



STUDIES ON MIGRATION FLOWS IN POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN THE PLURD FIELD IN BRAZIL

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Abstract: Migration is a fundamental phenomenon for understanding territorial transformations, particularly amid the intensification of forced displacement and the need for public policies on reception and integration. This article analyzes how migration has been addressed in master's dissertations from postgraduate programs in Urban and Regional Planning and Demography (PLURD) in Brazil, seeking to identify thematic approaches, territorial scopes, temporal trends, and gaps in representation. The study is qualitative, exploratory, and descriptive, based on a survey conducted across 52 programs distributed throughout Brazil's five regions, comprising 322 dissertations defended between 1972 and June 2025 that were directly related to migration. The studies were categorized according to migrant profiles, predominant themes, temporal evolution, and territorial scopes, in dialogue with Peter Burke's perspective on representation. The results reveal a strong concentration of research on urban mobility and internal displacement, which account for approximately 88% of the *corpus*, while Haitians, refugees, international migration, and especially Venezuelans are scarcely represented. Only one dissertation on Venezuelans was identified. The study concludes that academic production in the field still contains institutional and epistemological silences regarding contemporary international migration flows, indicating the need for research that is more attentive to migrants' experiences, identities, and territorialities.

Keywords: Migration; urban and regional planning; scientific production; representation; Venezuelan immigrants.

ESTUDOS SOBRE FLUXOS MIGRATÓRIOS NOS PROGRAMAS DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO DA ÁREA PLURD NO BRASIL

Resumo: A imigração constitui um fenômeno basilar para a compreensão das transformações territoriais, especialmente diante da intensificação dos deslocamentos forçados e da necessidade de políticas públicas de acolhimento e integração. Este artigo analisa como a temática migratória vem sendo tratada nas dissertações de mestrado dos Programas de Pós-Graduação da área de Planejamento Urbano, Regional e Demografia (PLURD) no Brasil, buscando identificar enfoques temáticos, recortes territoriais, tendências temporais e lacunas de representatividade. A pesquisa é qualitativa, exploratória e descritiva, baseado em um levantamento realizado em 52 programas distribuídos pelas cinco regiões brasileiras, contemplando 322 dissertações defendidas entre 1972 até junho de 2025 com relação direta com a temática migratória. Os trabalhos foram categorizados segundo perfis de migrantes, temas predominantes, evolução temporal e recortes territoriais, em diálogo com a perspectiva de representatividade de Peter Burke. Os resultados evidenciam forte concentração de estudos sobre mobilidade urbana e deslocamentos internos, que correspondem a aproximadamente 88% do *corpus*, enquanto haitianos, refugiados, migrações

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internacionais e, sobretudo, venezuelanos apresentam baixa incidência. Apenas uma dissertação sobre venezuelanos foi identificada. Conclui-se que a produção acadêmica da área ainda apresenta silenciamentos institucionais e epistemológicos diante de fluxos migratórios internacionais contemporâneos, indicando a necessidade de pesquisas mais sensíveis às experiências, identidades e territorialidades dos sujeitos migrantes.

Palavras-chave: Migração; planejamento urbano e regional; produção científica; representatividade; imigrantes venezuelanos.

1 Introduction

Immigration is both an ancient and a contemporary phenomenon. According to Eberhardt (2018), it is a movement that is difficult to define, since it has been and remains present in virtually every historical event in human history. In the contemporary context, marked by humanitarian crises, political instability, and global inequality, the number of forcibly displaced people has increased substantially. According to the Global Trends 2024 report published by UNHCR⁴, released in June 2025, approximately 123.2 million people were forcibly displaced at the end of 2024, including 42.7 million refugees and 73.5 million internally displaced people. Although modest, there was a slight decline in the first months of 2025, with an estimated 122.1 million people displaced by April.

For Roberto Luiz do Carmo Cavalcanti (2017), the intensity of these flows makes it possible to understand contemporary society as an “Age of Migration.” In this context, as Jean-Pierre Cassarino (2008) observes, different migration projects coexist, marked by permanent, circular, and return movements. Among the various contemporary migration projects, settlement migration stands out, characterized by the pursuit of permanence and the reorganization of life in destination territories. This dynamic resembles the experience of Venezuelans living in Rio Grande do Sul, whose narratives reveal strategies of family reconstruction, labor-market integration, and access to basic services as means of establishing stability in the host territory.

