

Population censuses: results and challenges regarding their use in the analysis of the urban

Censos demográficos: resultados e desafios no seu uso para análise do urbano

This dossier brings together texts that, in articulation, reveal the possibilities that population censuses offer for urban research. The Census is the only instrument that collects information on municipalities throughout the entire country and with a known periodicity, generally every ten years. It thus enables both specific and comparative analyses, across time and between places. Historically, Censuses have been the main source of data for urban research, both in Brazil and in other countries. They point to transformations in regional and urban structures, describe population and housing attributes, vectors of population redistribution, municipal growth, among others. In recent censuses, favelas and urban communities have also become objects of investigation.

Censuses were also carried out in many empires of Antiquity, such as the Babylonian, Persian, Egyptian, and Roman. In the Book of Exodus, God orders Moses to count the number of men over 20 years old in the twelve tribes of Israel in order to define the share of offerings that should be assigned to each of them. The result of this survey gave rise to another book of the Pentateuch, appropriately named Numbers. And although there are historical contradictions in the accounts of Luke and Matthew, their Gospels indicate that it was due to the undertaking of a census that Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born (Carazza, 2021).

The Romans, for example, conducted censuses throughout the empire every five years. They did not include all people, but focused on certain categories, such as heads of households, men of military age, and so on. The word itself is of Latin origin, meaning to measure, to estimate. The modern census began to be carried out by Nation-States in Europe and North America from the seventeenth century onwards, initially in Sweden (Levy, 1980, pp. 86-102).

The first population census in Brazil was conducted in 1872, during the Second Reign, at the request of Emperor Dom Pedro II. Before that, there had been precarious attempts to estimate how many Europeans, natives, and enslaved people lived in the vast territory since colonial times. During the Paraguayan War, which began in December 1864, the Brazilian Army suffered from the lack of statistical and cartographic information for the elaboration of military strategies (Carazza, 2021).



After the end of the war in 1870, one of Dom Pedro II's first measures was to order the realization of the country's first modern census. Despite the enormous operational difficulties of the time, the 1872 census concluded that the population was 10,112,061 inhabitants, classified by nationality, sex, occupation, race, marital status, and whether they were free or enslaved.

After the Proclamation of the Republic in 1889, even with the positivist inspiration inscribed on the national flag, Brazil's statistical history was quite irregular. The next census was conducted only in 1890, after the abolition of slavery. The censuses of 1872, 1890, and 1900 comprised only population counts. The 1920 census also included Agriculture and Industry censuses. It was only from 1940 onwards that Brazil adopted the global standard of carrying out a universal demographic enumeration of its population regularly every decade, in years ending in zero. The stability and quality of the statistical base is owed to the establishment, in 1936, of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), founded with the collaboration of the Italian demographer Giorgio Mortara. Brazilian censuses were then conducted regularly (1950, 1960, 1970, 1980) until the 1990s, when it was carried out in 1991. Regularity resumed in 2000 and 2010, but this pattern was again broken: the Census scheduled for 2020 was only operationalized in 2022, and its results have been published with delays.

In this presentation, the articles are grouped into broader analyses of the country as a whole; articles that problematize census data collection methods; articles that reveal new possibilities for analyzing census data; and finally, though no less importantly, articles that use census data for specific analyses, whether of defined variables or selected locations.

During the twentieth century, industrialization induced an urbanization process marked by strong concentration in metropolises, loci of economic, cultural, and symbolic power. By the 2000s, however, the reprimarization of the Brazilian economy gave rise to new territories of power, no longer located in metropolises, some of which even experienced population decline (as in Salvador). In this dossier, two broader texts focus on this new Brazilian scenario: Rosa Moura's *Evidence of Brazilian metropolization captured in the 2022 Census* and João Victor Rocha de Queiroz, Jordana Cristina de Jesus, and Ricardo Ojima's *Demographic transition in Brazil and the municipal participation fund*.

Rosa Moura's text, *Evidence of Brazilian metropolization captured in the 2022 Census*, using data from the 2022 Census, shows that metropolitan growth rates have declined, with some cases even registering population losses. Yet, as she emphasizes, even lower growth rates, when applied to large population bases such as metropolitan ones, still result in significant population increases. And, as Lefebvre (1991) would suggest, a pattern of expansion and implosion is observed, with densification of metropolitan poles and their immediate peripheral municipalities, and growth spreading to increasingly distant areas. She illustrates this with the São Paulo Macrometropolis, which brings together both metropolitan and non-metropolitan concentrations. Thus, poles with lower growth rates but higher density coexist with population dispersal into their peripheries, alongside the growth of intermediate cities. This represents a shift from the earlier pattern, in which metropolitan growth predominated (Abdal et al., 2019; Carvalho, 2006; Freitas Firkowski, and Baliski, 2018).

