

Brazilian families, transnational (im)mobilities and care

DORA SAMPAIO

This project is about the experiences of (im)mobility and transnational caregiving of Brazilian families, where the ageing parents are in Brazil and their adult migrant offspring are in United States (Greater Boston area) and the UK (London).

GREATER BOSTON AREA:

Brazilian migrants to the U.S. are young, economically active individuals (20-40 years old) (Siqueira, 2018)
 433,500 Brazilians in the U.S.; 145,000 with an unauthorized status (Migration Policy Institute, 2015-2019; 2018)
 ¼ alone originates in the state of Minas Gerais (Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2017)
 Employment in labour niches such as faxina (housekeeping), daycare, babysitting, landscaping and the restaurant sector (Martes, 2011)



LONDON:

Brazilian migrants to the UK are young and show a more highly educated profile (in comparison to the U.S.) 87,000 Brazilians in the UK; lower levels of unauthorized migration (in comparison to the US), also higher numbers of European-passport holders; but changes expected with Brexit.
 The majority originates in São Paulo, followed by the state of Minas Gerais (Evans et al., 2011)
 Employment in more skilled sectors where knowledge of English is required such as retail, education, business/administration, and health (Evans et al., 2011)



GOVERNADOR VALADARES: (VALADOLARES)

282,164 inhabitants (ninth largest city in the state of Minas Gerais) (IBGE, 2021)
 2,100-2,200 passports issued per month (in 2016) (Globo1 Vales de Minas Gerais)¹
 'Visa trips' to Rio de Janeiro or São Paulo to apply for a U.S. visitor visa gathers travellers roughly every month



'Quando você vai aplicar para o visto?' ('When are you going to apply for the visa?')

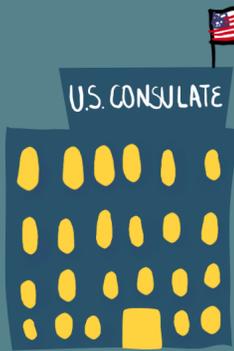
PROCESS

1 A quarter of the Brazilian immigrants in the United States originate in the state of Minas Gerais

2 Because of prolonged separation, often due to the undocumented status of the adult children abroad, communication takes place through new technologies. The ageing parents are also compelled to apply for a visitor visa to the U.S. to visit their 'immobile' offspring abroad.



'Quanto tempo até chegar no Rio?' ('How long until we arrive in Rio?')



3 More or less once a month, an ônibus (coach) departs from Governador Valadares headed to the Consulate General of the United States in Rio de Janeiro.



'Recebemos o visto!' (We got the visa!)

4 Visa



'Tão feliz por ver o nosso filho novamente!' ('I'm so happy that we will finally see our son.')

5 Plane

6 After a lengthy, strenuous, and expensive process of applying for a U.S. visitor visa (sometimes after multiple tries) and a long plane journey, the visiting parents finally reunite with their (grand)children.



¹ <https://g1.globo.com/mg/vales-mg/noticia/apos-suspensao-na-emissao-de-passaportes-agencias-de-valadares-preveem-mudancas-no-setor.ghtml>