CADERNOS
GESTÃO PÚBLICA
E CIDADANIA

CALL FOR PAPERS

RELIGION AND PUBLIC POLICIES IN BRAZIL

Guest Editors

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Submissions have been extended to January 31, 2025

The relationship between religion and public policies in Brazil is intricate and deeply rooted in the country's history and culture. Religious diversity, marked by the coexistence of various traditions and beliefs, plays a significant role in the formulation and implementation of government policies. From social and educational issues to ethical and moral debates, religious influences permeate political discourse and shape legislative agendas. In this context, analyzing the interactions between religion and public policies in Brazil is essential to understanding the mechanisms through which religious convictions influence the public sphere and how government policies respond to this influence, thus reflecting the contours of contemporary Brazilian society.

Numerous national and international studies in the field of social sciences explore the role of religion in individuals' lives, society in general, and politics (Beraldo, 2022; Burity, 2006; Dias, 2008; Guadalupe & Grundberger, 2018; Ladim, 1997; Löwy, 1996). Specifically, in discussions about public policies, international studies highlight the importance of churches and religious organizations in the construction of welfare policies (Esping-Andersen, 1990; Huber & Stephens, 2001; Markkola & Naumann, 2014), values, and specific notions about family, gender, and poverty in public policies (Markkola & Naumann, 2004; Pavolini et al.,

2017). In addition, these studies have approached the role of religious organizations as providers and implementers of social services (Bielefeld & Cleveland, 2013; Manow, 2004).

However, despite the significance of religion and religious organizations, academic discussion on the relationship between religion and public policies in Brazil is still in its early stages. Since Portuguese colonization, the Catholic Church has played a crucial role in political decisions and the provision of social services, particularly in social assistance, healthcare, and childcare services. From the late 19th century through much of the 20th century, Catholic religious organizations were pivotal in addressing issues related to poverty and inequality. Progressive sectors of the Catholic Church were also a fundamental force opposing the military dictatorship (1964-1985) (Segatto et al., 2022).

Although Catholics remain the predominant religious group in Brazil, the Catholic Church and its organizations have lost ground to evangelicals, who have grown significantly (Araújo, 2023). This growth has influenced the political arena, leading to the creation of the Evangelical Parliamentary Front in the National Congress (1987) and an increase in the election of politicians affiliated with Pentecostal and neo-Pentecostal groups (Lacerda & Brasiliense, 2018). In 2019, Pentecostal and neo-Pentecostal groups supported the right-wing populist coalition that elected President Jair Messias Bolsonaro (2019-2022).

Recent studies have sought to deepen the discussion on spirituality and religion in health policies (Lotta et al., 2023; Toniol, 2022). Additionally, it is important to highlight the strong presence of African-based religions – especially Umbanda and Candomblé – in the Brazilian public sphere (Campos & Neri, 2020; Monteiro, 2006, 2012), particularly in areas such as health (Mello & Oliveira, 2013) and education (Ferraro, 2019). Despite their importance, there are still few studies that systematically address these influences, largely due to the silencing processes involved in discussions about African-origin religions and religious organizations in the public sphere.

The call for papers (CFP) on “Religion and Public Policy in Brazil” invites researchers and academics to explore the complex intersection between religion and public governance in this diverse and multifaceted country. Given the constantly evolving political, social, and religious context, this CFP seeks to investigate how religious beliefs, practices, and institutions influence

and are influenced by public policies, covering issues from health and education to civil rights and the environment. This special issue aims to publish original papers that discuss, both theoretically and empirically, the relationship between religion and public policies in Brazil – a topic still underexplored but fundamental for understanding the trajectories and recent changes in public policies.

The editors welcome papers exploring the following topics:

- The role of religions and religious organizations in formulating public policies at national and subnational levels.
- The influence of religious values on issues such as family, gender, poverty, inequalities, and spirituality in the context of public policies.
- The engagement of churches and religious organizations in implementing public policies at subnational levels.
- Analysis of the actions of coalitions formed by conservative political and religious groups and their influence on recent changes in Brazilian public policies.
- The expressions of African-based religions in the Brazilian public policy environment.

We hope to receive contributions that offer in-depth analyses, interdisciplinary perspectives, and original insights, aiming for a broader understanding of the dynamics between religion and politics in contemporary Brazil. This proposal aims to encourage debate on religion and public policies, as well as analyses that discuss the relationships between ideas and actors, speeches and narratives, and institutions and practices in public policies. Articles with empirical analyses, bibliographic reviews, and theoretical discussions contributing to the topics listed are welcome.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

Theoretical or theoretical-empirical papers will be accepted, provided they adhere to the general formatting and other guidelines specified in the “Articles” section of the CGPC Author Guidelines, available at https://periodicos.fgv.br/cgpc/autor.

Submitted papers must not have been published, accepted for publication, or be under consideration for publication in another journal. Suitable articles will undergo a peer review process. If you have any questions about this call, please contact Catarina Segatto at catarina.segatto@gmail.com.

Complete information about this CFP and the journal is available at https://periodicos.fgv.br/cgpc/about/submissions. For questions about formatting, please contact cadernosgpc-redacao@fgv.br.

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Cadernos Gestão Pública e Cidadania (CGPC) is an open-access online journal. It adopts the Open Journal Systems (OJS) for its submission process, double-blind review, and publication. CGPC does not apply an Author Processing Charge (APC).

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