



Lowering the Age in **BRAZIL** : A Policy & Historical Debate

Debora S.M.M.P. Shapiro

University of Michigan School of Social Work

BRAZIL – RIO DE JANEIRO

The largest country in Latin America in terms of both area and population. At 8.5 million square kilometers (3.2 million square miles) and with over 208 million people, Brazil is the world’s fifth largest country by area and the sixth most populous. The capital is Brasilia, and the most populated city is São Paulo.

SO, WHY RIO DE JANEIRO?

I was born and raised in Rio. It will always feel like home for me. Even though, this feeling is shared with many other Brazilians, for the majority of people living in poverty and facing Disproportionate Minority Contact because of the color of their skin, the sentiment of coming from a “Marvelous City” is not equal. I always wanted to research about youth in contact with the law in Rio.



PROJECT: GLOBAL INDEPENDENT STUDY

I decided to research about the Project of Law that has been going on since 1993 in Brazil, where the age for charging youth as adults would drop from 18 to 16, in opposition to all human rights initiatives and the “raise the age” campaign that has been happening in the US.

OUTCOMES

My research is still ongoing, as I feel that a thorough literature review is required for this important topic. My general finding thus far are that the interviews that I’ve conducted have allowed me to understand that there is a legitimate debate on both sides. The arguments overall have leaned on the side that lowering the age won’t necessary be the best solution .

SKILLS UTILIZED & DEVELOPED

- Leverage the support of stakeholders through interviewing
- Engage in Policy Practice and analysis
- Engage in Practice Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

The courses SW 530, SW 633 and SW 725 were essential for this project. These courses taught me how to analyze critically with a bi-partisan perspective historical trends and debates surrounding Juvenile Justice policies .

CAREER CONNECTIONS

Although I plan on working in micro setting as a social work professional, this research has provided me with an essential macro lens for my practice.

ADVICE

As any other trip, it is important to be open to the culture of the country you are going to. It is interesting to read books about the history of the country, check websites and be sure to have all the connections you need in hand before your departure.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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