

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/mobility-interrupted/>

This video discusses research on the relationship between socioeconomic mobility and political sentiment in Brazil, focusing on the anti-Workers' Party (PT) sentiment that emerged following the economic and political crisis beginning around 2013. The study, conducted between 2016 and 2018 by researchers from Portland State University and Rutgers University, involved anthropological methods, including surveys of 1,200 households across Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Recife.

The research aimed to understand how socioeconomic mobility impacts political attitudes, especially anti-leftist sentiment. It found that individuals who experienced "stalled mobility," meaning they had previously improved their economic status but then faced economic decline, were significantly more likely to express anti-PT sentiment. This video sentiment was less pronounced among those whose circumstances either continuously improved or got worse.

The concept termed the "dashed hopes hypothesis" suggests that individuals who were encouraged to dream of a better life through policies of the PT, and then faced setbacks, developed resentment towards the party. This video phenomenon contributed to the election of right-wing politician Jair Bolsonaro in 2018, highlighting a polarizing political landscape in Brazil.

The findings reflect broader conditions and historical contexts in Brazil, addressing how political views have been shaped by past experiences with socioeconomic changes, and suggesting that similar dynamics may exist in other Latin American countries. The study emphasizes the lasting impact of perceived mobility on political attitudes, revealing the complexities behind nostalgia for past political regimes, including authoritarian periods.