

ITP Research Form

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Faculty Advisor: **Simmie Baer**

Research Group Members: **John Bernard, SaMee Burrage, Macharia Edmonds, Kirt Gallatin, Gillian Satterfield Barjon**

Paper Title: *The Pathway from Poverty through the Juvenile Justice System*

Abstract:

This paper examined the condition of child welfare in Brazil; the current state of Brazil's educational system; how youth who are engaged in criminal activity interact with the police, and how Afro-Brazilian children are treated within the Brazilian social fabric. We conducted interviews in Brazil with individuals who are knowledgeable about the research subtopics and incorporated that first-hand information in the paper.

Child welfare in Brazil is in a state of steady transformation due to revolutionary children's rights legislation. However, it still lags behind in serving the enormous population of impoverished and underprivileged children.

A portrait of the Brazilian education system depicts high drop-out rates, poor grade advancement rates, and millions of poor children working instead of getting an education. Though government initiatives aim to incentivize families to keep children in school, the value placed on education is still missing.

Youth involvement with organized crime in Brazil is highly correlated with the conditions of poverty and homelessness in the country's street children. The police brutality inflicted on youth in these armed groups is yet another manifestation of the failures of Brazil's child rights statute.

Detention centers in Brazil are riddled with physical violence, structural deficiencies, health hazards, and guard brutality. The juvenile justice system holds the power to giving these delinquent youth alternative sentencing and improving abominable detention centers.

Unfortunately, the majority of the youth disadvantaged by the circumstances above are Afro-Brazilian or Black. Disproportionate criminalization of black males in Brazil is another issue with the scope of juvenile justice concerns.