The text by João Victor Rocha de Queiroz, Jordana Cristina de Jesus, and Ricardo Ojima, *Demographic transition in Brazil and the municipal participation fund*, highlights another variable in the demographic scenario: changes in the age structure of municipalities. Studies on demographic

transition address the historical process through which a young population, characterized by high fertility and mortality rates, transforms into an aging population with low fertility and mortality rates. This process occurs in four distinct stages: in the first, both rates are high, resulting in stagnation of population growth; in the second, population growth accelerates, as mortality declines while fertility remains high; in the third, both mortality and fertility decrease, slowing the pace of growth; and finally, in the fourth stage, fertility and mortality stabilize at lower levels, leading once again to slow or even null demographic growth (Alves, 2002).

The different regions of Brazil are situated at distinct stages of the demographic transition: the Southeast, South, and Center-West present strong indicators of declining fertility and mortality, while the North and Northeast still maintain high fertility and infant mortality rates (Wong & Carvalho, 2006). Populations composed of children and the elderly are financially dependent on the working-age population. Aging, in particular, is associated with greater demand for health services and increased pressure on the social security system. The article makes an unprecedented connection between changes in the age structure of municipalities and the Municipal Participation Fund (FPM), showing that population decline and aging require new criteria for the distribution of this Fund, beyond mere municipal population size. The text highlights that, despite the progress of demographic transition, this issue has not been included in the research or policy agenda regarding the FPM. Municipalities where population size is the sole criterion for allocation are already being affected, and will be even more so in the future, as the elderly dependency ratio becomes increasingly significant. Indeed, for Brazil as a whole, the 2022 Population Census already demonstrated that nearly 11% of the Brazilian population, more than 22 million people, were elderly. According to the authors, public authorities should begin a restructuring of governance capable of minimizing the effects of demographic transition, by using indicators that capture municipal age structures. They exemplify this with the use of the dependency ratio. They conclude by arguing that the adoption of indicators reflecting age structure would be a viable solution for incorporating the structural changes demanded by demographic transition, which would, in turn, lead to a revision of the criteria for FPM distribution.

Among the various articles in the dossier, one problematizes the way Census data are collected: the text by Andreza Garcia de Gouveia, Ana Lucia Nogueira de Paiva Britto, and Rosa Maria Formiga-Johnsson, *Universal access to treated water: challenges in using census data as information*. In this text, the authors point out that Federal Law 14.026/20 established the goal of universalizing access to treated water for all Brazilians by 2030. Population Census information is essential for public policy planning, as it provides comparable data for all Brazilian households. Based on documentary research and field interviews, the study showed that, despite advances in household water supply forms, census data are still insufficient to adequately characterize access to water.

According to the most recent census of 2022, Brazil has a population of 203,080,756 inhabitants, 87.4% of whom reside in urban areas. Of the total, 82.89% are supplied by the public network (urban and rural). The first section of the article aimed to describe the progression of statistical surveys on household water supply, while the second, through field investigation, sought to assess whether the new attributes introduced in the 2022 Census were sufficient to describe the existing arrangements of household water access across different scales and social groups in Brazil. The article is divided

into four sections. The first two provide a brief review of the right to water and sanitation. The third presents a documentary investigation of the attributes used by IBGE in its censuses. The fourth describes the field research carried out to assess the adequacy of the data collected in the 2022 Census for capturing the diverse realities of water access in municipalities on the metropolitan periphery of Rio de Janeiro. Finally, the fifth section raises discussions and recommendations for future censuses regarding water access. The authors present a comparative table of the variables used by IBGE from 1960 to 2022 to assess household water supply and sanitation, showing the evolution of variables across different census editions. From 1960 to 2000, statistical data on water supply were composed of three categories: public network, well or spring, and other form. Since 1970, the census also introduced information on water supply conditions, such as the presence of piped water (within the dwelling, only on the premises, or without piped water). In 2010, distinctions were made between wells or springs located within or outside the property, while different forms of water storage, such as rainwater, rivers, dams, lakes, and igarapés, were given individual status. In 2022, IBGE advanced further in characterizing household water access, including information on the existence and type of piped water, public network, deep or artesian well, shallow well, groundwater or cacimba, spring or water source, rainwater, water trucks, rivers, dams, lakes, igarapés, and other sources. It also introduced the distinction between deep wells (greater than 20 meters) and shallow wells (less than 30 meters deep and more vulnerable to water quantity variations and contamination), two categories with very different health implications.

