



**Social justice:  
responding to social  
inequalities with  
social pedagogy**

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# **SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL JUSTICE IN BRAZIL**

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Psychology around the world, as an applied and as a theoretical field, has undergone important changes along the two or three last decades, mainly. One of the most salient transformations has impacted both the social representations of this science and the self-images of psychologists as practitioners and researchers, and it refers to the slow displacement of the discipline's major focus, **from isolated individuals to individuals within**

**LOPES DE OLIVEIRA & YOKOY,**  
2021




POVERTY AS AN  
ISSUE FOR  
SOCIAL  
PEDAGOGY

- **Poverty** is arguably the principal scourge on the planet today. It represents an inherently social as well as economic phenomenon (Marsella, 2003), and knows no geographic boundaries
  - Pandemic worsened extreme poverty around the world
  - Which specific contribution **social psychology** brings to a critical debate on **social pedagogy** in the context of **social policies** against poverty and socio-economic structural inequality?
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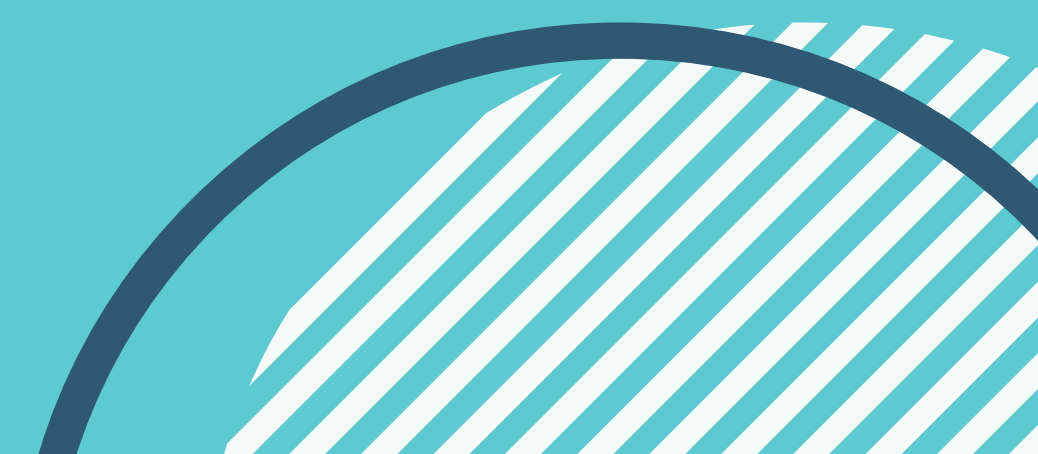


POVERTY AS AN  
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- 1950's - **sociological approaches**
  - 1960's - **New psychological accounts** marked by the psychologization of poverty and the poor, based on individualistic or liberalist causality models (Carr, 2003)
  - 1970's and 1980's - Alternative epistemological models disputed a  
◦ counter-hegemonic discursive position
  - 1990's - the emergence of **Social Psychology critical approaches**
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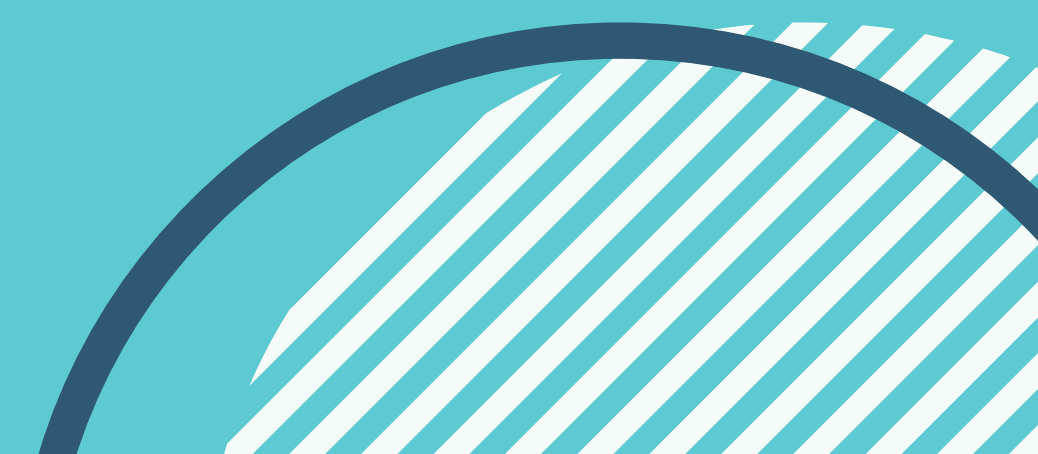


