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## RESEARCH PATHS IN ARCHIVES WITH JUDICIAL SOURCES IN THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN PARÁ

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**Abstract:** The objective is to analyze the research paths of the thesis object entitled: *Educational Practices in São José Public Jail: The republican social imaginary in legal acts on Childhood (1890-1910)*, in the archives: Amazon Memory Center (CMA) and Pará State Public Archive (APEP). For that, the following sources were used: the judicial process of Maria Magdalena de Lima and the register books of the Public Jail of São José, as important epistemological clues for the construction of knowledge about the society of Pará and the education of minors in History of Education in Pará.

**Keywords:** Files, Judicial Sources, History of Education in Pará.

## INTRODUCTION

The research with judicial sources, specifically, the processes of minors from the 19th century, namely: Joaquim Manoel da Silva (1895), Manoel dos Santos (1905) and Maria Magdalena de Lima (1905), were some of the objects mapped and cataloged in the Amazon Memory Center (CMA)<sup>1</sup>. Nevertheless, only the processes of Joaquim Manoel da Silva and Manoel dos Santos were used in the research, in the Master's Degree Course in Education, by the Postgraduate Program in Education at the Federal University of Pará (PPGED-UFPA). A 24-month journey of solitary reading, mining of theoretical-methodological references, comings and goings to the CMA, surveying and analyzing data, important moments that are also registered in the memory of the subject who carries out the research.

Thus, from the research movement in the master's with judicial sources, it was realized the need to use only two processes as objects of analysis in the production of the dissertation, and keep the other processes, especially the

judicial one of Maria Magdalena de Lima for substantiate the research entitled: *Educational Practices in São José Public Jail: The republican social imaginary in legal acts on Childhood (1890-1910)*, in the Doctorate in Education course, held in the Postgraduate Program in Education, at the University of the State of Pará (PPGED-UEPA).

Thus, the field of the history of education in Pará is fertile for researchers who set out to explore the paths of knowledge construction in the educational area in archives, as it is directly related to the political, social, economic and cultural constitution of Pará society. It is necessary to resort to critical epistemological explanations and to other knowledge, for example, to interrelate them historically. In the case of the investigation of the aforementioned lawsuits in the period 1890 to 1910, they are presented as important clues about the referred historical moment based on the culture, values and ways of life of the subjects, expressed in the discourses present in these sources.

## HISTORICAL-DOCUMENTAL RESEARCH IN ARCHIVES: FROM ENCHANTMENT TO REALITY

For scholars of historiography who launch themselves in historical-documentary research in search of answers to their questions, with the illusion that by venturing they will certainly find them easily, it is necessary to point out the following aspects about the reality of archives, as well as the attributes that they must initially present: 1) profile and willingness for such practice; 2) contact with scientific initiation projects in this field; 3) training at graduation (in the area of history and the like) with research and handling of historical documents, especially in restoration

1. All CMA documents are kept in cardboard boxes, with description and codes of processes and periods (month/year). The Criminal/Crimes section, for example, contains cases related to deflowering, theft, drunkenness, disorder, stabbing and murder; and Civil/Family, on marriage, divorce and sharing of assets; among other categories. As the processes were extensive, it was decided to digitize them to make their handling more practical (CORRÊA, 2017, p. 30).

and sanitation courses. It is known that not everyone has them and that it is not an easy path, but it is hard to be taken by researchers who love what they do because they prioritize the search for knowledge and qualification to carry it out satisfactorily.

Because the researcher's life is exciting, but tiring and lonely, due to the different processes he experiences in his journey, that is, he needs to know how to conduct his academic life, relating it in a harmonious way, with his personal and professional life, because such practice requires the investigator's attention to extract precise information from the documents and contextualize them without margin for errors, which could cause anachronisms, textual inconsistencies, and others.

Thus, the historical-documentary research in archives is a meticulous work that, only those who carry it out know the great responsibility that is to map, catalogue, describe and/or digitize the writings contained in the documents. In the case of research on *Educational Practices in the Public Jail of São José: The republican social imaginary in legal acts on Childhood (1890-1910)*, held at the Public Archive of the State of Pará (APEP)<sup>2</sup>, from April to June 2018, it was observed that the register books of the São José Public Jail present a historical narrative that outlines the republican social imaginary of Pará on childhood and school culture of the popular classes, of convicts and sentenced persons.

