HUNTING FOR MORE THAN FOOD:
Hunting motivations and its effects on the landscape of
Rio de Janeiro in the decades prior to the 1970s

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Dissertation presented to the Programa de Pós-Graduação em Geografia of the Departamento de Geografia, PUC-Rio as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Mestre em Geografia.

Advisor: Prof. Rogério Ribeiro de Oliveira
Co-Advisor: Profa. Annelise Fernandez

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Resumo


O objeto da pesquisa foi comparar e compreender as transformações da paisagem do município do Rio de Janeiro, por meio da reconstituição de práticas e motivações de caçadores nas décadas anteriores a 1970, quando foi criado Parque Estadual da Pedra Branca. Por meio da coleta e análise de histórias orais e de entrevistas semi-estruturadas com moradores antigos do lugar, obteve-se uma visão mais clara sobre a relação entre a sociedade e a floresta ao longo dos últimos 40 anos. A caça praticada antes dos anos 70 era mais importante para a subsistência cultural dos moradores pobres do entorno da floresta do que propriamente para a subsistência alimentar. O processo de urbanização da cidade alterou a relação dessas populações com a floresta em diversos aspectos, como o acesso à alimentação industrializada e o uso de refrigeradores domésticos, que praticamente eliminou a necessidade cultural dessa prática, embora a caça clandestina ainda seja praticada. A identificação das diferentes motivações e sentidos atribuídos às práticas antigas de caça lançou luz sobre as políticas de conservação da natureza e ajuda a compreender o papel dessas populações na composição da atual floresta.

Palavras-chave

Caça; transformação da paisagem; Parque Estadual de Pedra Branca; Caçador
Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to compare and comprehend landscape transformation in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil through reconstruction of various hunting practices and motivations in the decades prior to the 1970s, when the Pedra Branca State Park was established. By collecting and analyzing oral histories through semi-structured interviews with often poor, older residents in proximity to the park, a clearer picture of the relationship between society and the forest over the past 40 years is obtained. Hunting practiced in the years prior to the 1970s was much more important to these residents for their cultural subsistence than dietary needs. Urbanization of this region of the city altered the relation that these populations had with the forest in various manners, such as greater access to industrialized food products and more ample use of refrigeration. This process practically eliminated the cultural necessity of hunting, although clandestine hunting continues, driven by a black market for animals and animal products. The identification of different motivations and feelings attributed to hunting sheds light on nature conservation policies and helps to understand the role of these marginalized citizens in the composition of the current forest.

Keywords

Hunting; landscape transformation; Pedra Branca State Park; Hunter
# Table of Contents

1 Introduction 11
   1.1. Object 11
   1.2. Relevance of the study 12
   1.3. Research Methodology 15
   1.4. Area of study: Pedra Branca Massif 18

2 Hunting as practiced in the Pedra Branca state park 21
   2.1. Introduction 21
   2.2. Subsistence hunting in Rio de Janeiro 22
   2.3. Riches of the poor 24
   2.4. Operating outside of the law 27
   2.5. Hunters in the Pedra Branca Massif 28
   2.6. Territorialization 29
   2.7. Hunting techniques in the PEPB 30
   2.8. Game hunted in the Pedra Branca Massif 36

3 Hunter Motivations and Identity Construction 41
   3.1. Introduction 41
   3.2. The Pedra Branca Massif: A "place" to identify with 41
   3.3. The marginalized citizen-hunter and his spatial construct 45
   3.4. Hunting’s value to the hunter 48
   3.5. Filling a niche and rising spatial tensions 49
   3.6. Coping with marginalization 54
   3.7. Cultural subsistence and identity construction 55

4 Transformation of the landscape and the hunter 58
   4.1. Introduction 58
   4.2. Trophic cascades and loss of biodiversity 59
   4.3. Identifying faunal and floral links through hunter perceptions 60
   4.4. The hunter has a change of heart 65
   4.5. Summary 67

5 Conclusion 69
   5.1. Final Thoughts 69
   5.2. Recommendations for future study 70

6 Bibliography 71

7 Anexos 78
   7.1. Questionnaire utilized during field interviews 78
   7.2. Modelo utilizado do termo de consentimento livre e esclarecido 80
List of Tables

Table 1 - Example energetic exchange showing losses between trophic levels 23
Table 2 - Spatial elements in the daily life of the hunter 53
List of figures

Figure 1: Wealthy residences in the PEPB 13
Figure 2: Rocinha *favela* on the Tijuca Massif 13
Figure 3: Rio de Janeiro Municipality. (Oliveira, 2010). 18
Figure 4: Arial photograph of PEPB (UERJ – Guia Digital do PEPB). 19
Figure 5: PEPB river basins (UERJ – Guia Digital do PEPB). 20
Figure 6 (left): Needles from a hedgehog 26
Figure 7 (right): Hedgehog discovered in the PEPB during fieldwork 26
Figure 8: Balão de carvão (charcoal oven) (Corrêa, 1936) 31
Figure 9: Hunting platform and bait 32
Figure 10 (left): Seemingly prehistoric traps found in the PEPB 33
Figure 11 (right): A banana baited trap 33
Figure 12 (left): *Toco* (www.reduto.net, 2011) 34
Figure 13 (right): A *toco* stand found in the Pedra Branca Massif 34
Figure 14: Hunter displaying a hunting net. 35
Figure 15: Paca (Courtesy of hunter interviewed, year unknown). 39
Figure 16 (left): Jacupemba 39
Figure 17 (top right): Armadillo (Google images, 2011) 39
Figure 18 (bottom right): Opossum (Google images, 2011) 39
Figure 19: São Gonçalo do Amarante Chapel (Corrêa, 1936). 62
Figure 20: São Gonçalo do Amarante Chapel in 2010 63
List of abbreviations

IBGE – Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute)
INEA – Instituto Estadual do Ambiente (State Environmental Institute)
PEPB – Parque Estadual de Pedra Branca (Pedra Branca State park)