CHILDREN AND THE CITY
Methodologies for listening to children
MAKING RIGHTS REAL FOR CHILDREN: LEARNING FROM SOUTH AMERICA

Leverhulme seminar series, Scotland

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Irene Rizzini - Professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (PUC-Rio) and Director of the International Center for Research and Policy on Childhood (CIESPI/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.
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 ≤ 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>0-19</th>
<th>0-19 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>7.550,262,101</td>
<td>2.553,722,16</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>742,073,853</td>
<td>155,041,363</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>66,181,585</td>
<td>15,408,366</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>424,393,617</td>
<td>135,952,966</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>209,288,278</td>
<td>62,595,623</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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?*

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