Historically, Bacellar (2020, p. 43) elucidates that Brazilian archives were born from the overseas expansion, from the Portuguese installation in Brazil, in the first moments of the granting of hereditary

2. The collection of **Public Archive of the State of Pará (APEP)** covers records from the colonial, imperial and republican periods. The material helps to understand, for example, the occupation of the Amazon by the Portuguese, the multiple experiences of Europeans with indigenous groups, the introduction and work of African ethnic groups in the region, the entry of countless immigrants, conflicts and revolts, transformations political, economic, social and cultural events over the past four centuries. The Public Archives of the State of Pará is considered one of the main archival institutions in Brazil. It keeps documents from the 17th to the 21st centuries. They cover a geographic space that encompasses practically a large part of the so-called Legal Amazon. (SOEIRO/AGENCY PARÁ DE NOTÍCIAS, 2021).

captaincies. Therefore, the difficulties of this strategy forced changes in the direction of metropolitan colonial policy, with the installation of a General Government in Salvador, which led to the need for document accumulation that was primarily divided into two lines of garrison of these documents: one, private, in the hands of the captain-donators, mostly established in Portugal, and another, public, in the seat of the local and metropolitan Government. However, the evolution of archive deposits took place in a precarious way, without further regulations, occurring at random where there was a vacant corner to gather the papers whose processing had already ended.

However, in the days of research with the occurrence books of the São José Public Jail, although developed with Personal Protective Equipment because it is customary to use them in these researches, there was no incidence of allergic crisis in the researchers present at the place or accidents with the documents that were being catalogued, corresponding to the periods of the Empire and the Republic, since they had already undergone sanitation and restoration treatment. However, Bacellar (2020, p. 35) points out that symptomatic cases of disregard for these documents are frequent today in the Public Archives of the State of São Paulo (APESP) and in archives in other states, for example. The set of court documents in a terrible state of conservation, above all, "the disregard of justice for the preservation of Brazilian memory and the judiciary itself".

During the APEP research, the São José Public Jail registry books were found in the AREA: Public Security, in the FUND: State Department of Public Security, divided

by SERIES: records, bulletins, certificates, certificates, memoranda, official letters and processes, and PERIOD: 1890 to 1910 (time frame of the present object). Furthermore, there was also a brief survey of some literature referring to this object in the Institutional Repository of PPGED/UFGA, PPGED/UEPA, UFRJ and UERJ, CAPES portal and LEGAL portal.

The intention of analyzing the registration books in the APEP collection is to show how human and social activities took place within the Public Jail of São José as a penal institution, however constituted by a symbolic network, and as an epistemological source that understands law as a science, aiming to delimit the present object and method of study; how the judicial authorities treated the inmates, what was said and produced in the relationship between the inmates, not because of the institution's functionality, but because of the logical consequence of the words/acts that included something more, and of the socio-educational practices that developed in this space.

## **RESEARCH WITH JUDICIAL SOURCES IN THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN PARÁ**

The research with judicial sources reveals a worrying panorama with the exploration and neglect of these documents in archives, since they are records that safeguard the memory of the judiciary and the history of Brazil in its different contexts. It is a variation of documents that is lost over time, misuse and the lack of a culture of preservation of historical-documentary heritage. Documents such as wills and inventories, civil and criminal proceedings that date back to periods of the Colony, Empire and Republic in Brazil. In the case of wills, according to Bacellar (2020, p. 36), they allow the assessment of private interests in the exercise of Christian charity,

thanks to the last wishes of the subjects, regarding the destination of the third of their assets, which provided for aid to children, relatives or acquaintances, including slaves, under the most varied allegations.

Specifically, in criminal and civil cases, they give voice to all social segments, from the slave to the master. They are precious sources for the understanding of commercial activities, since the records of judicial collection of debts and the accounting papers of large and small businesses are recurring. The summoning of witnesses, especially in cases of crimes of death, physical aggression and lewdness, allows the recovery of neighborhood relations, networks of sociability and solidarity, quarrels, in short, the small acts of the population of the past (BACELLAR, 2020, p. 37).

From the investigation with CMA judicial sources in 2016, it was possible to meet the historical knowledge of Pará society, from the analysis of the judicial processes of minors dating from 1890 to 1910, which initially indicated traces of the republican sociocultural and educational thought in the capital of Pará. Among the cataloged processes, the case of the young Maria Magdalena de Lima, 19 years old, was found, initially referred to the chief of police for, according to witness reports and local guards, prostitution, but fined for the crime of vagrancy/vagrancy, as stated in the Penal Code of 1890, in the year 1905.

