

## **SOCED BULLETIN – Academic News**

### **PRESENTATION OF STUDY PAPERS**

**Sociology Forum – Barcelona/Spain – August 5th.**

The work study **"Quality of education: the criteria variability in the analysis of the school market"**, produced by Brandão, Z.; Felipe, L.H.L.; Waldhelm, A.P.S.; Paes de Carvalho, C. e Lacerda, P. was presented by Zaia Brandão at the *First ISA Forum of Sociology – Sociological Research and Public Debate*.

**Abstract:** The study paper develops an interpretation of the several differing forces at work in the "school market" of a large Brazilian metropolis, and their influence on the motivation of families that are going through the process of choosing a school for their children. Parental motivation is built around a complex two way game that takes place between the profile of the "school consumer" and the image of quality teaching as projected to Brazilian society. The analysis looks particularly at the need for the contextualization of the discussion in respect of the country's big urban centers, where the presence of private school networks is by necessity a fundamental item on the public debate agenda for educational quality. The publication, by the media and by governmental organs, of the results of nationwide educational evaluations, plus the growth in school "marketing" gingered up by the divulgation of school projects and institutional capabilities through the use of "school sites" and of publicity companies, all add up to the offer to Brazilian society of widely differing educational quality perceptions. The analysis looks at the inconstancy of family criteria when applied to the meaning of "quality of education" as these criteria do not always relate purely to proficiency in the educational disciplines, as expressed by the performance ratings provided in the nationwide evaluations. Family criteria and those concepts disseminated by the several "players" in the school market show that differing degrees of importance are given to the issues of proficiency, ethical values, religious policies, social networks, and others.

**31<sup>st</sup> ANPEd – Caxambu, Brazil, October 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Alice Xavier and Maura Marzocchi, both of the SOCED-PUC-Rio team, presented the study paper "Teaching Elites and Pedagogical Practices" on the Educational Sociology **GT** at the ANPEd annual meeting.

**Abstract:** The paper aims to present some particularities identified in the analysis of the interviews undertaken with representatives from three teaching institutions considered to be among the best of Rio de Janeiro - one public, one confessional and one "alternative". When considering the topic "Teaching Elites and Pedagogical Practices" additional ideas come to the surface when faced with what the teachers say, and what actually happens in the pedagogical planning, school routines and the relationships between colleagues. Changes in the parental and pupil profiles were observed, reflecting an alteration in values, and bringing about the redefinition of the teachers and schools roles. The latter, faced by this panorama, develop strategies to deal with the new challenges within the scope of the school and its clients. In this way circumstances evolve and can produce the obstacles to maintaining one's ranking in a market, or quasi market (Van Zanten, 2005), that is more and more competitive, and less and less regulated by the educational system.

### **XIII Education Week at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, November 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>.**

The meeting had as an overall theme **"Education, form and society: contemporary challenges"**, and Andréa Waldhelm (reading for her Masters) and Luiza Helena Lamego Felipe (reading for her Doctorate), both members of the SOCED team, presented the study paper **"Social Networks and Choice of Schools"**.

**Abstract:** As from the 1980s a new field of study in educational sociology arose, and researchers began to look into the trajectory of schools and the strategies that families use during the span of their children's academic itinerary, of which one of the most important is that of the choice of school. This paper contributes to the research project "Production Processes in Teaching Quality: family, school and culture" developed at nine prestige schools in Rio de Janeiro by the Educational Sociology (SOCED) group at the Catholic University (PUC) of Rio de Janeiro. The objective is to investigate the socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the families, having as a hypothesis the influence that these "actors" bring to bear on the definition of which school to choose for their children. The media and social networks are usually the principal arbiters, and consolidators of the image of school academic quality, by which the families are guided in their choices. The study aimed to diversify the sampled universe of the research, and to this end the strategy of conducting a survey by internet electronic mail was used at the beginning of the second semester of 2008. The survey was directed to parents with offspring

studying at primary and secondary levels at public and private schools in Rio de Janeiro. The sampled universe grew as those parents, first contacted through existing relationship networks, replied to the survey and indicated new parents who, in their turn, also provided additional contacts. This study will present the configuration of the sampled universe and will discuss the potential and limitation of the mechanism used in the collection of data as well as the survey's initial results.

## **II International Seminar on Human Rights, Violence and Poverty – Rio de Janeiro, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Hustana Vargas presented the study paper “Educational Inequalities, quotas and human rights”.

## **VII Intercampi of the Estácio de Sá University Law Course– November, 2008.**

Hustana Vargas presented the results of the research survey on “The Depositions of those with Parental Responsibility, Students and Teachers regarding the Statute for Children and Adolescents – Consensus and Dissensions”

## **Luso-Brazilian Conference on Educational Sociology – Belo Horizonte, November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.**

The conference on the theme “Family, School and Youth: exchanged looks – Brazil/Portugal”, included the participation of Zaia Brandão who talked about the relevance of the bourdiesiano concept of cultural capital within the sociological analyses.

