

1. The new urban violence in Latin America

Roberto Briceño León

This article depicts the violence situation at the beginning of the 21st century in Latin America as a novel phenomenon from the sociological standpoint, both for its increase in magnitude and for its unique traits. According to the author, it is a sort of violence deprived of political origins or purposes, having only social ones, linked to the process of impoverishment in the region after the 1980s, which has created conditions of educational and work exclusion for a sizable part of the population. That new violence affects essentially the youth of the second urban generation, whose exposure to high consumption expectations cannot be met by the means prescribed by society, and who see violence and the use of firearms as a way to built their identity as men as well as to obtain the economic means to fulfill their aspirations. Delinquent violence is followed by a rise in police violence, all at high psychological and economic costs to the population. Such cost and damage are worsened by the mistrust in the penal system of justice in Latin America, and its ineffectiveness.

Keywords: violence, criminality, social situation, penal system, Latin America.

2. Gunman or avenger: building life trajectories

César Barreira

Aimed at understanding the gunmen system articulated with several cultural values, this article focuses on everyday life aspects of gunmen, through their own words. From that outlook, focusing on those words, some concepts take on new and relevant meanings, such as their understanding about punishment, vengeance, prowess and courage. In the trails of the ‘suspicion logic’, two informants – who express exemplar accounts to understand ordered crimes – have little by little established their spaces. One of them openly presented himself as a gunman, having committed crimes under someone else’s order. The other one denied any involvement with gunmen’s crimes, placing his deeds within the ‘honor domain’, motivated by revenge. The cases were built after interviews and their versions provided the guiding thread for the histories construed within the categories of ‘avenger’ and ‘gunman’.

Keywords: gunman, avenger, honor, revenge, courage, prowess, violence.

decrease in the risk of private life being affected by delinquent violence-related situations.

The article presents three approaches on the subject, which could facilitate the explanation of that phenomenon, and offers the results of an investigation related to those new forms of social control.

Keywords: social control, violence, privatization and informalization of social control.

5. Violence and mass media in contemporary society

Maria Stela Grossi Porto

The article briefly considers the concepts expressed in the title and, based on research results, focuses on mass media analysis as a causal variable in producing contemporary violence. Acknowledging the existence of close relations between media and violence, it stresses the plural character of the phenomenon and its causes, pointing out the risks of demonizing the role of the media by ascribing it the sole responsibility for generating and/or increasing violence.

Keywords: violence, media, Brazilian contemporaneity, Federal District.

6. Homicidal violence and crime structures in Bogotá

Maria Victoria Llorente,
Rodolfo Escobedo, Camilo Echandia and Mauricio Rubio

From mid-90s on, the homicide rate in Bogotá steadily decreased and has reached relatively low levels within the national urban context. Nevertheless, violence in the capital is still considerably under any international standards and some sectors of the city have really high homicide records. This article approaches the influence of crime structures on the homicide levels in the city, based upon an analysis of the distinct manifestations of violence, as well as spatial and diffusional homicide patterns in Bogotá.

Three core conclusions emerge from the evidence on homicide violence in Bogotá for the 1997-199 period: 1) violent deaths are highly concentrated in a few points and that geographical pattern is consistent along time; 2) instrumental violence

nal recidivism: a) socioeconomic variables, namely: marital status, children, place of birth, age, religion, race, educational level and qualification level of the occupation; b) type of offense, according to eight simplified types: homicide, assault and battery, larceny, robbery, embezzlement, possession and use of illegal drugs, and rape); and c) prison conditions, including the availability and qualification of prison personnel – both in security and management – prison work by inmates, professional training and general educational level, available spaces and overpopulation, and social programs for inmates. The work summarizes and evaluates international literature on criminal recidivism, both in methodological and in theoretical terms, presenting a recent historical overview on crime in the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul, as the background for analyzing recidivism itself. Based on official longitudinal data from 1989 to 1997, and the state’s general inmates registry, a series of regressions are calculated by the step-wise method, relating the three dimensions in question with the variable of recidivism, dichotomizing it. The socio-economic dimension explains 32% of recidivism, crime type explains other 9% of recidivism, and prison conditions explain an additional 16%, suggesting a wide margin of recidivism reduction by prison policies. Some closing considerations are presented in relation to the “new penology” and prisional philosophy in Brazil.