The article investigates whether the data collected by IBGE in the 2022 Census are sufficient to portray the diverse realities of water access in Brazilian households. For this purpose, field research was conducted in two census tracts in municipalities of the Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Region (RMRJ), São Gonçalo and Maricá, with one census tract selected in each municipality.

The fieldwork examined the forms of water access (public network and alternative sources), verified the existence of mixed arrangements (for example, well and shared water, among others), the frequency of water supply (once, twice, or three times per week), and whether the available water was sufficient. The results showed that arrangements can be multiple and complex, forcing households to rely on combined forms of water access, even when served by the public network. Thus, the IBGE variable that identifies households connected to the public network, when used as the sole planning reference, can mask systemic intermittencies and shortages caused by inefficient water services. The authors conclude the article by noting that corporations driven solely by financial gain may not prioritize access to treated water, and that precarious access situations tend to be obscured when the single indicator of public network connection is used.

Another text that explores the challenges of using census data, and how their use can obscure social and spatial disparities, is by Gustavo Henrique Campos de Faria, *Aggregated data, hidden realities: challenges in the analysis of obesogenic environments*. Using a computational model in ArcGIS, the study investigates obesogenicity in a neighborhood in Belo Horizonte, demonstrating how geospatial techniques can reveal patterns concealed by conventional statistics. The results point to the need for more detailed approaches to understand urban dynamics related to public health.

In the article, the author emphasizes the relationship between the built environment and public health, highlighting the influence of urban structure on mobility, accessibility, and quality of life. The research analyzes urban environments that influence eating habits and physical activity. Obesogenic

environments are characterized by limited access to healthy foods, widespread availability of processed and ultra-processed products, and precarious public spaces that should instead promote active living. His text investigates the impact of census data aggregation on the analysis of obesogenic environments, evaluating how different scales affect the identification of spatial patterns associated with obesity. The research develops a computational model in a Geographic Information System (GIS) to quantify the potential of a locality to favor conditions associated with obesity. This index would serve as a tool to identify at-risk areas and improve health policies. The study was conducted in the Santa Tereza neighborhood, Rio de Janeiro, and the model was based on space syntax theory and the Road Centre Lines (RCL) technique. The adopted methodology examines the relationship between building attraction centrality and food choices, showing how food availability contributes to the formation of obesogenic environments. The variables incorporated into the model included: population density, average income, residents' educational level, food establishments, spaces for physical activity, and building reach centrality. The author makes extensive use of Hillier's work and the concepts of space syntax.

The remaining articles use census data for urban analyses in specific research studies, describing and examining urban phenomena such as tenements, urban parks, residential segregation, migration, housing deficits, and inequalities in access to sanitation.

The article by Ana Gabriela Akaishi and Luiz Kohara, *Tenements in downtown São Paulo: an analysis in light of census data*, addresses the issue of tenements in the central area of São Paulo. Based on data from the 2010 and 2022 Censuses, the analysis investigates the current dynamics of existing tenements, confirming their persistence in traditionally "tenemented" areas, such as Brás, Luz, Glicério, Bexiga, and Barra Funda. It notes that the activity of the residential real estate market in the city center, especially after 2013, is related to the reduction of tenements in regions where it is most active, such as República, Consolação, Barra Funda, and Mooca. The article is divided into two sections, in addition to the introduction, where the authors discuss the definition of cortiço. The first section provides contextualization of the issue of central tenements, reviewing existing research and addressing the invisibility and measurement challenges of the phenomenon. The second section presents the analysis of the 2022 Population Census data, comparing its results with those of 2010 and with the survey published by the São Paulo City Government in 2022. Georeferenced analysis highlights the strong role of the real estate market in the city center, especially from 2013 onward, in reducing the presence of tenements. According to the 2010 and 2022 Census data, São Paulo had nearly 43,000 tenement-type households in 2010 and 31,900 in 2022, of which 7,800 were located in the city center in 2010 and 6,700 in 2022. The article also presents data on residential real estate dynamics in the city center, showing that since 2013, the central region has experienced numerous housing developments: between 2013 and 2018, the Subprefeitura da Sé ranked first among municipal subprefectures in the number of housing developments in the economic segment (units priced up to R\$350,000).