Contemporary migration flows have produced significant transformations in social, cultural, and territorial dynamics in different regions of the world. In the Latin American context, the worsening Venezuelan economic, political, and social crisis has driven migration flows toward several countries, including Brazil. This movement has increased the presence of Venezuelan immigrants in cities of different sizes, reaching municipalities in the interior of Rio Grande do Sul as well, such as Parobé/RS, where their presence has become part of the social, cultural, and

⁴ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is a United Nations agency responsible for the international protection of refugees and other displaced populations under its mandate. The *Global Trends* report is published annually by the agency and compiles worldwide statistical data on forced displacement, refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced people.



institutional dynamics of everyday local life.⁵

In Coriolano and Sampaio's (2012) view, development as configured within global capitalist logic generates numerous contemporary problems, one of which is immigration. This is because Western countries, in an incessant pursuit of wealth and power, deploy networks of control and subordinate peripheral and less developed countries to their authority. According to the authors (Idem, 2012), this interplay of interests intensifies under capitalism, which, by exploiting territories and labor forces, "triggers wars, crises, recessions, and conflicts as it widens global inequalities" (Coriolano; Sampaio, 2012, p. 50).

Following the same line of reasoning, Friedman (2009) reflects on the current model of development. For the author, it does not matter whether Uruguay is Uruguay; it is enough to associate it with Tata Consulting Services, an Indian software company regarded as the largest outsourcing company in Latin America. Undoubtedly, this is the model of development that makes the world "flat" while also making it profoundly unequal. Understanding the logic of contemporary development is therefore essential to understanding why, according to Cavalcanti (2015), we live in the age of migration.

The field of Urban and Regional Planning and Demography (PLURD) plays a fundamental role in understanding and managing these movements, given the repercussions migration processes produce in territories, particularly in contexts where public policies are lacking. However, scientific production in the field, especially at the *stricto sensu* postgraduate level, still devotes limited attention to immigration, particularly from the perspective of migrant subjects, their experiences, and their territorialities.

Against this backdrop, the following research question guides the study: how has immigration been addressed in master's dissertations from postgraduate programs in Urban and Regional Planning and Demography (PLURD) in Brazil? Based on this question, the study investigates the presence of and approaches to the immigration phenomenon, considering thematic perspectives, territorial scopes, and temporal trends in the publications.

This study is justified by two main reasons: first, the social and political relevance of immigration in national and global contexts, especially amid humanitarian crises, climate change, and intensified population flows; second, the scarcity of systematic surveys of scientific production in Urban and Regional Planning and Demography, which continues to hinder the identification of gaps and potential research directions related to the topic, particularly with regard to informing future studies.

⁵ The presence of Venezuelan immigrants in Parobé/RS was the subject of an empirical investigation in a master's study subsequently conducted by the first author, which analyzed the migration trajectories, support networks, and experiences of sociocultural integration of Venezuelans residing in the municipality.



Accordingly, this article presents a preliminary analysis of the presence of migration-related themes in PLURD postgraduate programs, based on a data survey conducted by the research group “Institutions, Society, Culture, and Social Well-Being,” affiliated with the Postgraduate Program in Regional Development at Faculdades Integradas de Taquara. Using a qualitative and exploratory methodology, the study analyzed dissertations defended in 52 programs distributed across Brazil’s five regions, totaling more than 320 works related to migration. The temporal and thematic scope made it possible to identify recurring patterns, gaps, and approaches, as well as to categorize the types of migration represented, such as international migration, forced migration, labor migration, and gender-related migration.

The choice of this scope is aligned with the theoretical proposition of representation, as discussed by Peter Burke (2005), understanding academic production as a symbolic space for constructing narratives in which certain subjects are emphasized while others remain invisible. The analysis therefore seeks to understand which representations of immigration are being constructed (or silenced) by scientific research in the field in Brazil.

