

Educational and Entrepreneurial Initiatives to Support Youth in Places of Violence

April 28-29, 2015

Bechtel Conference Room, Encina Hall

A Conference Presented by

Program on Poverty and Governance (PovGov)
Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL)
Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI)
Stanford University

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF PANELS AND TALKS

Tuesday, April 28th 2015

Panel 1. Youth Violence: Risk Factors and Consequences

This panel will introduce issues of youth crime and violence mainly within the Latin American and U.S. context and explore the consequences of widespread criminality on youth development possibilities, future life outcomes in terms of education and employability and society as a whole. Speakers include Stanford Political Science Professor and Director of the Program on Poverty and Governance, **Beatriz Magaloni**, who will give a broad overview of how crime and urban violence have become a global development challenge affecting Latin American countries disproportionately, PovGov's Post-Doctoral Fellow, **Brenda Jarillo**, an education specialist who will focus her talk on the impact of violence on youth's cognitive and psychological development, as well as **Monica Váldez González**, Director of Research and Studies at the *Mexican Institute of Youth (IMJUVE)*, who will be discussing some of the work being currently developed by the institution. **Francis Fukuyama**, Professor of Political Science and Director of CDDRL's Program on Governance, will serve as the panel's discussant.

Keynote Speaker

The Agenda for Youth and Violence Prevention in Brazil: Where We Are Now and Where We are Heading

Out of the almost 56,000 homicides that take place every year in Brazil, 30,000 of them victimize young people aged 15-29, 77% of whom are black. This translates to the loss of seven young lives every day, a situation that is further aggravated by a high number of youth out of school and not inserted in the job market. Recognizing the complexities of the issue and the need for urgent improvements, in this talk, Brazil's Sub-Secretary of Youth, President of the National Council on Youth (CONJUVE) and a longtime supporter of social movements in the country, **Angela Guimarães**, will discuss the current scenario for young people in the country while expanding on nationwide

policies put into place to benefit this specific segment of the population and the Secretary's administrative plans for the future.

Panel 2. *Initiatives for At-risk Youth in Rio Favelas*

In this panel, practitioners and politicians with extensive experience working in Rio favelas will discuss successful strategies to improve life opportunities for the youth impacted by crime and violence. Some of these initiatives include advancements in education, college-prep programs, job placements, psychological guidance, actions to support local culture and arts, as well as pathways for strengthening citizenship in various grounds. One of the projects to be presented, "Scape Routes," is a three-year investigation into the lives and experiences of youth and young adults working for drug factions, the most extensive and comprehensive study of its kind to ever be conducted in Rio favelas and Latin America. Speakers include ***Eliana de Sousa e Silva***, Founder and Director of the civil society organization *Maré's Development Network*, and ***Jailson de Sousa e Silva***, Co-Founder and Director of the organization *Favela's Observatory* (both educators and activists from the Maré favela complex), as well as ***Ivana Bentes***, Brazil's National Secretary of Citizenship and Cultural Diversity, a prominent activist who has led important research and action projects in the communication and culture fields nationwide. ***Larry Diamond***, CDDRL's Director and Political Science Professor, will serve as the panel's discussant.

Panel 3. *Reducing Youth Gang Activity and Violence in the U.S.*

This panel will bring together three experienced U.S. practitioners who have been engaged in the development of innovative initiatives to support young people and strengthen crime prevention practices in the East and West Coast. ***Lateefah Simon***, Director of the *California's Future Initiative* at Rosenberg Foundation and national recognized civil rights leader, will discuss her program's platform for the advancement of life opportunities for girls and young women of color (a group often overlooked within the criminal justice improvement platform) and advocating efforts for policy change. ***Amy Crawford***, Deputy Director of the *Center for Crime Prevention and Control at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York*, will develop on her work with jurisdictions throughout the United States and abroad to assist in the creation of partnerships between law enforcement and communities to implement proven approaches to improve public security. Finally, ***Christa Gannon***, Founder and Director of *Fresh Lifelines for Youth* - an award-winning nonprofit dedicated to breaking the cycle of violence, crime and incarceration among teens in Northern California by providing legal education, leadership training and one-on-one mentoring - will talk about her path-breaking work through the organization. ***Bruce Cain***, Director of Stanford's Bill Lane Institute for the American West, will serve as the panel's discussant.