The article by Fabio de Oliveira Neves and Danilo Leonardo de Paula Rosa, *Urban parks and socio-spatial reconfiguration: the case of Parque do Povo, Toledo, Paraná*, investigates territorial changes associated with the implementation of the Parque do Povo, based on a comparative analysis of the 2010 and 2022 Population Censuses. Using five census indicators through GIS, the research identifies recent patterns of urban occupation, such as an increase in construction standards, low

residential density, and a high proportion of vacant households. By analyzing the behavior of these indicators, calculated using census data from 2010 and 2022, the study sought to understand how the creation of a park can act as a driver of land valorization and reconfigure occupation dynamics in medium-sized cities such as Toledo, Paraná. The research showed that the implementation of the park was strongly associated with a process of selective urbanization and rising land prices. Patterns of low-density occupation, higher construction standards, vacant properties, and a population profile with educational levels above the city's average were identified. The article draws attention to the fact that urban parks may acquire functions that go beyond environmental and recreational purposes, as they are also capable of valorizing surrounding areas and shaping expectations of appreciation.

The article by Victor Borrás Ramos, *Class-based residential segregation in Montevideo: a census data-based approach*, examines class-based residential segregation in the Uruguayan capital using census data from 1996 and 2011. Social class is identified through two variables: type of occupation and occupational category. To measure segregation, the study employs the Moran Index. The so-called upper middle class is concentrated along the southern and southeastern metropolitan coast, while the working class is located in peripheral zones and non-coastal metropolitan corridors. This pattern was already evident in 1996 and was reaffirmed in 2011. Between these two dates, working-class segregation increased. The study adopts Torrado's (1992) class scheme, in which occupational categories are grouped into social classes. Thus, company directors, liberal professionals, and small business owners constitute the so-called upper middle class; technicians and related occupations, self-employed workers, and administrative and sales employees form the middle class; while skilled and unskilled workers make up the working class. The percentage distribution of classes shows a significant reduction of the middle class between 1996 and 2011. Although in the regional context Montevideo has been described as a relatively homogeneous urban area with moderate inequality (Sabatini et al., 2001), the metropolis is far from egalitarian, being marked by clear spatial differentiation expressed in a segregated urban structure.

The article by Ana Paula Vasconcelos Gonçalves and Julia Celia Mercedes Strauch, *Racial segregation in Belo Horizonte: what has changed in over a decade?*, analyzes the spatial dynamics of residential segregation in Belo Horizonte between 2010 and 2022, using data from the Population Censuses. The authors develop three segregation indices: the Index of Segregation (ISS), the Index of Absolute Concentration (ACO), and the Index of Absolute Clustering (ACL). The results indicate that the Black population is more often located in areas farther from the city center and more concentrated in urban fringes. The Index of Segregation measures the proportion of the population that would need to move for the overall distribution to become homogeneous. The Index of Absolute Concentration (ACO) compares the maximum and minimum areas that a group may inhabit with the total area occupied by this group. The Index of Absolute Clustering (ACL) indicates the average number of members in nearby areas relative to the total population of those areas, taking into account the neighborhood matrix. In 2022, the proportion of white residents in Belo Horizonte was 43.7% (a decrease from 46.6% in 2010), while the proportion of Black residents (black and mixed) was 56.1%, compared to 52.2% in 2010. The article presents detailed maps of the proportion of white and black residents in the city's neighborhoods in both 2010 and 2022. The study of the three indices shows that the increase in the Black population has impacted the city's spatial organization. However, it remains

unclear whether changes in racial composition are due to racial reclassification, migration, or other factors. What is evident is that districts located on the municipal boundaries, areas of more recent expansion, have a higher presence of Black residents. White residents, on the other hand, are more concentrated in the Centro-Sul and Pampulha regions, although the number of neighborhoods with a high proportion of white residents has declined. According to the selected indicators, the Segregation Index (ISS) remains relatively low: in both 2010 and 2022, between 31% and 33% of white or Black residents would need to relocate for neighborhoods to become homogeneous. The concentration of white or Black residents (ACO) is high, with a minimum value of 0.45 for Blacks and 0.55 for whites in 2010. The index ranges from 0 to 1, with values closer to 1 indicating greater segregation. White residents live in less concentrated patterns compared to Black residents. Regarding neighborhood clustering, the proportion of Black residents is higher in areas where neighboring households share similar characteristics.

