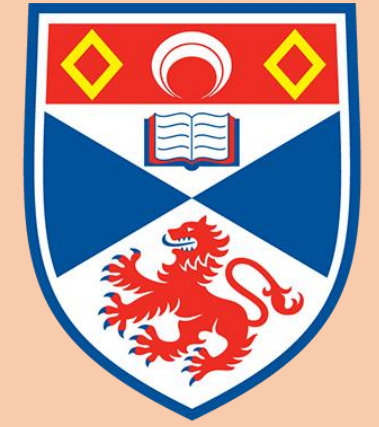


Crafting a Revolution, Creating a Generation: Sexuality, Sexual Expression, and the Youth in Cold War Brazil



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Research Summary:

This project focuses on the role of the LGBTT Movement in the democratisation movement in dictatorial Brazil (1964-1985). The movement played an important role in democratisation and in how the regime responded to anti-dictatorial groups. Homosexuality went against the very foundations of the regime as it was seen to attack the traditional way of life the regime aimed to impose onto the population. The movement was both culturally as well as politically threatening to the regime as it led many successful campaigns.

Methodology:

Aims of the research paper

- To investigate how far the LGBTT Movement in Brazil posed a political and cultural threat to the regime
- To explore the relationship between the Homosexual Movement and the state in dictatorial Brazil.
- To explore how politicised the LGBTT community was in Brazil.

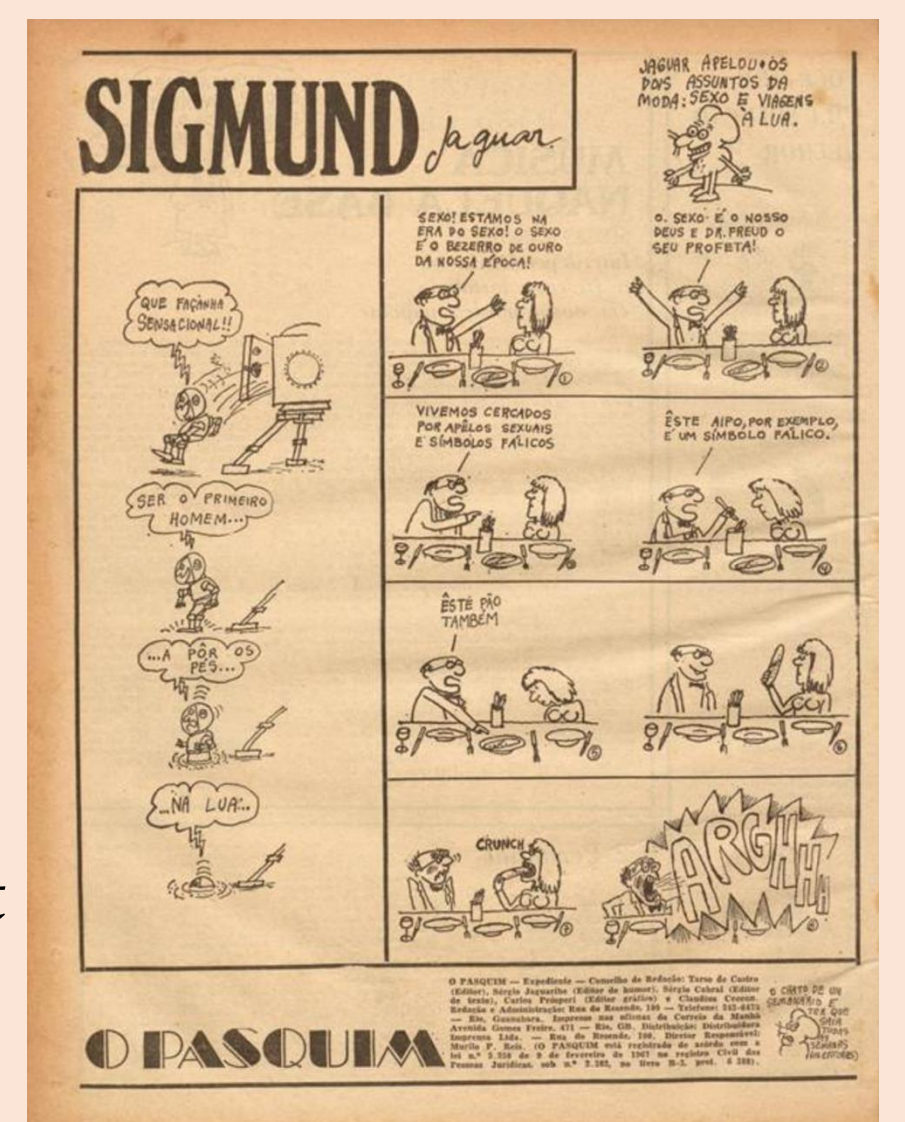
Source Analysis

These questions were approached through a thorough analysis of newspaper as well as digitised archival documents from LGBTT political organisations. The paper also required extensive research into existing secondary literature on the LGBTT Movement, the left and the state.

Gramsci

The theoretical framework for this paper has been borrowed from Gramsci's theory of cultural hegemony. Cultural hegemony refers to how the ruling classes' culture and ideology serve to consolidate their rule, making it appear 'natural'.

Homosexuality posed a threat to the Brazilian military dictatorship as it preventing the regime from achieving hegemony and thus fully consolidating its power.



Jaguaribe, Sérgio, 'Sigmund Jaguar', Rio de Janeiro, July 1969, p. 20.

Conclusions:

Size of the Homosexual Movement

- Individual groups might have been small, but this did not hinder their political impact as they were very interconnected.
- Groups within the movement frequently collaborated with each other and other groups in the civil rights movement.
- Many groups had ties to international queer organisations like the National Organization for the Advancement of Lesbian and Gay Couples in California and the International Gay Association.

Impact of the Homosexual Movement

- Collected 16,222 signatures in favour of the removal of Paragraph 302.0 of the INAMPS Health Code which stated that homosexuality was a mental deviation and disorder.
- Hosted a myriad of debates with academics and politicians alike which cemented the movement's anti-dictatorial position.
- In 1983, the Grupo Gay de Bahia forced the registry office to legally recognise and register their organisation as a non-governmental organisation via a court order, making the group the first to be granted this legal recognition.

Cultural and Political Threat

- The LGBTT community went against the regime's ideas for society as homosexuality went against the nuclear family and Catholicism.
- The waves of arrests of Lesbians, transgender people and the queer population at large for simply existing in a public space is indicative of how the government saw the presence of the LGBTT community as dangerous.

Impact and Implementation

This study, and others like it, are essential to develop a thorough understanding of the role of minority groups in democratisation movements in Latin America. This will help to dismantle the assumption that only majority opposition movements play a significant role in revolutionary and anti-dictatorial movements.

Acknowledgements

I extend my gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. James Fortuna and the CEDOC for digitising most of the archival documents I have referenced. I would especially like to thank the Laidlaw Foundation and Lord Laidlaw for making this research possible.

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