RESIDENTIAL MOBILITY TRAJECTORIES AND THE ROLE OF FAMILY NETWORKS

Resume: This paper analyzes residential mobility trajectories and the key factors influencing relocation within the context of the Greater Vitória Metropolitan Region (RMGV) in Brazil. The aim is to contribute to the analysis of the relevance of family networks in these trajectories and how residential mobility unfolds, heavily shaped in the Brazilian context by economic factors, life cycle stages, and social networks. The article uses primary data from the research "Family Demographic Dynamics and Migration Patterns in Brazil: Transformations Since the 1990s" and selected five individuals in highly vulnerable contexts to capture the intersection between residential mobility and family structure. This intersectionality was explored through three aspects: labor dynamics, housing conditions, and individual and family aspirations. Preliminary results show that mobility in the RMGV for families in situations of high vulnerability to poverty is strongly influenced by family-related reasons, such as proximity to relatives and support networks.

I.   Introduction

The importance of life trajectories in studies on the spatial redistribution of the population is widely recognized in the literature. Bernard *et al.* (2017) highlights that transitions such as entering the labor market, starting a family, and retirement shape mobility patterns, as each life stage imposes specific demands that influence migration. On the other hand, Vidal and Lutz (2018) emphasize that family and life cycle changes have a direct impact on mobility, showing that migration decisions are deeply rooted in family and social contexts.

In this context, when analyzing residential mobility, it is essential to understand the life trajectory of the individuals studied, considering various dimensions beyond structural factors, such as family, local realities, and individual aspirations. Therefore, a study that combines life trajectories and residential mobility must adopt a holistic perspective, on a broader scale.

This work aims to analyze the life trajectories of five individuals from the Greater Vitória Metropolitan Region (RMGV), located in the state of Espírito Santo, Brazil. It seeks to understand how these individuals' residential mobility occurred and the factors that explain mobility within the metropolis, considering various aspects such as labor dynamics, housing context, and individual and family aspirations (Carling; Mjelva, 2021).

This article utilizes primary data from the research "*Family Demographic Dynamics and Migration Patterns in Brazil: Transformations Since the 1990s*" funded by CAPES-SNF. The data were collected from individuals through semi-structured questionnaires and in-depth interviews, conducted via a household survey that covered 451 households (Dota *et al*., 2024).

After analyzing the trajectories, the results indicate that the mobility of families in areas of high vulnerability to poverty in the RMGV is strongly conditioned by family factors, such as proximity to relatives and support networks. This dynamic affects the population distribution and the demand for public services. It highlights, therefore, the need for effective urban

planning and specific public policies aimed at residential mobility and support for family-oriented public services.
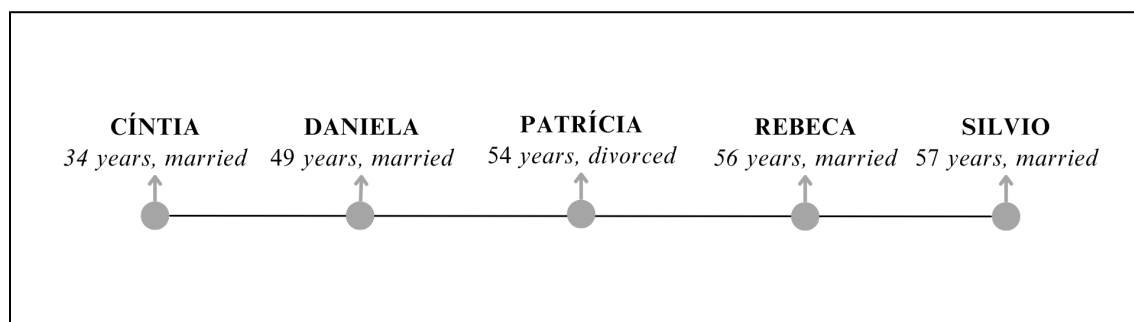
II. Methods

This article uses primary data from the research *Family Demographic Dynamics and Migration Patterns in Brazil: Transformations Since the 1990s*, funded by CAPES-SNF. The spatial focus of the project concentrated on the Greater Vitória Metropolitan Region, specifically in neighborhoods with significant intrametropolitan migration, according to 2010 Census data, as well as those marked by integration and complementarity in the metropolis' urban dynamics.