The article by Thiago Machado Lage Moreira, *Migration and the population structure of the Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte in 1991-2010*, analyzes the implications of migration on population structure in the Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte (RMBH) between 1991 and 2020. Using information from the 2000 and 2010 population censuses, the author estimates migration flows among the municipalities of this metropolitan region and provides a brief discussion of what the available 2022 data suggest. Representations and analyses of the population structures of 1991, 2000, 2010, and 2022 are presented. According to the author, in the RMBH the demographic trends observed since 2000 persisted, with declining fertility and increasing longevity, evident in the uninterrupted growth of the population aged 80 years and over. In the RMBH, only half of the municipalities experienced average growth above the national level (0.52% between 2010 and 2022), and all municipalities registered lower average population growth rates than in the previous decade. Regarding migration, it is expected to become less intense, partly due to the growing trend of remote work.

The following article, by Priscila Kauana Barelli Forcel, Elza Luli Miyasaka, and Tiago Augusto da Cunha, *Housing deficit and census microdata: methodological framework, challenges, and perspectives*, discusses the methodological flow of calculating the housing deficit based on microdata from the Population Census, following the methodology developed by the Fundação João Pinheiro (FJP). The article presents the historical evolution of this methodology and its application in SPSS software, using microdata from the 2010 Census, and discusses the feasibility of replicating the FJP methodology with the release of microdata from the 2022 Census. It also addresses the advances and challenges of applying this methodology in weighting areas with the 2022 microdata, particularly in light of the absence of variables directly linked to the criteria defining the housing deficit, such as rental values and excessive crowding in rented households in the 2022 Census. The absence of these variables hinders the reproducibility of the FJP criteria and compromises the historical comparability of the series.

The last article, by Michel Misse Filho, *Racial inequalities in access to sewerage services in Brazilian metropolitan regions*, observes that despite improvements in sanitation between 2000 and 2022, different patterns emerge across metropolitan regions and, within the urban fabric of each, striking disparities exist in both racial distribution and the quality of sanitation infrastructure. In 2010,

approximately 18.2% of the population in metropolitan census tracts lived in areas with open sewage. In those tracts, 64% of the population was composed of Black and Indigenous residents. For 2022, the author presents a graph showing the percentage of the non-white population in census tracts by metropolitan region that lacked both sewage networks and septic tanks. The study highlights the racial composition of localities with open sewage, showing that while predominantly Black and Indigenous, they are not exclusively so.

Subsequently, a set of texts on diverse contemporary issues is presented, covering a wide range of aspects of urban studies. These complementary texts address topics such as insurgent territorial planning, agroecology in metropolitan contexts, community land management, disputes over public space in the sex market, the militarization of urban management, forced evictions, and the presence of criminal organizations in metropolitan peripheries.

This section opens with the article *Insurgent planning and collective action: the case of Poço da Draga in Fortaleza*, authored by Amanda Máximo Alexandrino Nogueira and Clarissa Figueiredo Sampaio Freitas. The article analyzes the insurgent practices developed by residents of the Poço da Draga community in the capital of Ceará, within a context of disputes over decision-making power in the community. The authors highlight the role of institutional mechanisms, implemented by state planning agencies, in serving private rather than collective interests in the region. The ethnographic approach of the article, developed through tools such as participant observation and social mapping, invites reflection on the production of space in a socio-territorial context marked by confrontation between public authorities and community mobilization. The article's conclusions indicate that, despite the institutional and bureaucratic obstacles imposed by the state, popular mobilization and collective action can concretely foster democratic practices in the production of the urban common good.

The second article in this section is entitled *Agroecology and the environmentalization of struggles in the Metropolitan Region of Rio de Janeiro*. The authors, Annelise Caetano Fraga Fernandez, Silvia Regina Nunes Baptista, and Caren Freitas de Lima, begin from the observation that urban conflicts in Rio de Janeiro are particularly concentrated in its Metropolitan Region, and analyze the role of agroecology movements in the environmentalization of social struggles related to territorial disputes and land access. According to the authors, these movements point to new forms of urban space production and new dimensions of access to and the conquest of the right to the city. An important contribution of the article is the discussion of agri-food systems, which not only allows for understanding the potential for coordination among the different social actors involved in these disputes but also highlights the need for socio-environmental processes to be analyzed in a systemic and comprehensive manner. This contribution clearly results from the study's methodology, which includes both bibliographic research and fieldwork through participant observation in the agricultural territories analyzed.

