

## Effects of Upcoming Mega-events on Rio de Janeiro's Residents

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**Introduction:** In the next three years, Rio de Janeiro will play host to two mega-events, the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games. These events are already transforming the city that include "pacification" of drug-controlled areas, massive construction projects, displacement of some city residents, and a crackdown on informal economic enterprises. As a student on the 2012 Field School in Applied Anthropology in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, led by Dr. Cassandra White of the Department of Anthropology at Georgia State University, I conducted interviews with residents of Rio from different socioeconomic classes to learn more about how these changes affected them. Several other students participated in this research, but in this poster, I will present the results of the interviews I conducted.

**Method:** Participants were recruited throughout Rio among people we met at various non-governmental organizations and community development programs we visited, many in favela (shantytown) communities. I asked participants their age, general area of residence in the city, and a single research question ("How have changes in Rio with the World Cup and Olympics affected you?") about how changes in the city in preparation for the upcoming World Cup and Olympics have affected them and took notes on their answers. This project received IRB approval (H12520) at GSU.

**Results:** Through this research, other students and I became aware, in particular, of how government policies like the police pacification program (UPP) and formalization of informal businesses, such as moto-taxi services and cable television, impacted individuals on a daily basis. Although many saw positive changes, particularly with the removal (in some favelas) of armed drug trafficking, others were concerned with rising prices throughout the city. Also, people were concerned about adequate law enforcement in the favelas. Before the UPP, drug traffickers ensured the safety of the residents and were quick to handle and solve problems within the community.

**Conclusion:** This research demonstrates the need for city planners and mega-events planners to pay close attention to the rights of and needs of all Brazilian citizens who will be affected by urban transformations associated with these mega-events. Given the problems left in the wake of mega-events like the Olympics in other cities, it is particularly important that Rio's government finds ways to ensure the long-term effects of these events benefit all residents.