



Social Invisibility and Worker Health in Urban Waste Collection in Presidente
Prudente / SP

João Vitor Ramos da Silva, Master's Degree, joapontogeo@gmail.com
Antonio Thomaz Junior / CEGeT

Introduction: This project is in its initial stages and therefore concrete results are not yet available; however, it is possible to draw some perspectives. It should be emphasized that the initial title, "Work in Litter", is not unknown in the work of CEGeT, there being several defended papers in this area, more specifically concerning workers involved in selective collection in the Pontal do Paranapanema (SP) region (Gonçalves, 2006). The particular thrust of this project is in analyzing the process and working conditions of workers engaged in the collection of domestic rubbish in Presidente Prudente, SP, linked to the mixed capital company, Prudenco. The main aim of this research is to show the conditions and labour relations present in the particular world of work of municipal garbage collectors, with the main focus on the repercussions of this process on workers' health and injuries stemming from their social invisibility, the result of the under-privileged position of this profession in a social context. It is known that, these days, the working class is multi-faceted, pluralistic and presents ideological divisions (Antunes, 1999; Alves, 2000; Thomaz Junior, 2009). In this context, rubbish collectors have a marginal position, from a symbolic point of view, within the working class. **Development:** This project presents an unravelling of this world of work, as well as the ways in which urban rubbish collectors "territorialize" their lives in and out of work. Methodologically, the research brings together qualitative actions (fieldwork with interviews and oral histories) and quantitative actions (collection of data from the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, IBGE, the SEADE Foundation, etc). It is also our intention to produce cartographic representations which will illustrate "territorialization" in and out of work of the subjects of the study; and also to produce a video summary giving evidence of their working conditions. It is believed that it will be possible to analyze the geographical dynamics of the work of garbage collection in urban Presidente Prudente / SP. **Final Thoughts:** If we take into account an historical context marked by the "tendency of the rate of use of things" (Mészáros, 2002, 2007, 2009), it is the fact that behind the "spectacle of commodity production" are workers who deal with all kinds of materials (waste), often being exposed to all sorts of risks to their health, through infected material, needles, or because of the complexity attached to the work itself (Vasconcelos, 2007; Pinha, 2010). This means that we must understand the cycle of things does not end when we discard something we will no longer use, because this is the beginning of the daily life of other social subjects in a hidden "world of work".

Key words: Degradation of work, rubbish collection, territoriality, Geography of Labour, Presidente Prudente/SP