

ITP Research Form

ITP: **Brazil 2010**

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Paper Title: **An Awakening: A Changing Discourse on Race and Class Shapes Contemporary Brazilian Social Policy**

Abstract:

This Paper begins with a summary of the historical and contemporary discourse around the relationship between race, class, and social mobility (and its related policy). In Parts II and III, this Paper provides an in-depth analysis of two forms of social mobility policy being implemented in present-day Brazil: affirmative action in higher education and urban housing policy. Part II specifically explores the development and implementation of race-based affirmative action policies in higher education. This Part considers how public Brazilian universities go about proposing, adopting, and implementing these policies, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of their choices to do so. The future of affirmative action is also considered. Part III specifically explores the historical and contemporary housing conditions and policy implemented in urban areas of Brazil. It considers the role of race and class in shaping the policies around improving living conditions and ensuring legal property rights. Finally, Part IV provides a general summary of what the contemporary discourse around race and class, particularly in light of contemporary policies like affirmative action and urban housing policy, suggests about the future of Brazilian inequality.

This Paper concludes that the struggle for racial and class equality is likely a long one given the relatively recent acknowledgment of the problem and development and implementation of policy aimed at addressing the problem. This struggle is complicated by the difficult history that Brazil has with discussions of race in particular, so it will be pertinent for lay people, advocates, and policymakers alike to consider the role that race, class, and race by class interactions play in producing and maintaining current and future stratification.