Thus, the article aims to critically reflect on the place of immigration in studies of urban and regional planning and demography in Brazil, contributing to the debate on inclusive epistemologies and public policies responsive to contemporary migration realities.

This article is organized into four sections in addition to this introduction. The second presents the research methodology. The third presents the results of the analysis, highlighting thematic categories and the historical evolution of academic production. The fourth discusses the findings in light of authors who examine immigration and knowledge production. Finally, the conclusion revisits the main points and identifies directions for future research.

2 Theoretical Reflections on Migration in Brazil

The arrival of new migration flows has changed the social landscape of many Brazilian cities. When discussing these changes, it is necessary to consider not only labor-related aspects but also identity and social dimensions. Among these flows, the growth of Venezuelan immigration stands out, having become a significant phenomenon over the past decade. According to data from the National Migration Registration System (Sismigra), between January 2010 and December 2022, more than 350,000 Venezuelans obtained visas to reside in Brazil (Cavalcanti *et al.*, 2022).

Rio Grande do Sul has become an established destination for this population, receiving approximately 15,746 Venezuelans during the same period, partly through Operation Welcome (Operação Acolhida). This federal policy aims to relocate immigrants to other parts of the country



and is strongly coordinated with the productive sector, especially agribusiness and meat-processing plants (Tedesco, 2023; Demétrio, Baeninger, 2023). Although Venezuelans constitute a specific group, their trajectory reveals broader dynamics that affect other migrant groups in Brazil, particularly precarious labor-market insertion, forced displacement, and challenges of socio-territorial integration.

Migration flows in Brazil are regulated by current legislation. Migration Law No. 13,445, of May 24, 2017, establishes in Article 1 the rights and duties of migrants and visitors, stating that it “[...] regulates their entry into and stay in the country and establishes principles and guidelines for public policies concerning emigrants” (Brasil, 2017). The same law defines an immigrant as a national of another country or a stateless person who works, resides, or permanently settles in Brazil. Law No. 13,445/2017 provides several guarantees for these individuals, including social, labor, and productive inclusion. However, although such legal provisions exist, their effectiveness remains limited. Mere entry into the labor market is insufficient in light of the many challenges faced by immigrant workers, who are often subjected to dangerous, precarious, and poorly paid jobs (Colombo, 2015).

Beyond access to the labor market, the aforementioned legislation guarantees immigrants “civil, social, cultural, and economic rights and freedoms” (Brasil, 2017). This study is structured around this understanding, grounded in Law No. 13,445/2017, and assumes that the migratory condition is not limited to labor-market integration but also involves the full exercise of social and cultural rights. Considering that these individuals’ cultural experiences, as well as the ways in which they reconstruct their identities, affect the dynamics of the spaces in which they come to live, it is essential to understand how they construct their identities and seek to integrate into the new society.

Aversion to foreigners is one of the barriers faced by contemporary migrants, often aggravated by xenophobic and institutionalized discourses. Rodríguez, Tourinho, and Sotero (2018) observe that migrants become targets of hostile narratives and are portrayed as threats to the receiving society, which hinders their integration and undermines respect for human rights. Guizardi and Mardones (2020), analyzing the social impacts of hate speech in Foz do Iguaçu (PR), found that xenophobia in Brazil has become increasingly institutionalized, affecting migrant women more intensely in border regions characterized by a strong military presence.

Another relevant issue in this research is how cases of prejudice and discrimination against immigrants are addressed in the media. The way such information is conveyed may reveal important nuances regarding social perceptions and, above all, the processes through which these individuals integrate into geographic space. Brignol and Costa (2018), in their analysis of media coverage of Senegalese immigration in Rio Grande do Sul, observed that although there are



attempts to portray migration flows in a more humanized manner with a view to integration, journalistic discourses often reinforce stigma and prejudice. These discourses contribute to the naturalization of differences between immigrants and nationals, strengthening symbolic boundaries that hinder effective social inclusion.