## **XVII National Congress of the National Council of Law Research and Post-Graduation– CONPEDI – Brasilia, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Hustana Vargas presented a paper on “Democracy, Citizenship and Human Rights in Higher Education”.

## **Opening of the Pedagogical Week at the São Bento College – Rio de Janeiro, December 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Zaia Brandão and Diana Mandelert took part in the Pedagogical Week held at the college, and presented a retrospective of the studies that are being

made in the field of educational sociology, with emphasis on the contribution to the research developed by the SOCED team.

## **AWARDS**

### **XXII Young Scientist Award**

The Young Scientist Award established by the CNPq, Gerdau Group and the Roberto Marinho Foundation had as its 2008 theme "The Reduction in Social Inequalities through Education". Zaia Brandão was awarded an Honorable Mention as a researcher of acknowledged value in this field. The award winners received their prizes from Brazil's President, in a ceremony held at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia. In her thank-you speech Zaia stressed that "In my professional life - both as a teacher and as a researcher - I have always invested in keeping the flame of curiosity alight in my students, at every level that I have ever taught.... I share this award with the SOCED -PUC Rio team, the research group that I created over ten years ago.

### **The 2008 Educational Personality of the Year**

The Brazilian Education Association - ABE, in partnership with the Brazilian Press Association - ABI, and the "Folha Dirigida" (?) elected Zaia Brandão, from among the 2008 outstanding academic personalities and institutions. The election, by direct vote, was held by an electoral college made up of 4.283 of the most well known educational and cultural representatives from the State of Rio de Janeiro. The election is a community recognition of those who strive for the enrichment of education.

### **New SOCED Research Project Approved by FAPERJ**

The Project "Institutional Frameworks and the Creation of Teaching Quality In Basic Education" planned for 2009/2010 was approved by FAPERJ and will include the important participations of the sociologist Maria Lígia de Barbosa from IFCS/UFRJ and of Professor Hustana Maria Vargas from UNESA and our research colleague over the last several years, and who successfully defended her doctorate's thesis this year. The project will provide continuity to the development of the Educational Sociology Research Program that has been investigating, for almost ten

years now, the academic processes in prestige schools. In this new stage SOCED has chosen to work with performance indicators and expects to develop more specific items on: (a) institutional methods for developing school layouts and premises (habitus) favorable to the students good performance, and (b) the styles of institutional management responsible for the administrative and pedagogical processes that guide the school representatives in the achievement of school success.

### Debate with João Teixeira Lopes at PUC-Rio - December 4<sup>th</sup>

The professor and researcher at the Porto University (Portugal) Department of Sociology, Joao Teixeira Lopes, is author of several published articles and books about schools and culture ("Sad Schools" and "City and Culture") and works in the realm of Educational Sociology as well as Cultural, Urban, Symbolic and Youth Sociology. Teixeira Lopes was invited by SOCED/PUC-Rio to participate in a meeting with the post-graduate professors of the PUC Department of Education, and their respective research groups, to debate the theme of **"Current Research Challenges in Educational Sociology"**. The discussions ranged over matters such as the sense of belonging, the total socialization process, the social building of identities and the school-family-work articulation. Teixeira Lopes also presented a comparative survey that is being conducted in public spaces in São Paulo, Brazil and Porto, Portugal and that gives emphasis to the theme "the public space is the core of a democratic society".

### INTERVIEWS

- Hustana Maria Vargas was interviewed on Brazilian TV's Globo News on August 8<sup>th</sup> in the "At the Top of the Hour" program with regard to the ENADE 2007 results and the new benchmark for higher courses: "The preliminary Concept of Courses".
- Zaia Brandão was interviewed on Brazilian TV's Globo News on September 27<sup>th</sup> - see the respective video on the link: [http://eimidia.com/portal/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=108&ac=0](http://eimidia.com/portal/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=108&ac=0)
- Zaia Brandão was interviewed on the **Folha Dirigida** on November 27<sup>th</sup>, see the whole interview on the link: <http://folhadirigida.digitalpages.com.br/home.aspx?regiao=8>

## **PUBLICATION**

An article by Maria Cristina da Silva Galvão entitled "Pedro II College - 12 years of schooling. Investigating the Students that triumph over this Journey", will be published in the periodical "Contemporânea de Educação", the online publication of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro's Post Graduate Program #6 of December 2008.

**Abstract:** The universality of the finishing of the basic education is still an unconquered stage in our public education system. This text presents a profile of a masters degree research survey concluded in 2002 that focused on the educational journeys made at the basic and middle levels at Brazil's biggest public school. Taking as a basis the sociological formulations of Pierre Bourdieu regarding family heritage and school success, as seen from the cultural capital concept, this investigation aimed to empirically detect the application of social selectivity practised at the Pedro II School.