

Abstract

Perverse (in)visibility: Juvenile offenders as a *metaphore of violence*

This Sociology Doctorship's thesis analyses theoretically visibility as being a political and social *human condition*, compared to that one conquered by the poor teenagers in the public sphere, specially juvenile offenders. In *virtual citizenship* times, these teenagers, issued mainly from working classes, are described by the media as *metaphores of violence*. This research also points out nowadays that the Brazilian Government public agenda absorbs and faces the expressions of the Social Issue only when they are turned public by the mass media. Taking as sources some important youth violence cases focused by Brazilian media, respectively in 1999 and 2000, such as, FEBEM*'s rebellions, in the state of São Paulo, and a very known case: the hijacking of "bus 174", in Rio de Janeiro, this thesis sustains the following hypothesis: 1st - teenagers *like to be in evidence*, in a deeply tuned in attitude of the *cultural industry* generation; 2nd - teenagers *want to be seen* associated to concepts and values, like beauty, irreverence, recognition and social prestige experienced by celebrities of the culture (music, theater, movies, etc.) and sport worlds; 3rd - facing the impossibility of an immediate *gratification* concerning consumption, pleasure, entertainment, social recognition (as the mass culture way of life demands), due to a very difficult access to social opportunities (education, job, good salaries, etc.), many teenagers say "yes" to crime callings, in their various forms: theft, mugging, traffic, etc.; 4th – juvenile offenders understand the *power and strength of image* which may associate them with rebellious behaviors, taking advantage of that; 5th - the society and the governmental institutions usually negotiate and respect social *rights* in extreme situations only, which means that they act under pressure alone, or upon dealing with violent events, such as kidnapping, threat to someone's life, etc., i.e., under the *impact* of violence itself. So, all these elements stress some of the main youth and human dramas of *scant citizenship* in Brazil today.

Key-words: media, public sphere, violence, *citizenship*, juvenile offenders.

* Institution that looks after adolescent offenders.