Closing Event of the Day

Crime Lab Announcement, Ceremony to "Officialize" Partnerships and Art Exposition

We will close the first day of the conference with a brief ceremony led by Professors Beatriz Magaloni and Alberto Díaz-Cayeros who will introduce PovGov's new initiative, the *Stanford International*

Crime and Violence Lab - a research platform supported by Stanford's Global Development and Poverty Initiative Program (a university-wide initiative of the Institute for Innovation in Developing Economies (SEED) in partnership with the Freeman Spogli Institute) and by Stanford's Policy Implementation Lab. During the event, PovGov will also sign official cooperation agreements with *Favela's Observatory* and the *Network for Youth Agency* to conduct on-the-ground research projects in Rio favelas in the areas of education, public security and citizenship set to take place within the next 2 years. In the background, there will be an exposition of community photographs from the "People's Images" project, supported by *Favela's Observatory* and Rio's Secretary of Culture. This art initiative serves as an open channel for the production and dissemination of favela dwellers' voices, stimulating these agents to produce a reflection of their stories, neighborhoods and life trajectories through a critical and engaging lens.

Wednesday, April 29th 2015

Panel 4. *Evaluating Effective Interventions for Youth*

We will open our second day with a panel dedicated to exploring evaluations of initiatives aimed at benefiting at-risk youth in Mexico and the United States, which will be complemented by a personal account of participation in one of these provisions. **Jorja Leap**, Adjunct Professor at UCLA's Department of Social Welfare and Executive Director of the UCLA Health and Social Justice Partnership, is an experienced anthropologist and recognized expert in violence and crime prevention, gang-related issues, youth justice and the death penalty, both in national and international contexts. She will share some of her current work on gangs and youth development in multi-cultural settings, criminal justice and prison reform, that also touches on the dilemmas faced by individuals reentering society after incarceration. Dr. Leap will be joined by **Gustavo Robles**, PhD Student at Stanford's Political Science Department and Pre-Doctoral Fellow at the Program on Poverty and Governance, who will expand on PovGov's evaluation project of a nationwide program in Mexico that offers work training and educational opportunities to youth from marginalized communities. **Felix Lucero**, a graduate from the *Prison University Project* – an initiative that provides higher education to incarcerated individuals in San Quentin State Prison – will share his experience with the project and his extensive work with youth in a post-prison setting. **Martin Carnoy**, Professor at Stanford Graduate School of Education, will serve as the panel discussant.

Panel 5. *The "Network for Youth Agency" Experience*

Section 5.1. *Instruments to Make a Difference*

This panel will bring together three young ladies from the Rio-based organization *Network for Youth Agency* who are active players in the development of the project on the ground and have benefited greatly by the initiative, both professionally and personally. **Veruska Delfino**, Agency's Production Coordinator, will talk about her experience in the organization and the project's approach to working with youth. **Ana Paula Lisboa**, a writer from the Maré favela complex who works alongside Veruska and acts as a Methodology Coordinator in the program, will also expand on her daily activities at

Agency and shed light to some of the pathways of opportunities the initiative has opened up for participant youth. Finally, **Elaine Rosa**, a former *Agency* student from the Chapadão favela in Rio's North zone, will discuss a project in pro of local culture for the valorization of black women she developed in her neighborhood as a result of her participation in the program. **Steve Commins**, Associate Director for Global Public Affairs and Lecturer in Urban Planning at UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, will serve as the panel's discussant.

Section 5.2. *World Exchange of Methodologies*

In this panel, a group of practitioners, scholars and activists will discuss the advancement of platforms to exchange methodologies and experiences between Brazil and the United Kingdom in youth-related issues. Using art and entrepreneurship as central pieces in the development process, these actors have helped create pathways of possibilities for youth from disenfranchised communities in close connection with the needs and potential of the community. **Marcus Faustini**, writer, actor, director and founder of the organization *Network for Youth Agency* – an education program that seeks to foster individual and community change in Rio favelas and peripheries through the youth's agency and creative power – will be joined by **Paul Heritage**, Professor of Drama and Performance at Queen Mary University of London, who has been actively engaged in the promotion of cultural platforms interchange between the two nations, as well as **Liz Moreton** and **Suzie Henderson**, both who work for important institutions within the UK's theater and arts scene. **Steve Commins**, Associate Director for Global Public Affairs and Lecturer in Urban Planning at UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, will serve as the panel's discussant.