POVERTY  
THROUGH  
CRITICAL  
SOCIAL  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
LENS

- Psychological effort is oriented not only to describe or explain poverty but to **reduce poverty & its effects** upon subjects & communities through enhancing **Security, Empowerment, and Opportunity**
  - Poverty and social vulnerability is studied through shared perspectives and **listening to these groups own voices**, versus an external attribution of causality
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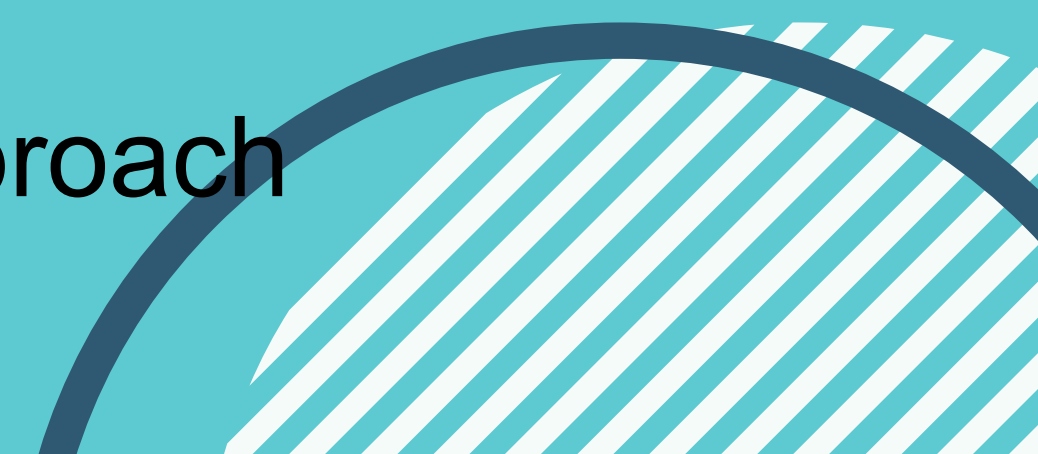


**POVERTY  
THROUGH  
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PSYCHOLOGICAL  
LENS**

- The inclusive separation between Economic Capital and different forms of Symbolic Capital (Bourdieu) is advocated - the non-deterministic causality of consumption means over an agentive subjectivity;
  - Macro and micro-processes i.e., the societal and psychological dimensions of human life are considered intrinsically intertwined in a globalized world
- 



**BEING CRITICAL  
IN PSYCHOLOGY  
& SOCIAL  
SCIENCES**

- The ‘progressivist’ use of psychology to operate the social critique;
  - The ‘reflexive’ approach to psychology itself;
  - The ‘reconstructionist’ stance to psychology.
  - The constructivist and holistic approach towards social problems
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**FINAL  
REMARKS**

IN A GLOBALIZED, INTERCONNECTED  
WORLD, SOCIAL WORK SHOULD BE  
INFORMED BY  
CRITICAL APPROACHES IN SOCIAL  
SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES, MEANING THE  
ENDLESS EFFORT TO USE PSYCHOLOGICAL  
KNOWLEDGE AS A TOOL FOR THE  
SOCIAL CRITIQUE, FOR THE CRITIQUE OF  
PSYCHOLOGY ITSELF, AND THE  
CRITIQUE AS THE MAIN PILLAR IN THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF A DIFFERENT WORLD  
FOR ALL.