An emblematic example that helps explain the movements and silences of scientific production in the PLURD field concerns the Haitian presence in Brazil. Desrosiers (2020), in analyzing the integration of Haitians into the city of São Paulo, highlights that the search for better living conditions, especially employment, drove the arrival of this group. The context of the 2014 World Cup, with intensified construction projects and the memory of symbolic ties with Brazil stemming from the UN-sponsored charity match in Haiti in 2004, contributed to this flow. Nevertheless, the challenges faced by these immigrants remain evident, marked by precariousness, informality, and a system that marginalizes them. Although this reality motivated some dissertations in subsequent years, a significant gap remains in academic production on other nationalities, such as Venezuelans, who, despite their substantial numbers in Brazil, still appear only marginally in the studies analyzed.

In line with the authors cited above, Isma, Pires, and Aguiar (2023) identify several factors that fostered Haitian migration between 1999 and 2019. Drawing on historical periods, the authors highlight socioeconomic instability, political conflicts, natural disasters, and the country's environmental vulnerability as the main causes. The intensification of migration in the 2000s is therefore strongly associated with the lack of public policies focused on sustainable development, as well as with Haiti's extreme poverty, as one of the poorest countries in the Americas. The study also emphasizes the multifaceted nature of these flows, which involve different social actors in territorial contexts marked by profound disparities. To mitigate such flows, the authors advocate policies that improve human development indicators, such as GDP and HDI, in order to ensure better living conditions for vulnerable populations.

According to Carreira (2017), it is essential to consider identities, since migrants' memories are intrinsically linked to processes of deterritorialization and reterritorialization. These processes involve leaving cultural spaces in which individuals built their histories and identities and moving toward a new territory (physical and symbolic) that is then inhabited and resignified. In this process of reterritorialization, space and experience intertwine, allowing subjects to rewrite their narratives and reconstruct their identities. Thus, immigration cannot be reduced to geographical displacement, as it carries affective, cultural, and, above all, identity-related dimensions.

In discussing territory and identity, Haesbaert (2014) argues that contemporary subjects experience multiterritoriality, simultaneously articulating different spaces of belonging. In the case of immigrants, the territory of origin remains present through memory, family relationships,



culture, and affective ties, even after their insertion into new social contexts. Thus, the migratory experience does not imply an absolute break with the country of origin, but rather the construction of multiple ties among territories, subjects, and cultural practices.

In this context, understanding migration experiences requires consideration of the material conditions of permanence as well as the symbolic processes related to identity and belonging. Hall (2006) understands identity as a continuous and relational construction, marked by displacement, negotiation, and cultural transformation. In migration experiences, subjects begin to articulate references from the territory of origin with the demands and experiences of the host space, producing multiple and constantly reformulated forms of belonging.

This condition echoes Bhabha's (2013) reflection that migrant subjects live experiences situated "in-between" spaces, constructing hybrid identities amid cultural differences. Thus, sociocultural integration does not occur in a linear or homogeneous manner, but through everyday negotiations involving language, memory, habits, affect, and social practices. Migrants therefore move between distinct cultural references, continually reorganizing their relationship with the territory and with the social groups around them.

Along the same lines, Pachi (2020) argues that understanding migration flows requires a humanized and multidisciplinary approach. According to the author, migration cuts across several fields of knowledge, such as geography, history, sociology, psychology, and economics, and directly affects urban life, whether in city landscapes or in the social structures that sustain them. International migration flows therefore mobilize different social actors, affecting policies on reception, health, education, and work. For this reason, there is an urgent need for more responsive and structured public policies capable of ensuring the dignity of these individuals as they undergo continuous processes of identity construction.

The low incidence of research on immigration in academic production in the field of Urban and Regional Planning and Demography (PLURD) can be interpreted in light of the concept of representation, as discussed by Peter Burke (2005). For the author, social representations are constructions that reflect and reinforce power relations. Accordingly, the absence or invisibility of certain topics, such as immigration in master's dissertations, is not merely accidental but results from institutional and epistemological choices that define what is considered relevant or marginal within research in Urban and Regional Planning and Demography.

