Direito e Praxis

**Qualis A1 - Direito CAPES** 

**Presentation** 

June 2019

Continuing the year of commemoration of a decade from the launch of Law and

Praxis Journal, we present our most recent issue (vol. 10, n. 2, 2019, 26<sup>th</sup> edition, june-

august). In this second issue of 2019, we arranged our traditional section of unpublished

papers, reviews, translations and another new dossier. In the general section of the

journal, we present unpublished papers that involve different areas of critical legal

thinking, starting with the theory and history of law and passing by topics such as

judicialization and intersectionality, as well as social movements.

The dossier, organized by Professor Assis da Costa Oliveira, from Federal

University of Pará, presents a reflection on the "Challenges and perspectives for

guaranteeing the rights of children, adolescents and young" within the framework of the

 $30^{\text{th}}$  anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In times of

political controversy over the value of human rights, it is fundamental to evaluate and

reinforce their centrality — with inner potentialities and limits — for the construction of

more just, humane and less unequal societies. In the specific case, it is a matter of

reflecting on the challenges of implementing rights for one of the most vulnerable

groups in our societies. In this regard, we invite everyone to read the Guest Editor

presentation below and access the papers included in this dossier.

In the translation section, we present a set of highly relevant and, until then,

unpublished texts in the Portuguese Language. The first one is the text "The State and

the Everyday Struggle", by John Holloway, a fundamental work for constructing

materialist perspectives of the State along with the theory of social movements. In

addition, we present a translation of the text "Weimar — and What Then? Formation

and actuality of the Constitution of Weimar", by Otto Kirchheimer, prominent jurist and

social scientist in the scope of the Frankfurtian thought. The translation is followed by an

explanatory note and introduction by the translator, Bianca Tavolari. Finally, we present

a translation of a lecture given by the German philosopher and jurist Ingo Elbe on the

Pachukanian legal theory.

In the review section, we gathered texts on the books "The New Way of the

World: On Neo-Liberal Society", by Christian Laval and Pierre Dardot, and "Critical

Epistemologies of Law", organized by José Ricardo Cunha. We remind you that the

editorial policies for the different sections of the Journal can be accessed on our website

and that the submissions are permanent and always welcome! We thank, as always, our

authors, evaluators and collaborators for the trust in our publication.

Enjoy your reading!

Law and Praxis team

Presentation: reaffirm the rights of children, adolescents

and young in times marked by the advancement of

punitive, discriminatory, and tutelary conservatism

Assis da Costa Oliveira

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In 2019 the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

completes 30 years of promulgation. Adopted in 1989, this international treaty on the

human rights of children and adolescents was essential to disseminate the legal

paradigm of the Integral Protection Doctrine (IPD) throughout many countries and is, to

this day, the international document with the highest amount of National States

ratification.

Because of this special reason, Law & Praxis Journal publishes the dossier

"Perspectives and challenges for guaranteeing the rights of children, adolescents and

young", alluding to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights

of the Child, bringing together 12 articles authored by researchers from Argentina,

Brazil, Canada, Spain, and Mexico, in order to promote public reflection on the ways for

sustaining (or not) the guarantee of the rights of children, adolescents, and young in the

light of the UNCRC and other normative documents, as well as a background based on

empirical and theoretical data in an interdisciplinary perspective.

In Brazil, the UNCRC had an inspiring role in encouraging discussions and ways

to implement the rights of children and adolescents, especially by the influence that the

reflections of its working group generated in the national debates for the

constitutionalization of the FPD in 1988, with the promulgation of the Federal

Constitution, regarding to aspects such as the view of integral protection and absolute

priority of the guarantee of rights, the subsequent implementation of the Child and

Adolescent Statute (Law n. 8,069/1990), the strengthening of social struggles by

effective enhancement on conditions of life of children and adolescents, and the

improvement of public policies. With the Constitutional Amendment n. 65/2010, which

expressly included youth under the scope of article 227 of the Federal Constitution of

1988, these also came to be recognized in the field of legal safeguard of the IPD.

However, the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNCRC is an important

occasion for a broad reflection on the historical, current, and future situation for

guaranteeing the rights of children, adolescents, and young, especially at a moment

when so many threats are being placed against these rights and its owners within the

scope of the Brazilian Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches.

In the ideological aegis of the hate speech and the military-religious

conservatism, currently lived in our country, inequalities and violence are driven against

certain social groups in which children, adolescents, and young are involved, including

the use of legality to strengthen processes of criminalization, exclusion, and

extermination.