From the research and cataloging of the judicial process of Maria Magdalena de Lima, the importance of also using it as a source in the research entitled *Educational Practices in the São José Public Jail: The republican social imaginary in legal acts on Childhood (1890-1910)*, supporting the analysis of the records books of the São José Public Prison, since the demand for minors referred to this institution was large, which helped to list them as the main sources of the referred thesis work and to base it on the list of Educational Practices,

Social Imaginary and Legal Epistemology categories (CORRÊA; RODRIGUES, 2020, p. 538).

Nevertheless, the ongoing doctoral research is of the documentary type of historiographical nature, as according to Ludke and André (1986, p.15), “the nature of the problems determines the method, that is, the choice of method is made depending on the type of problem studied”. Furthermore, this research proposal will be based on the investigation of the historical document, as for Rodrigues and França (2010, p. 60-61), this type of document “[...] must identify its material form, its content, the objectives of those who produced it, those who read and interpret. When starting a document search, it is necessary to know the history of the document [...]”.

Regarding this issue, it is highlighted that all historiographic research is articulated with the place of socioeconomic, political and cultural production, that is, “it is necessary to take into account the place where it was produced and the set of practices established by the subjects involved with the production of these sources” (CERTEAU, 2002, p. 66). The historical document must be considered as something that is left to the past, it is the result of a product of the society that manufactured it according to the relations of forces that held power there. “Only the analysis of the document as a monument allows the collective memory to recover it and the historian to use it scientifically, that is, with full knowledge of the cause” (LE GOFF, 1996, p. 545).

Obviously, due to the nature of this research, judicial sources are of great relevance, as according to Saviani (2006, p. 29-30), “the sources are at the origin, they constitute the starting point, the base, the support point of the construction historiography and the reconstruction, at the level of knowledge, of the studied historical object [...]”. Furthermore,

for a better understanding of what the sources reveal, it is necessary that they be considered qualitatively within the critical analysis of the narrative, based on the understanding of human activities in their internal and external reality.

The present work will be based on the analysis of occurrence books that will unveil the practices that occurred in the movement of the Pará penal system, prison officers and other prison employees and internal subjects, as for Foucault (2014, p. 223) prison makes it even more “docile and useful individuals through precise work on their body”, efficiently meeting the character of the obviousness linked to the functioning of society in the movement of history, which made “the legislator of incarceration the basis of the current penal scale, within the progress of ideas and education of customs.” (VAN MEENEN, 1847; FOUCAULT, 2014, p. 224).

The intention of the analysis of this research is to use the judicial process of Maria Magdalena de Lima to verify if there was a portion of minors sent to the Public Prison of São José, as well as the educational practices developed in that prison space, if it met the ordinances of the Code Penal of 1890 in article 30, through the investigation of the records of occurrence, as it is necessary to demonstrate how human and social activities were carried out within the penal system of Pará and how the authorities treated them by complying with the law, which although it was an institution correctional, this was constituted of a symbolic network, as a legal epistemological source that understands law as a science, object oriented by the dominant system, and it is up to the critical researcher of history to interpret it in an ontological way.

## CONCLUSION

This article brings in his writings a path of historical research in collections with judicial

sources, which many beginning historians who work with historical sources are unaware of. It is the path of work and persistence, but above all, of love for such practice. Undoubtedly, the research object that uses historical documents as sources, initially generates curiosity and enchantment about the knowledge present in these records and what is thought of as *locus* of research, it is usually ready and ready for use, but this illusion can often lead the researcher to a feeling of discouragement and giving up on his object. It is “the paths and missteps of the writing of history” that will provoke in the subject the research potential, the epistemological restlessness in the construction of knowledge from new perspectives on these spaces.

As you become aware of the aspects highlighted in this text, you advance a little

more in the academic-scientific journey as a researcher, as it is necessary for him to understand the making and “historical evolution” on the constitution, distribution and organization historical documents in Brazil, and how care and conservation have become precarious over time. In the case of the aforementioned research with the records of the Public Jail of São José, having as time frame the period from 1890 to 1910, which is ongoing, it can be concluded that when cataloging its sources in the CMA and in the APEP, it was found that if there is even some treatment with the documents kept in these collections, however, it is not known for how long, as an example of others in other capitals of the country.

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