

International student mobility and attitudes towards inequality

Citation for published version (APA):

Granja, C. D. (2023). *International student mobility and attitudes towards inequality: essays about the Brazilian case*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University, University of Campinas]. Maastricht University. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20230928cg>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2023

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20230928cg](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20230928cg)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

[Link to publication](#)

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

If the publication is distributed under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license above, please follow below link for the End User Agreement:

www.umlib.nl/taverne-license

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at:

repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl

providing details and we will investigate your claim.

IMPACT

This section presents the impact of this doctoral dissertation, in compliance with article 22.5 of the “Regulations for obtaining the doctoral degree at Maastricht University,” decreed by a resolution of the board of deans dated 1 October 2020.

This dissertation aims to contribute to the literature on student mobility and inequality by discussing two main topics: student mobility’s potential to change people’s worldviews, specifically regarding inequality attitudes and its role in improving human capital. Overall, the essays presented in this dissertation provide information to inform better policymakers concerned with the effects of international student mobility on students. It also provides more recent information about inequality preferences in Brazil, advancing the knowledge of inequality attitudes in Latin America, a region not widely explored by previous literature in the field.

In Chapter 2, we discuss the potential drivers of inequality attitudes in Brazil. Reflecting on how different groups react when asked about inequality is key, and it can help understand its visibility on the public agenda, which is one step toward solving the issue in the country. One of the main findings of this chapter is regarding the importance of race. By considering the country’s ethnic history, we found it to be an essential driver of people’s opinions, a key finding considering the role of black activists in introducing social concerns into Brazil’s public debate in the past decades. Another important finding from this chapter is regarding the potential effect of the recent COVID-19 pandemic in changing people’s views on inequality in the country, a very recent concern not yet widely explored by the literature. In this chapter, we also present empirical evidence that challenges traditional theories about rational choices by finding that being educated is associated with higher odds of believing that reducing inequality is fundamental for progress and not finding a clear association between income and inequality views.

Chapter 3 is, to the best of our knowledge, the first to analyze the effect of going abroad on students’ preferences and perceptions of inequality. By finding that in Brazil, going abroad does not affect students’ preference to reduce within-country inequality and that mobile students underestimate inequality more than non-mobiles, we provide empirical evidence that challenges the widespread idea that mobility is

an instrument that positively impacts individuals' personal development, starting a reflection on student mobility programs' role in generating a more caring society.

Chapter 4 contributes to the current knowledge about the impacts of international student mobility by exploring the heterogeneity across types of mobility programs in terms of timing and duration. It presents empirical evidence that can be used to design exchange programs, providing insights to policymakers engaged in maximizing its effects.

This dissertation has two main target groups. The first is the academics in the fields of higher education and socioeconomic inequality, who will benefit from the empirical evidence presented in the three essays of this thesis. The second is policymakers concerned with attitudes towards inequality in Brazil and those interested in understanding the effects of international student mobility in students.

The research in this dissertation has been disseminated at several academic conferences, benefiting from discussions and comments from many scholars.

An extended version of the text presented in the Introduction of this thesis was presented at the “11th FORGES Conference” about the cooperation in higher education in Portuguese-speaking countries (Nov 2021) and at the “GEOPI Webinar 2022” about the effects of international student mobility (Jul 2022). Its data was also used by Ana Carneiro, one of the thesis supervisors, on two different occasions: 1) in a short presentation at one of the biggest television channels in Brazil during a news report about international student mobility in the country (title of the media article, in Portuguese: “*Estudantes de Baixa renda lutam para realizar o sonho de estudar for a do país*”)(Jun 2021); and 2) during a presentation at the main conference on social sciences in Brazil, the “46th ANPOCS Annual Meeting” about gender equity in science (Oct 2022).

The first version of Chapter 2 was presented at the “UNU-MERIT Internal Conference 2020” (Jun 2020) and at the “SBE Conference 2021” (Apr 2021). Preliminary findings of Chapter 3 were presented at the UNU-MERIT Internal Conference 2022 (Sep 2022). Chapter 4 was presented at the “GPAC2 Workshop” (Nov 2021), at the “UNU-MERIT Seminar Series” (Mar 2022), at the “3rd Research Policy Online Conference for Early Career Researchers” (Apr 2022), and at the “UNU-MERIT May Event Series – Research Seminars” (May 2022).

In addition to the presentations mentioned above, preliminary versions of all the chapters were published as UNU-MERIT working papers. Chapter 2 was published as “Attitudes towards inequality in Brazil: An analysis of a highly unequal country” (#2021-009), Chapter 3 as “Can International Mobility Shape Students’ Attitudes Toward Inequality? The Brazilian Case” (#2023-001), and Chapter 4 as “International student mobility and academic performance: Does timing matter?” (#2021-049). All chapters are currently in the process of sending to academic journals in the fields of higher education and inequality.