

SOCED BULLETIN #6

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Presentation:

In our five previous bulletins we presented our readers with a group of texts that represented analytical forays into the ample empirical content that was produced from both the results of the SOCED survey, and the fieldwork made at some of the investigated institutions. In the "Articles" section of the SOCED Bulletin #6 some new analyses are presented, based on the material collected at the schools that we have researched, together with a summary article of the more important results we have obtained over the last 5 years. Several matters still present challenges to our Sociology of Education research programme - some of these are: the conditions, construction and refurbishment of the student *habitus*; the elaboration of research strategies for the investigation of the school *climate*; the relationship between the quality of teaching and the quality of education, from the point of view of both the end-users and the educational institutions; the differing management styles applied at those schools considered to be *outstanding* within the educational scene; the changes in the *cultural capital* structures of the elites. For all these reasons the results of our investigation programmes that are presented here make no claims to have exhausted all the analytical potential of the research *corpus* that we already have, and are developing, relative to the production processes of the educational quality image to be observed in Rio de Janeiro's prestige schools.

Our experience has strengthened the notion that the more one invests in research the more additional research needs appear and become evident to our team. In other words a final full stop to any research is always arbitrary, and therefore provisional.

Our reading public, with an average of 2.500 monthly 'hits', has encouraged us to keep making the effort to produce the six-monthly report on the SOCED team's work-in-progress. We have also registered ample international interest in the SOCED Bulletin and so we are going to include summaries and abstracts of all the bulletin's articles. We have, additionally, introduced a new, permanent, section to the Bulletin entitled "*What SOCED has been reading out there*". This will provide a translation of internationally published items that have been of importance in the development of our work.

The Randolph Collins article "Situational Stratification: a micro-macro theory of inequality", translated by Prof. Ralph Ings Bannell, was an important reference point when related to the SOCED disquiet as to the possibilities and the limits to the different production strategies for empiric material. The article exemplified why researchers *quali* and *quanti* conflicts are unnecessary, just as we have been advocating for some time now. In this respect we will be wide awake as to what every point of view offers and covers.

Three articles and two pre-prints provide research analyses developed by the SOCED team:

- Alice Xavier in "*Reading Practices of school elites*" takes a first shot at classifying empirical material produced by SOCED regarding pupil reading. Her Master's dissertation will focus on this theme.
- Zaia Brandão, Andrea Paula de Souza Waldhelm and Luiza Helena Lamego Felipe, in "*School Sites: a new strategy in the creation of the excellence image by educational establishments?*", have an initial look at the potential of school sites within the research of institutional singularity characteristics, and this will be part of Andrea Waldhelm's Master's dissertation.

- With the article *"New Challenges in the SOCED Research Programme"* Zaia Brandão summarizes the most important research results developed to date by SOCED, and provides pointers to the upcoming stages in the programme.

In the pre-print section:

- Maria Cristina da Silva Galvão provides her first impressions on school ambience at one of the Colegio Pedro II units. This is where she will undertake her field work for her Doctor's thesis.
- Cynthia Paes de Carvalho and Maria Luiza Canedo develop an initial analytical reflection on *"Management Styles in Prestige Schools"*, based on observations made in the field, and interviews at three of the researched schools. They have looked to identify elements that express the values that guide the different institutional projects and thus construct a draft design of the management model practiced by each of the schools. The matter will be pursued further, with several additional schools to be investigated including some of the best municipal schools in Rio de Janeiro.
- Maria da Graça Jacintho Setton, an USP (São Paulo University) researcher, presents a paper on "The Notion of Socialization in Contemporary Sociology - a theoretical overview", where she takes out a balance of the question of socialization - such a key category within educational research. For some time the authoress has been elaborating the most profound of reflections on this matter.

The SOCED editorial team is honoured to include in this edition the valuable contributions received from Maria da Graça Jacintho Setton and Professor Randall Collins and is equally grateful for the most precise translation of the Collins text by Professor Ralph Ings Bannell.

As we publish online the provisional results of ongoing research we must renew our appeal to our readers - let us have your comments, opinions and suggestions! Only in this way will we be able to meet one of our prime objectives - the development of debate among our peers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. H. H. H.", is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.