Keywords: criminal recidivism, socioeconomic base, offense, prison conditions, prison assistance programs.

9. Social movements and protest in Latin-American rural worlds: new scenarios and new approaches

Norma Giarracca

When the agrarian world seemed just to have stepped into the agroindustrial stage, with high technology application and inexorable population displacement, the issue of land and the access to it, as well as the struggle to keep it become top-level problems in neoliberal policy-stricken Latin America. This work shows that this new centrality of the struggle for land is a typical situation of the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st Century, allowing for conceptions about these new times. In order to do that, it reviews mid-20th-century approaches and presents new post-structuralist conceptualizations.

in 1998. Those districts are seen as models for integration in a public safety policy that has unified its authority in the state and has sought the integration of police actions in the whole power structure of police systems, in spite of their distinct attributions and interests as well as the disputes and quarrels between both police forces.

Keywords: integration, partnership, unification, judiciary police, intensive policing, militarism, discipline, hierarchy.

12. Taking risks in order not to loose one’s job: the health sequels for construction workers in Mercosur

Maria Alejandra Silva

The most publicized construction projects in Mercosur member-countries lack references for work risks and health preventive management, in bidding documents and feasibility studies. That is why we intend to draw a picture of the current state of the debate on work risks in construction works. The aim was to interpret social determinants of the health-disease process in construction sites and to identify the ways for managing work risks. The methodology adopted was quali-quantitative, with use of secondary data (census and polls); the direct observation technique in construction sites; interviews and polls. Besides, the scope of negotiations in the 10 and 11 Mercosur subgroups are examined. Finally, limitations of cover systems and record of labor diseases and accidents are argued, within a rise in “non-registered employment” and “informal employment”, from its contrast with the globalized health approach and risk management in each stage of the construction work.

Keywords: risks at work, work accidents, non-registered employment, labor diseases, risk management.

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3. Socioeconomic exclusions and urban violence

Sérgio Adorno

This text approaches the relationship between socioeconomic exclusion and violence based on one specific case: Brazil. It draws a picture of violence’s the most recent characteristics and trends. It also examines three causes that emerge in public debate: the changes in violence and crime patterns; the crisis in the criminal justice system; and social inequality and urban segregation. Specifically regarding the latter aspect, it seeks to make a general comment on the central “theses” that sustain or challenge the so-called structural violence.

Keywords: violence, human rights, justice, democracy, social rights.

4. Informalization and privatization of social control: responses to fear and delictuous violence

Alexis Romero Salazar

In the current situation of delinquent violence in Venezuela, the rise in violence rates is not the most relevant aspect; it is rather the increase in the lethality of aggressions. That is expressed in the growth in homicide and armed robberies. Such rise in the violent character of delinquency is generated within a context in which the State shows its highest deficiency, both regarding police apparatus (inability to respond to complaints, process them and arrest the delinquent) and the justice system (delay and negligence in imposing punishment).

Impunity makes society fearful and establishes a perception of danger in everyday life. This state of mind leads to privatization and informalization of safety by distinct strategies, among which the closure of residential areas – hiring private security personnel and, at the extreme, joining illegal organizations that offer protection to people and property.

Those types of protection cannot be examined within the classical conception of social control, since they do not concern policies that ground prevention upon the exercise of a socializing control, in which the deviant individual is seen as the main objective of the intervention. They rather regard the expectation of the

(those that are the result of retributions and fights) contributes with a higher number of deaths than the impulsive type (homicide resulting from domestic violence and street fights, which together with drinking, end up being fatal); and 3) there is a relevant geographical convergence between intense violence hotspots and the presence of crime structures associated to illegal markets and outlaw activities, and belonging to the “underground world”.