The research, which covered 451 households, captured data from 300 households in situations of high vulnerability to poverty and 151 households in situations of low vulnerability. Additionally, 16 in-depth interviews were conducted to capture the intersection between mobility and family structure. This intersectionality was explored through three aspects: labor dynamics, housing context, and individual and family aspirations regarding residential mobility.

For this study, five individuals were selected, as shown in Figure 1. All of them were interviewed in both phases of the research. Their residential mobility trajectories were analyzed, seeking to discern the factors that explain relocations in the metropolitan context.

Figure 1. Brief description of the cases selected for analysis

CÍNTIA
34 years, married

DANIELA
49 years, married

PATRÍCIA
54 years, divorced

REBECA
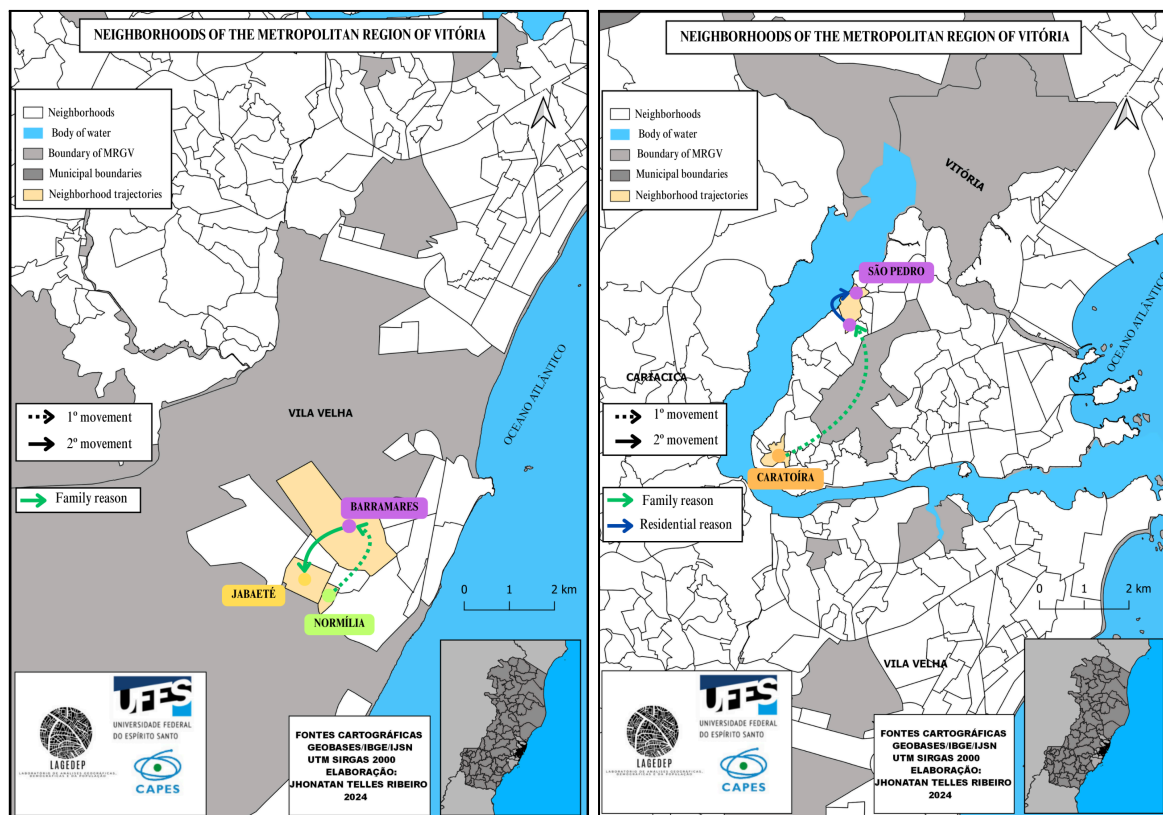*56 years, married*

SILVIO
57 years, married

Source: MigraFamília Database. Authors' elaboration. Fictional names.

