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CEM develops advanced studies on the role of public policies on individuals' well-being

The Center for Metropolitan Studies (CEM) intends to be a world-class research center that is also committed to the diffusion of knowledge and technology transfer. Hosted by the University of São Paulo (USP) and the Brazilian Center for Analysis and Planning (CEBRAP), the center is composed of a multi-disciplinary group – demographers, political scientists, sociologists, geographers, and anthropologists – whose research agenda aims at studying contemporary Brazil to better understand the complex effects of public policies and institutions on economic growth, poverty alleviation, and inequality reduction.

CEM's research agenda is organized into four main areas: (i) the relationship between economic and social change, democracy and inequalities in Brazilian history. A large dataset on race, gender, migration, labor markets, income, urban conditions, education, religious affiliation, health, and political behavior spanning 1960 to 2010 is available

for consultation on a free basis; (ii) the independent impact of State policies – in particular education, health, affirmative action, the job market and place-inequality reduction – on social conditions, poverty alleviation, and inequality reduction; (iii) the role of political institutions – particularly voting behavior and law-making processes – on the decision-making of interpersonal and interregional redistribution policies; (iv) forms of governance in urban areas understood as being out of reach of the State, in particular civil-society associations, organized crime, and segregated urban areas.

CEM is also committed to providing data and technical assistance on public policy to policy-makers, the academic community, and high-school students and teachers. CEM guarantees its commitment to scientific and technical independence. Geo-processing tools and a large datasets available on a free basis are at the core of the technology transfer of the Center. Training on Terra View Social Policy – software developed in cooperation with INPE – is also provided on a regular basis.

Host Institution

University of São Paulo (USP, campus São Paulo)

Associated Institutions

State University of Campinas (UNICAMP)
National Institute for Space Research (INPE)
Institute of Education and Research (INSPER)
Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar)
Brazilian Center for Analysis and Planning (CEBRAP)
King's College, United Kingdom

Principal Investigator

Marta Teresa da Silva Arretche, USP

Education and Knowledge Diffusion Coordinator

Mônica Teixeira

Technology Transfer Coordinator

Daniel Waldvogel Thomé da Silva

Co-Principal Investigators

Antonio Sérgio Guimarães, USP
Eduardo Cesar Leão Marques, USP
José Marcos Pinto da Cunha, UNICAMP
Nadya Araujo Guimarães, USP

Associated Researchers

Adrian Gurza Lavalle, USP
Alvaro Augusto Comin, King's College
Antonio Miguel Vieira Monteiro, INPE
Charles Kirschbaum, INSUPER
Fernando de Magalhães Papaterra Limongi, USP
Gabriel de Santis Feltran, UFSCar
Maria Coleta Ferreira Albino de Oliveira, UNICAMP
Vera Schattan Ruas Pereira Coelho, CEBRAP