



RESEARCH ABSTRACTS FROM THE VOLUNTEER RESEARCHER PROGRAM - IPRI/FUNAG

Line of research

Cooperation and themes of the international agenda

Title

Irregular Immigration in Brazil: How International Cooperation has Combat Migrant Smuggling

Felipe de Castro Faustino

Abstract

The present study aims to demonstrate how Brazil has become a route for irregular immigration and how the actions of Brazilian agencies, in conjunction with Interpol, have contributed to combating this practice through interagency international cooperation. Interagency cooperation has proven to be one of the most effective methods in addressing migrant smuggling; however, there is a clear need to expand and strengthen such cooperation. The research conducted presents examples of violations of Brazilian migration regulations committed by irregular migrants, in most cases in collusion with “coyotes.” Expanding access for migration control agencies to shared databases would certainly help deter the actions of smugglers, as well as individuals planning to undertake irregular migration. In addition, the training of security agents, combined with the use of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, would yield positive results for identification and screening services of potential clandestine migrants at immigration or customs checkpoints. The research identifies certain patterns used by irregular migrants



and smugglers to evade Brazilian migration controls. Although these methods are constantly adapted, the study is limited to the period between January 2015 and December 2025.

Methodology

The ongoing research has employed a qualitative research methodology, with descriptive and explanatory approaches based on analyses of documentary and digital data, as well as interviews. Its objective is to identify the reasons why Brazil has become one of the main routes for irregular immigration and to indicate effective measures to combat this practice. Current sources involved in the formulation of public policies related to the research problem were consulted, and these issues have been addressed throughout the study. Among the sources examined, particular emphasis is given to the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP), the Institutional Security Office (GSI), and Prof. Dr. Culpi and Rechesteiner, who contributed relevant information to the research.

Research stage

The study is at an advanced stage and is expected to be completed and submitted by March 2026, given the need for textual adjustments following the research coordinator's review.

References

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