

Title of your paper - The network of local decision makers in São Paulo, 1985-2012

Author(s) name(s) Eduardo Cesar Leão Marques

Author(s) Address and/or contacts

Center for Metropolitan Studies, University of São Paulo

Rua Caropá, 512, Vila Beatriz, 05447000, São Paulo, Brazil ecmarq@uol.com.br

[Insert abstract maximum 800 words]

Eduardo Marques¹

Abstract

This paper investigates an almost completely unexplored facet of the formation of governments and the construction of bureaucracies and capabilities at the local level: the existence of a network of decision makers and senior bureaucrats who move over time between positions of different agencies and policies in the administration of a big city. Networks of this kind weave agencies, policy areas and administrations together and are responsible for a substantial part of the informal practices and processes that construct governance and underlie formal governmental procedures. Setting out from a newly constructed database, the article analyses the network built by the migration of top officials between departments and agencies in São Paulo city from 1985 to 2012, involving 34 secretaries and 5,037 individuals in 111 different government positions. The results indicate the existence of a dense and complex relational fabric that connects the interior of each government, weaves thematic areas internally between agencies and governments, and links governments with the same political affinities. The data indicates that the network structure is an outcome of processes associated simultaneously with political cleavages and policy field specialization, providing important elements for coordination between agencies and administrations.

Keywords: public policies, institutional positions social networks, São Paulo

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¹ Professor Livre-docente of the Departamento de Ciência Política of the Usp (DCP/USP) and researcher at the Centro de Estudos da Metrópole (CEM), where this research is developed.