Undoubtedly, with the arrival of Jair Bolsonaro (PSL) to the Presidency of the

Republic and the wave of conservatism in the National Congress and in the Judiciary,

with similar backgrounds in the municipal and state spheres, we live today the most

threatening moment of the dismantling of IPD in Brazil, in which adolescents and young

black, indigenous, landless, women, LGBTI, among others, are treated as "enemies of

the State", through an institutional and mediatic apparatus that aims, as a last act,

elimination, incarceration, and/or "non-citizenship" of the subjects, as well as the

reform of the legal documents, especially the Child and Adolescent Statute, highlighted

the debate on the reduction of the age for criminal liability and the School Without Party

movement. It is clear that these scenarios and goals are just the tip of the iceberg of

other interferences of punitive, discriminatory, and tutelary conservatism in the lives,

rights and policies of children, adolescents, and young.

At the international level, it is also necessary to reflect on how these

discussions are being debated and guaranteed in countries that have adopted the IPD,

aiming at the exchange of ideas, theoretical approaches, and political-normative

perspectives that allow the expansion and updating of the legal-political field to reflect

and implement these human rights. Particularly in the countries from which the authors

of this dossier are originated, namely Argentina, Canada, Mexico, and Spain, there is a

question regarding the advancement of legal guarantees along with the difficulties for

tackling inequalities and discrimination, as well as the recognition of the legitimacy of

the political activism of subjects, organized or not, to report modern/colonial ills that

not only continue to prevail, but selectively affect the generational categories treated in

this dossier.

In general, the papers presented in this dossier discuss the rights of children,

adolescents and young not only from a formalist or "paradigmatic change" perspective,

but as a set of subjects, institutions, values, economic resources, public policies, and

norms in process and context of diverse disputes. Hence, there is an intellectual

awareness that such instruments are used for different political, ideological, and moral

purposes, in many cases also using legalities to enforce actions against the laws or to use

them to reproduce discriminatory and subjugating perspectives of the subjects directly

involved: children, adolescents, and young, together with social groups of belonging,

such as indigenous peoples, black population and LGBTI groups.

In schematic terms, the dossier contains a first group of papers — composed of

articles written by Antônia Picornell-Lucas, Pablo Ariel Vommaro, Elisa Guaraná de

Castro and Severine Carmem Macedo —directed to a general analysis of the historical

process for guaranteeing the rights of children, adolescents, and young on the global,

Latin American and national scale, along the verification of normative formulations,

political-organizational activism, and operational logics of public policies.

The second group of papers — written by Allyson Stevenson, Assis da Costa

Oliveria, Jahel López Guerrero, Andreza do Socorro Pantoja de Oliveira Smith and Felipe

da Silva Freitas — emphasizes the repercussion of rights, violence, and inequalities on

the diversity of identity expressions of "being a child, adolescent, and young", especially

for markers of ethnicity, race, gender, and sexuality.

In the last group of papers — authored by Luanna Tomaz de Souza, Fernando

da Silva Albuquerque, Josilene Barbosa Aboim, Josiane Rose Petry Veronese, Wanda

Helena Mendes Muniz Falcão, Ilana Lemos de Paiva, Tabita Aija Silva Moreira, Amanda

de Medeiros Lima, Ana Christina Brito Lopes and Marcio Soares Berclaz — the approach

is intended to discuss how certain normative, institutional, and budgetary intervention

instruments are being implemented (or not) in the realities of children and adolescents,

with special regard to socio-educational measures, humanitarian aid, institutional

reception, and cultural and sport policies.

In summary, we hope to use the UNCRC's special 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary to discuss

the historical and contemporary scenarios aiming to enforce the language of rights,

report violations, and announce possible ways to confront adultcentrism in the social

and institutional relations in which children, adolescents, and young participate, always

with an analysis that considers identity intersectionality and the oppression suffered by

these subjects.

We stand in the hope of more democratic and pluralistic winds that can ensure

us the fulfillment of rights to all children, adolescents, and young, guaranteeing the

recognition of their social diversity, autonomy, and knowledge, as well as the

displacement of the punitive, discriminatory and tutelary biased framework – which still

to dominate the institutions responsible for safeguard these rights - and in favor of a

well structured context, composed with active and purposeful participation of the

subjects directly interested and under the normative subsidies of the UNCRC itself.

Therefore, we conclude this presentation with a certain tone of hopeness,

because we know well that children, adolescents, and young are also subjects of

contemporary history and are acting, in different ways, to resist governmental

mismanagement and neoliberal capitalism advancement. It is from the uprising,

insurgencies, and mobilizations of these subjects — together with other social

movements-- that we can learn lessons for the flourishing of democracy, citizenship,

and State in directions other than the punitive, discriminatory and tutelary conservatism

that still rules society and the rights of children, adolescents, and young.

\* This editorial was translated from Brazilian Portuguese by Jordan Vinícius de Oliveira,

UERJ/Brazil.

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DOI: 10.1590/2179-8966/2019/42608 ISSN: 2179-8966

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