Foi empreendida uma análise das trajetórias de deslocamentos habitacionais dos indivíduos, espacializando as áreas de moradia e discutindo as motivações para a mobilidade, em conjunto com suas características sociodemográficas. Além disso, uma análise qualitativa de discurso foi realizada por meio das entrevistas de aprofundamento, especificamente dos indivíduos em contexto de alta vulnerabilidade.

III. Results and Discussion

Thus, in this preliminary version, Figure 2 presents the residential mobility trajectories of two of the five cases analyzed, those of Patrícia and Daniela, and how they managed residential relocations within the metropolis. In the final version, it is expected to outline and discuss the trajectories of all five cases of individuals in high vulnerability to be analyzed.

Figure 2. Residential mobility maps of Patrícia and Daniela since 1990 in the Greater Vitória Metropolitan Area (RMGV)

Source: Authors' elaboration, 2024.

The flow map, motivations, and relocation of Patrícia reveal movement between the following neighborhoods: Normília, Jabaeté, and Barramares, with family reasons predominating for these residential changes. In contrast, Daniela's relocations occurred between only two neighborhoods, Caratoíra and São Pedro, with the first move being motivated by family reasons and the second by residential needs.

Family-related migration reasons are often driven by the desire to be close to relatives for support and practical or emotional assistance, and the need to maintain or strengthen social ties (Marciel & Oliveira, 2011). Mincer (1978) notes that most migration motivations are linked to the economic relationship of family ties. These two factors are crucial for migration

decision-making, as family members typically move together. Therefore, the decision to migrate is motivated by the benefits and costs this change may bring to all family members, not just an individual, assuming a familial function.

Moreover, the residential mobility of the individuals analyzed, confined to small areas within their own municipalities, suggests that social and family networks play a crucial role in the decision to change residences (Soares, 2002). These flows can influence population distribution and demand for public services, providing important information for efficient urban planning and policy formulation to ensure adequate infrastructure, public transportation, and access to health and education services (Marques, 2021).

Thus, the continuation of this work will involve analyzing the selected cases using in-depth interviews as a basis for further analytical exploration. This will allow for the observation of the relevance of relatives and support networks in residential mobility within the metropolis, aiming to highlight the necessity for these factors to be considered in the urban planning of Brazilian metropolises.

IV.   References

BERNARD, A. *et al*. Residential mobility in Australia and the United States: A retrospective study. *Australian Population Studies*, v. 1, n. 1, p. 41-54, 2017.

CARLING, J.; MJELVA, M. B. Survey instruments and survey data on migration aspirations. Southampton: University of Southampton, 2021. (QuantMig Project, Deliverable 2.1).

DOTA, E. M. *et al*. Família, aspirações e mobilidade residencial: um percurso metodológico nas periferias de uma metrópole brasileira. *Bitácora Urbano Territorial*, v. 34, n. 1, 2024.

MACIEL, F. T; OLIVEIRA, A. A migração interna e seletividade: uma aplicação para o Brasil. *Proceedings of the National Meeting on Economics of ANPEC*, v. 39, 2011.

MARQUES, M. *Estrutura referencial para planos integrados de mobilidade urbana*. Master's thesis in Transport Engineering and Territorial Management. Technological Center (CT), Federal University of Santa Catarina. Florianópolis, 187 p., 2021.

MINCER, Jacob. Family migration decisions. **Journal of Political Economy**, n. 86, p. 749–773, 1978.

SOARES, W. *Da metáfora à substância: redes sociais, redes migratórias e migração nacional e internacional em Valadares e Ipatinga*. Doctoral thesis in Demography from the Center for Development and Regional Planning. Center for Development and Regional Planning (CEDPLAR), Federal University of Minas Gerais. Belo Horizonte, 360 p., 2002.

VIDAL, S.; LUTZ, K. Internal migration over young adult life courses: Continuities and changes across cohorts in West Germany. *Advances in Life Course Research*, v. 36, p. 45-56, 2018.