

Presentation title:

## Assessing individual's safety perceptions in rural and urban areas in Brazil, 2008-2018

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Fear reflects everyday life experiences, and those experiences are fed by multi-scale processes, some are related to the local environment others are related to the socio-economic or structural conditions in which an individual spend time. People living in rural areas often declare feeling safer overall than people living in urban areas do, possibly because crime rates are lower in rural areas. Although true in many contexts, such trends do not reveal inequalities in victimization nor variations in fear over time or regional differences. This study contributes to this body of knowledge by assessing the spatio-temporal patterns of fear as perceived in neighborhoods belonging to rural and urban areas in Brazil, a country that suffer from extreme levels of fear and where inequalities in victimization also lead to inequalities in safety perceptions, with negative consequences to people's lives. Using six waves of data from 2008 to 2018 from the sample of the Latino barometer survey (N=10,153) from Brazilian rural and urban areas, ordered probit models were conducted to assess the impact of previous victimization and levels of trust in the police on individual's safety perceptions after controlling for other individual and contextual factors such as homicide rates in the area, gender, age, and schooling. Although safety perceptions are not affected by an area's homicide rates, results show that fear of crime as perceived in neighborhoods has increased in the last decade, especially in North and Northeast regions of the country, reflecting increases in individual victimization and a decrease of trust in the police with significant regional differences in both in rural and urban areas. The paper finalizes discussing potential individual and area-level mechanisms of fear in a country where low safety perceptions negatively affect the daily lives of the majority of the population.