In the Brazilian context, migration movements are marked by different stages, ages, and generations. Sayad (2001) proposes the concept of "modes of generation" to explain how migration cycles continuously transform, sometimes ending and sometimes giving rise to new dynamics. These gradual changes demonstrate that immigration is far from a static phenomenon, since it is shaped by historical, social, and political factors. To understand the challenges faced by



immigrants, Bourdieu (1997) suggests the need to analyze “difficult places,” that is, contexts marked by structural inequality.

In the field of migration, these difficult places are not only physical but also symbolic and social, expressed through discrimination, exclusion, lack of opportunities, and processes of marginalization. These elements help explain why certain groups gain academic visibility in specific periods while others remain invisible. Based on this theoretical framework, the following section analyzes the scientific production of PLURD postgraduate programs, emphasizing the approaches taken to immigration, its temporal evolution, territorial scopes, and thematic gaps.

3 Methodology

This research is qualitative in nature and adopts an exploratory and descriptive approach. According to Prodanov and Freitas (2013), qualitative research seeks to understand phenomena through the analysis of non-numerical data, allowing interpretations of specific social realities to be constructed. The exploratory approach, in turn, aims to provide greater familiarity with the topic under investigation, helping to make it more explicit and enabling the formulation of new hypotheses (Gil, 2019).

The choice of a qualitative and exploratory approach is justified by the need to analyze, interpret, and understand the presence of migration-related themes in academic production in the field of Urban and Regional Planning and Demography (PLURD), focusing on the representation of different immigrant profiles in master’s dissertations. According to Minayo (2009), qualitative research is appropriate for investigations in the humanities and social sciences because it considers the complexity of phenomena and seeks to reveal meanings, senses, and representations attributed by subjects and institutions.

The study also has a descriptive dimension, since it aims to map and systematize information on how migration is addressed in the dissertations analyzed, identifying trends, gaps, and silences. As Prodanov and Freitas (2013) note, descriptive research seeks to identify the characteristics of a given population or phenomenon and to describe it accurately.

Data collection was conducted by the research group “Institutions, Society, Culture, and Social Well-Being,” affiliated with the Postgraduate Program in Regional Development at Faculdades Integradas de Taquara (FACCAT). The study mapped dissertations defended in 52 postgraduate programs across Brazil’s five regions, covering the period from the first dissertation defended in the PLURD field in 1972 through June 2025.

The identified studies were analyzed according to previously defined criteria, considering: a) the profile of the migrant subjects addressed (international, forced, labor); b) the predominant thematic categories (urban mobility, work, territorial expansion, identities); c) temporal trends in

production; and d) the territorial scopes highlighted.

The thematic categorization followed Burke's (2005) perspective on representation, which understands academic production as a symbolic space in which subjects and themes may be either foregrounded or silenced. The analysis therefore sought to identify patterns that point to epistemological choices within the fields of science and academic research.

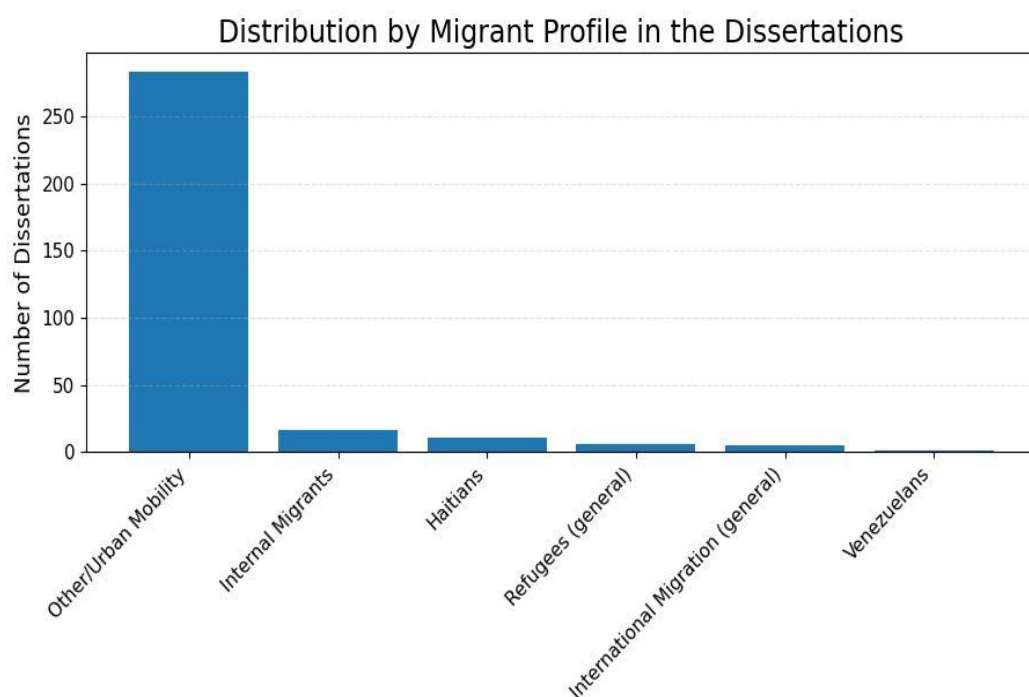
It should be emphasized that this study is preliminary and exploratory in nature, recognizing, in line with Sampieri, Collado, and Lucio (2013), that research of this kind does not seek generalizations but rather a deeper critical perspective on an object of study that remains underexplored in Brazilian scientific literature.