These conclusions challenge the predominant debate in Colombia, which focuses on urban violence phenomena resulting from general problems of citizenship socialization – specially intolerance – and which minimizes or ignores those resulting from the gradual rise in organized delinquency.

Keywords: urban violence, homicides, crime mapping, safety policies, citizenship, Colombia.

7. Violence, conflict and social integration in rural Uruguay

Diego E. Piñero

In Uruguay, the last decades have not witnessed physical violence episodes in rural areas resulting from class or political violence. Small farmers and rural workers are under everyday violence: for the former, it is decrease in profitability at their small enterprises, being expelled from their land, emigration; for the latter, it is low wages, work accidents, and the absence of freedom of organization. However, the mechanisms of social integration available to the Uruguayan society absorb the dissent and prevent them from ending up in violence.

Keywords: violence, conflict, social integration, rural Uruguay.

8. Comparative analysis of the effects of socio-economic status, crime type and prison conditions on criminal recidivism

Juan Mario Fandiño Mariño

This work is primarily aimed at identifying and measuring the relative explicatory ability of the following three hypothetical causal dimensions of crimi-

However, the new nonclass conceptualizations might allow us to consider that any agrarian struggle is a struggle for a fairer and more egalitarian society. The work is based precisely on actions by Uruguayan and Argentinean small farmers, whose demands are corporative and cannot be equaled to those by subordinate sectors for their lost or never acquired rights. In the Argentinean case, new rural workers’ movements are added as well as those by indebted small farmers, who in the 90s heralded the great rebellions of late 2001 – the “new agrarian protest”.

Keywords: social movements, collective actions, sector actions, new and old agrarian protest, South Cone.

10. Notes on youth bearing juvenile violence within post-industrial societies

Juan S. Pegoraro

The article presents an explanation-description of the rise in juvenile violence associated to misdemeanor and aspects of the degrading-exclusion of forms of social survival. The argument feeds on anthropological elements of lives of youngsters socially excluded and culturally included in a market economy, thus characterized by distinct forms of consumptions, whether material or symbolic. Therefore, the phenomenon of juvenile violence cannot be reduced to a judicial-penal scheme, incapable of solving the social problematics as it emerges in the last years of the 20th century and in these first years of the 21st century.

Keywords: juvenile violence, misdemeanor, illegality, exclusion.

11. An experience integrating civil and military (state) police: Model-Districts in the northern Brazilian city of Fortaleza

Gláucia Mota Brasil and Domingos Abreu

The present article is aimed at discussing and examining the experience of integration of civil and military policemen (state police), from police actions developed in the Model-Districts created in the northern Brazilian state of Ceará

13. Intercompany relations and employment in the businesses network: the experience of internalization of one company from the telecommunications industry.

Sandro Ruduit

Restructuring in the telecommunications industry has implied the construction of network business structures. In this article, patterns of relationship between companies and employment within the network led by CRT (*Companhia Riograndense de Telecomunicações*, the Telecommunications Company in the southern Brazilian State of Rio Grande do Sul) are examined. The analysis encompasses eleven companies providing different kinds of services (switch units digitalization, cables and phone lines installation) and located at several levels of the network (“third”, “fourth”, “fifth” and “sixth” companies). We come to the conclusion that there is a great variety within the relationship between companies (regarding the interaction between competitive strategy of the leading company and the kind of services provided) and in employment practices (associated to intercompany relationships and the position of each company at the network levels).

Keywords: restructuring, company network, intercompany relations, employment, telecommunications.

14. Violence in schools: how French sociologists approach the issue

Bernard Charlot

Violence in schools is a social phenomenon. In order to become a research object, that phenomenon must be defined by the researcher. Besides, a great deal of the research effort consists in defining what one is speaking about. This article examines the way French sociologists approach the issue of violence and the conceptual distinctions they put forward: violence in the school, to the school and by the school; violence, aggression, aggressiveness; violence, transgression, incivility, etc. Behind violence as a symptom, it urges to study the tension simultaneously engendered by social relations and everyday school practices.

Keywords: violence, school, social practices, pedagogical practices.