

THE DISPUTE OF THE PUBLIC SPACES IN THE MANIFESTATIONS AGAINST AND IN FAVOR OF THE IMPEACHMENT PROCESS IN 2016, IN BRAZIL

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This essay intends to address the use of public space by groups organized through social networks which brought millions of people to the streets in 2016. This culminated in a judicial, parliamentary and media coup which resulted in the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff. It comes from the premise that although the organization took place through social networks, it was in the appropriation of the public space by the respective groups that it materialized. The demonstrations took place in practically all the capitals of the country and a relevant fact was the choice of places, public spaces, for groups that supported the President's stay on the one hand, and on the other, those who wanted her away.

The first group, opposing impeachment and known as “the mortadelas,” chose to hold their protests in city centers marginalized urban areas easily accessible to workers by public transportation and linked to areas of commerce and services, both formal and informal. The second group, in favor of impeachment and known as “the coxinhas” chose to protest in spaces identified with the financial districts capital and dwelling places of the elites which, in the case of Brasil would be the seafront.

From these initial observations, our article will investigate the extent that segregation and the socio-economic organization of the city influences where these two opposing movements choose to hold protests in three Brazilian metropolises: São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Recife. Therefore, it will be essential to demonstrate that the places that each movement chooses to protest in are related to the socioeconomic and educational profile of the demonstrators. Another intriguing and equally important factor is the specific times that demonstrators choose for their protests. The left tends to organize protests on weekdays at night, while conservative groups tend to opt for Sunny Sundays where they could more easily draw large crowds and create an environment that gave the appearance, especially in the media that most Brazilians favored impeachment.

We organize our research into three parts: I) the socio-economic organization of urban space in Brazilian cities; II) The ways in which public spaces are used for political expression; III) How public spaces were used for political expression specifically during the 2016 impeachment demonstrations in Recife, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.