4 Data Analysis and Discussion

This section presents the analysis of data obtained from the survey conducted in postgraduate programs in Urban and Regional Planning and Demography, with emphasis on dissertations addressing immigration. The data are discussed in light of the theoretical framework presented, highlighting thematic, temporal, and territorial scopes, as well as identifying gaps and silences in existing academic production.

The analysis of Graph 1 is presented below, highlighting the migrant groups most frequently addressed and, especially, those that remain at the margins of scientific production in the field.

Graph 1 - Distribution by migrant profile in the dissertations analyzed



Source: Prepared by the authors (2025).



The previous survey of the 322 dissertations addressing the migration phenomenon in Urban and Regional Planning and Demography (PLURD) reveals a highly uneven landscape regarding the profiles of migrants addressed in academic research. As shown in Graph 1, a large share of the studies, approximately 88%, focuses on urban mobility or internal flows, frequently using generic terms such as “population mobility” or “urban displacement” without specifying the experiences of international migrant subjects in their places of arrival.

The predominance of this broader approach, disconnected from international immigration, suggests a tendency in the field to investigate internal displacement or urban territorial dynamics. This finding is even more significant when one observes that only 5% of the dissertations specifically address internal migrants and that Haitian immigrants appear in only 3.4% of the studies, with increasing prominence after 2015, coinciding with the growth of Haitian migration to Brazil following the 2010 earthquake and the UN mission in that country.

The category “refugees” appears generically in 1.8% of the dissertations, without details regarding nationality or specific geopolitical circumstances. The same generality is observed in the category “international migration (general),” which accounts for 1.5% of the studies, suggesting a lack of deeper investigation into immigrant profiles and the sociocultural experiences of migrant subjects.

The most striking finding, however, is the low occurrence of dissertations addressing Venezuelan immigrants. Only one study was identified, from the Postgraduate Program in Demography at the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), representing approximately 0.3% of the total analyzed. This gap is concerning given the political, economic, and social relevance of this migration flow in Brazil, especially in light of Operation Welcome and the relocation of Venezuelans to states such as Roraima, Amazonas, Paraná, and, significantly, Rio Grande do Sul.