Keynote Speaker

Applied Social Research: Youth and Gangs in Mexico City

Hector Castillo Berthier, Coordinator for the Unit on Youth Studies (UNESJUV) and Senior Researcher at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), is a specialist in urban issues in Mexico who has written extensively and conducted various action projects in the areas of youth, crime and violence, amongst other social development fields. In this talk, Dr. Berthier will expand on his work at *Circo Volador* (Flying Circus) a social platform that promotes arts and culture for youth from popular origins and seeks to find solutions for pressing urban issues in Mexico. The 28-year-old self-supported initiative is regarded as one of the most successful social interventions in Mexico and has won many important international awards (in 2004 they were amongst the 12 organizations recognized by the UN-Habitat with an award for excellence in social practices around the world). *Circo* invests in a comprehensive and context-sensitive approach to work with youth in places of violence that combines elements of multi-country and multifaceted sociological investigation and methodologies - as well as community participation - to its on-the-ground practices.

Panel 6. *Victims and Perpetrators of Violence: Redirecting Youth in Mexican Prisons*

This panel will focus on issues of human rights, crime and violence and expand on experiences and practices aimed at providing new life pathways for youth and young adults impacted by the Mexican

prison system. **Carlos Cruz**, Founder and Director of *Cauce Ciudadano* (Citizen Channel) – a network of community centers aimed at reducing youth violence in Mexico - will discuss the projects developed by his organization and share his personal experiences with abuse and gang involvement early in life - which sparked his passion for the youth cause and continues to shape his activism. Cruz will be joined by **Ana Laura Magaloni** - Professor of Law at the Center for Economic Research and Teaching in Mexico (CIDE) - who will expand on an unprecedented study that explores the rise in cases of torture in Mexico in light of the war on drugs and increased imprisonment, as well as **Humberto Padgett**, an award-winning journalist who has written extensively and conducted investigations around issues of youth crime and violence, including a recently-published book expanding on the experiences of incarcerated young men in Mexico. In addition, **Antonio Cervantes**, a producer from Mexico City, will present his short documentary (in the making) reflecting on the roots of violence from a philosophical angle. **Alberto Díaz-Cayeros**, Senior Fellow at FSI, will serve as the panel's discussant.

Panel 7. Youth Experiences: Sharing Lives, Practices and Knowledge

Our closing conference panel will take place in the form of an experimental discussion roundtable that will bring together young adults involved in the advancement of grassroots development initiatives to support individuals and communities in different fronts in Brazil, Mexico and the U.S. Most of these young leaders have been benefited by different local programs and have received institutional support to develop their own activities and/or take part in larger endeavors. Participants from Brazil include **Francisco Valdean Alves dos Santos** and **Valnei Succo**, two cultural promoters and artists from Rio's North zone who are actively involved in the promotion of programs in Maré and other Rio favelas supported by *Favela's Observatory*, **Emanuelle Pereira Mallette**, an Agency-affiliated cultural producer who is the founder of a local socio-cultural project in her hometown of Sepetiba that advocates for the importance of radio in community based communication, as well as **Mariluce Mariá de Souza**, a community leader and social entrepreneur from Complexo do Alemão that uses social media platforms to denounce human rights violations by the police in the community and share news of common interest to favela dwellers, including public security-related occurrences. From Mexico, **Alma Yureni Esqueda Garcia** will take about her efforts coordinating the on the ground activities of *Cauce Ciudadano* in the state of Morales and her long work history with the organization. Finally, **Christian Paronable**, a former participant of *Fresh Lifelines for Youth* in CA will discuss his inspiring experience with the program and the new life pathways it has provided him with. **Izabela Moi**, John S. Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University, will serve as the panel facilitator.

Closing Remarks

Professor **Beatriz Magaloni** will make the conference's final remarks and welcome attendees, speakers and PovGov's friends for the final reception at FSI's Encina Hall.