Next, the article *Community-led housing as an alternative to the advance of militias in Rio de Janeiro*, authored by Utanaan Reis Barbosa Filho and Felipe Litsek, analyzes the advance of militias in the urban-real estate context of the Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Region. A particularly important aspect of the article is the historical interpretation of the evolution of militias in the region, which allows us to understand the causes and conditions of the current situation in the city. The careful

study of this process highlights not only the existence of a complex relationship between criminal groups and the housing market, especially in popular neighborhoods and in developments under the Minha Casa Minha Vida program, but also the importance of social mobilization as a mechanism to contain this dominance. Specifically, this last point motivates the authors to analyze alternative housing practices mediated by community land management, such as housing cooperatives, self-management, and the Collective Territorial Term. In this sense, the article prompts reflection on proposals for social organization as a strategy to confront militia activity, while precisely understanding the potentials and limits inherent in this process.

The fourth article in this section invites readers to examine spatial disputes, their rules, and particular logics in the street sex market in Montevideo. Titled *Sex on the streets of Montevideo: disputed spaces, rules, and illegalities*, the article by Martín Boy analyzes the tensions between neighborhood residents, public officials, and trans sex workers, as well as their implications for the social production of urban space. These tensions arise from the fact that, although the public provision of sex has been legal in Uruguay since 2002, the norms and obligations established by law are not enforced, prompting residents of the Larrañaga and Jacinto Vera neighborhoods in the Uruguayan capital to expel trans individuals from “their” sidewalks. The author’s sensitive and careful perspective, developed through long-term fieldwork in the region, allows us to understand how legal failures create gaps in which gender-based violence is reproduced, producing a complex and specific set of specialized social practices defined as “illegalism.”

Subsequently, readers of this issue of *Cadernos Metrópole* can gain a deeper understanding of the process of territorial surveillance and control exercised by police forces in the city of Rio de Janeiro between 2001 and 2021, through the article *Governing through failure: militarization and policialization in Rio de Janeiro*, by the author Clara Polycarpo. The historical analysis allows for a critical perspective on the security programs implemented, their failures, and their mobilization in the establishment of a new agenda of partnerships aimed at territorial surveillance and control. The theoretical reflection is developed through the analysis of policy devices and networks, which enables the author to identify and categorize the sociability that emerge in the process of militarization and policing of urban space in the city of Rio de Janeiro. From this analysis emerges the centrality of the “managerial-police sociability” as a mechanism for managing the city’s ongoing public security crisis.

The penultimate article in this section is entitled *Between the law and its application: squatted buildings under threat of eviction*. The author, Eduardo Abramowicz Santos, examines how judicial processes for the removal of residents from urban occupations drive changes in the dynamics of urban spaces. Specifically, two urban occupations are analyzed: one located in the Brás neighborhood in the central region of São Paulo, and another in the Vila Andrade neighborhood in the southern region of the city. The article addresses the formation of these occupations and how they have implemented social, legal, and political strategies to confront the historical and persistent threats of eviction. This analysis leads the author to reflect on the specific contours of the formal and the informal, the lawful and the illicit, in each occupation, and how these contours shape sociability and the very ways in which residents act. The article inspires critical reflection on the role of the judiciary in the context of urban space disputes and the right to the city.

Finally, this important section of the volume concludes with the article *Criminal organizations in peripheral urbanization: hypotheses from three Brazilian metropolises*, authored by Thiago Canettieri and Priscila Coli. The article provides an in-depth analysis of the literature on violence and criminality in urban contexts, highlighting its contributions while also pointing out how these analyses have often overlooked the specific role of criminal organizations in the urbanization process. The authors theorize the relationship between peripheral urbanization and the actions of criminal groups, connecting, in particular, with several previous texts in this section, focusing on three metropolitan contexts: São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Belo Horizonte. Beyond the specificities identified in each of these cities, the theoretical reflection also allows for a better understanding of the more general and structural dynamics of the relationship between crime and urbanization, prompting a more precise consideration of how crime influences urban expansion, the real estate market, land regularization, and even eviction processes.

Together, the two sections of this volume of *Cadernos Metr pole* update the research agenda on contemporary cities in Brazil, allowing for a deeper understanding of the social, demographic, and political dynamics involved in the production of urban space, the right to the city, and the metropolises that emerge from ongoing disputes.

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