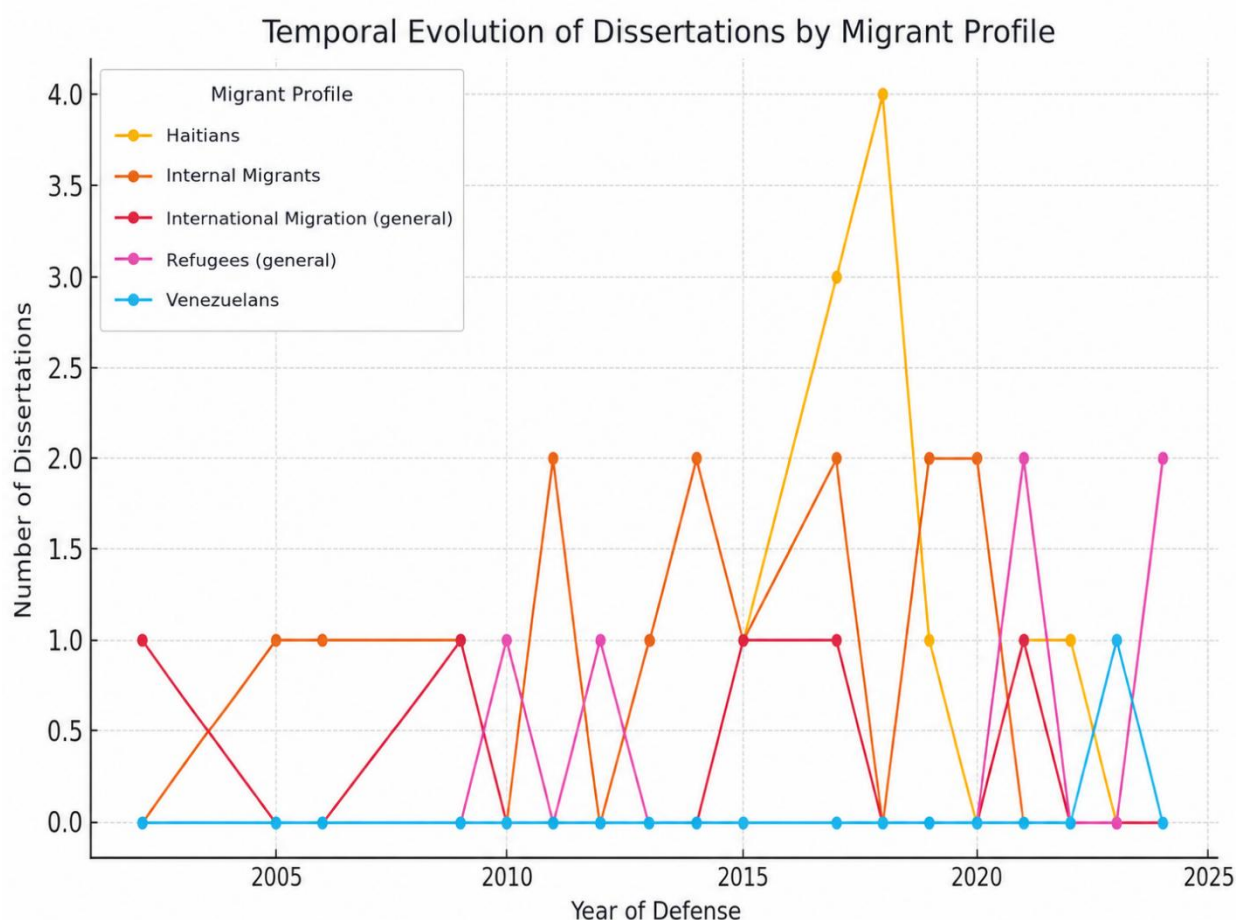
When analyzing the titles of PLURD dissertations that address migration, there is a predominance of terms such as “development,” “city,” “municipality,” “management,” and “planning.” This recurrence reveals an inclination in dissertation titles to understand migration as a phenomenon articulated with urban and institutional dynamics. From a Bourdieusian perspective, the immigrant habitus can be understood as a set of dispositions internalized by immigrant subjects that influences their adaptation, expectations, and, above all, their practices in host territories. In this sense, dissertation titles tend to approach how these subjects enter realities shaped by urban planning logics and development strategies that do not privilege immigrants’ experiences in the analyses.

Complementarily, among the dissertations that specifically address immigration, associations with themes such as work, social relations, urban expansion, and mobility recur. These thematic scopes reveal an effort by part of the scientific production to understand the

impacts of migration flows on the urban fabric and the social structures of Brazilian cities. However, the emphasis on aspects such as immigrants' presence in the territory, especially as a labor force, may obscure deeper layers of the migration experience, such as symbolic, identity-related, and sociocultural conflicts involving belonging. These thematic choices reinforce the need for research that does not study the migrant as an "object" of planning, but instead understands migrants as active subjects in the reconfiguration of urban spaces and social relations.

