to be? How do they express themselves?*

Research: Rizzini, Torres, Del Rio. Youth at Present in the Americas: 3 Cities sStudy (Rio, Mexico, Chicago. University of Illinois Press, 2012); and Collins, Tisdall, Rizzini et al: Monitoring Child Participation in International Child Protection programs and policies. Ryerson University, Canada, the International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership (ICCRP).

### 3- Children and the city: methodologies for listening to children

- Reflections based on an ongoing project, designed to help us explore and understand processes of participation, allowing the expression of a diversity of childhoods. Children's perceptions about the city they live in.
- Project design based on 2 assumptions:
  1. Experiment with participatory methodologies where children can express themselves in interaction with other children and adults as a means for creating democratic references (participating; listening to each other);
  2. Use of photographs as a tool that promotes dialogue and creativity, bringing the focus on children as producers of culture.



Geertz (1989) “... big conclusions based on small facts, but densely intertwined”

# CONTRASTS

## children and the city



Listening to children

## Exploring with methodologies

400 children, 4-13, in 4 school settings (2016/7)

### Principles:

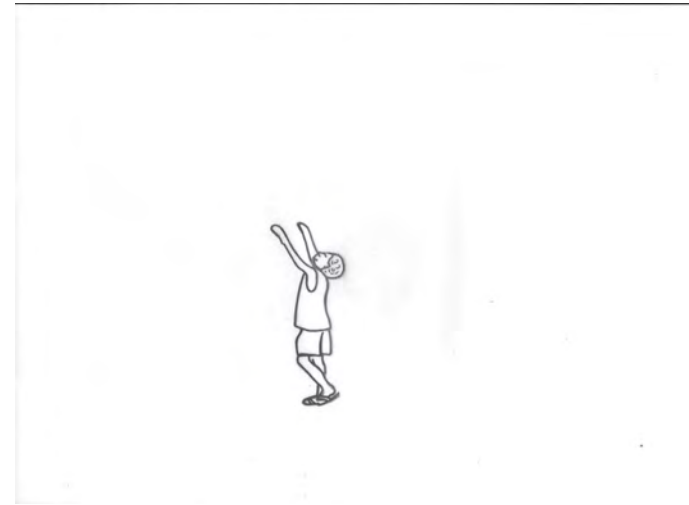
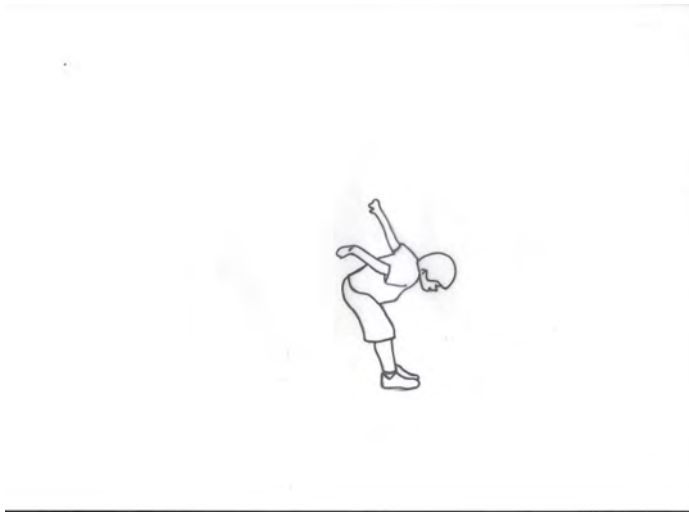
- Listening
- Participation
- Inter-action

### Method:

Workshops (3 settings)  
Photographs/Silhouettes  
Contrasting images  
Observing and documenting  
Exhibitions







**Silhouettes  
extracted from  
photographs**