Continuing the analysis, it is important to note that, in addition to the predominance of themes related to urban planning and mobility, it is important to understand how different immigrant profiles have been represented over the years in academic production in Urban and Regional Planning and Demography. To this end, the next graph presents the temporal evolution of dissertations by immigrant profile, allowing periods of greater incidence of studies focused on specific immigrant groups to be identified. Conversely, it also reveals periods of decline and persistent gaps, contributing to reflection on the silences and epistemological choices that permeate Brazilian scientific production.

Graph 2 - Temporal evolution of dissertations by migrant profile



Source: Prepared by the authors (2025).



Regarding the temporal analysis of academic production, a continuous increase can be observed in research on urban mobility and internal migration through the 2015–2019 period, with Haitian immigration standing out, driven by increased migration flows after the 2010 earthquake and by the context of the World Cup in Brazil. However, publications show a slight stagnation after 2020, possibly associated with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the difficulties of conducting research during that period. In 2022, signs of renewed activity appear, especially in studies on urban mobility.

With regard to international immigration, however, production is highly sporadic and dispersed, reinforcing the predominance of themes focused on internal displacement in PLURD postgraduate programs. Once again, this trend demonstrates the invisibilization of certain immigrant groups and suggests an institutional prioritization of agendas centered on national urban dynamics to the detriment of more recent transnational migration flows.

Accordingly, what emerges is the prevalence of a model of academic production strongly tied to what Bourdieu (1997) defines as institutional *habitus*, in which epistemological choices reinforce established structures and tend to marginalize subjects and themes considered peripheral. The low incidence of research on Venezuelans and the dispersion of studies on refugees or international migration in general reflect this process. As Burke (2005) notes, absence is also a form of representation, because it silences certain discourses and prevents others from gaining space within scientific fields. The scarcity of dissertations on these contemporary immigrant profiles, especially in a country that leads reception processes such as Operation Welcome, reveals a disconnect between Brazil's migration reality and the research agendas of programs in Urban and Regional Planning and Demography.

This lack of representation can be interpreted in light of Burke (2005), who emphasizes how fields of symbolic production, such as science, construct and reinforce certain discourses while silencing others. In this sense, the near invisibility of Venezuelans in research in Urban and Regional Planning and Demography (PLURD) reveals thematic choices that ultimately disregard social actors who are central to the contemporary migration context.

5 Final Considerations

This study aimed to analyze the presence of immigration as a theme in master's dissertations from postgraduate programs in Urban and Regional Planning and Demography (PLURD) in Brazil. Based on the survey conducted in 52 programs distributed across the country's five regions, it was possible to identify a predominance of studies on urban mobility and internal



migration at the expense of research focused on international migration flows, especially the more recent and nationally relevant ones, such as Haitian and Venezuelan migration.

The analysis revealed, in addition to the low representation of these migrant subjects in academic production, the institutional and epistemological silences that shape the scientific field. The absence of studies on Venezuelan immigration, despite the substantial presence of this population in the country, highlights an important gap. As Burke (2005) points out, what is researched (and what is ignored) is directly linked to structures of power and representation in the symbolic field of science.

In addition, the data revealed that the most frequent themes in dissertation titles revolve around concepts such as development, planning, city, and management, demonstrating the programs' strong connection to the logic of territorial and urban growth, often detached from social and identity-related issues. Even so, there is currently evidence of more critical approaches, such as a focus on work, social relations, and urban expansion in connection with migration.

It should be emphasized, however, that this analysis presents partial data from an ongoing exploratory study that is intended to be expanded in future stages. Going forward, the study intends to cross-reference these findings with doctoral theses, analyze research groups by region, and, in particular, deepen the thematic axes that emerge from the studies. This is therefore an initial effort to shed light on the gaps and strengths of academic production in the field, contributing to a broader and more representative approach to migration grounded in epistemologies that are more responsive to the realities of subjects who migrate and reterritorialize.

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