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## PUBLIC POLICIES, SPORTS AND LEISURE SPACES IN ACADEMIC STUDIES A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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ABSTRACT: Despite some research and studies, in academic and scientific fields, and concerning the management, use and appropriation of public spaces in sports and leisure contexts, there are still some gaps that have been insufficiently explored, such as information management and the appropriate knowledge diffusion on the subject, among Public Policies. Thus, this qualitative study aimed to conduct a systematic review on recent scientific production, presenting the state of the art on Public Policies and public spaces management regarding sport and leisure contexts. A search was performed in the following databases: Scopus, SPORTDiscus, Web of Science, Pro Quest and SciELO. The keywords and Boolean terms were: "sport and leisure management" OR "sport space" OR "leisure space" OR "Sport equipment" OR "leisure equipment" OR "public sport policy" OR "public leisure policy". The papers analyzed covered different knowledge areas, such as Sport Sciences, Geography, Architecture and Urbanism, and Sociology. The collected data were analyzed using the Content Analysis Technique. Based on the results, it can be noticed that the theme regarding Public Policies in sport and leisure contexts is focused among the studies; however, public spaces are still treated in a secondary way. This study field needs further researches, with the intention of deepening the knowledge on the subject.

**KEYWORDS:** Urban Area. Public Policy. Sports. Leisure Activities.

# POLÍTICAS PÚBLICAS E ESPAÇOS DE ESPORTE E LAZER NOS ESTUDOS ACADÊMICOS: UMA REVISÃO SISTEMÁTICA

**RESUMO:** Mesmo que haja algumas pesquisas e estudos, nos âmbitos acadêmico e científico, referentes à gestão, uso e apropriação de espaços públicos nos contextos do esporte e do lazer, notam-se, ainda, lacunas pouco exploradas, como a gestão da informação e a difusão adequada do conhecimento sobre a temática, envolvendo as Políticas Públicas. Desta forma, este estudo, de natureza qualitativa, teve como objetivo, realizar uma revisão sistemática de literatura sobre a produção científica recente, apresentando o estado da arte sobre Políticas Públicas e a gestão de espaços públicos nos contextos do esporte e do lazer. Para tanto, a busca foi realizada nas seguintes bases de dados: Scopus, SPORTDiscus, Web of Science, Pro Quest e SciELO, utilizando os termos booleanos a seguir: "sport and leisure management" OR "sport space" OR "leisure space" OR "sport equipment" OR "leisure equipment" OR "public Sport

policy" OR "public leisure policy". Os artigos analisados abrangeram diferentes áreas do conhecimento, tal como, as Ciências do Esporte, Geografia, Arquitetura e Urbanismo e Sociologia. Os dados foram analisados por meio da Técnica de Análise de Conteúdo. Com base nos resultados, pode-se perceber que o tema referente às Políticas Públicas nos contextos do esporte e do lazer tem sido focalizado atualmente, nos estudos, entretanto, os espaços públicos neste contexto ainda são tratados de forma secundária. Este campo de estudo carece de novas pesquisas, com a intenção de aprofundar as investigações sobre a temática.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Área Urbana. Políticas Públicas: Esportes. Atividades de Lazer.

#### Introduction

Leisure management refers to the administration of institutions and actions aimed at experiences in the field of leisure, involving the spaces where the various activities and events take place, meeting cultural interests, as well as legal aspects, factors related to safety, to marketing and communication. In this regard, one can see the importance of focusing on the issue of spaces, in order to provide opportunities for positively significant experiences.

Leisure spaces in cities can be understood as favorable environments for the population to experience sport, recreation and entertainment, in the context of leisure, and they must present possibilities to promote well-being and health, as well as , lead to improvements in emotional, social, cultural and physical aspects (SILVA et al., 2013a). Numerous studies are found in the literature referring to activities carried out in different spaces, both in Brazil CAMARGO *et al.*, 2017; FREITAS; ELIAS, 2017; PINA; GOULART; SEIXAS, 2017) and abroad (FUAD et al., 2018; JONES, 2018; HOOPER et al., 2018), in different areas of knowledge, as Geography (ÖNER; KLAESSON, 2017; PAUL, 2017), Architecture and Urbanism (OAKES, 2017; AKHIR et al., 2017), Sociology (GLOVER, 2017; YUEN; JOHSON, 2017), Economics (ZAKARIYA; HARUN; MANSOR, 2017; FREITAS; ELIAS, 2017), among others There are few studies, however, dealing with leisure spaces as a specific theme, even in

countries like the United States, England, Canada and France, where leisure has traditionally been part of academic studies for decades, and may, in this way, be appointed as an emerging theme and still under construction in the leisure area (PINA; GOULART; SEIXAS, 2017).

Still according to Pina; Goulart and Seixas (2017) note little attention to leisure spaces in cities, in part, because many spaces, built for other purposes, can be used for leisure activities, unlike squares and parks, which are already designed for this purpose. Even so, a large part of these spaces used for experiences in the context of leisure are restricted to the urban space, especially in large metropolises and not always, these built spaces present themselves appropriate to the needs and expectations of users. Even so, in these spaces, various activities can be offered and experienced, for people from different social classes and age groups (MCCORMACK et al., 2010), depending on how they are managed.

Another issue associated with studies on leisure spaces concerns the divergence of names used in the literature, in which, often, authors confuse equipment with spaces. Therefore, for this study, the definition of space in the contexts of sport and leisure, proposed by Marcellino et al. (2007), which brings the concept of space as a support for equipment, representing, therefore, the physical space, where the equipment is installed. Differently, the concept of equipment, also proposed by the same author, refers to the objects that organize the space according to the activities that take place there, which can generate a specific meaning for the space (multisport gym, soccer field, etc.), making -o useful for a particular purpose.

It can also be mentioned, bringing the focus more to the bias of spaces in the context of leisure, the concept proposed by Pina (2014), which characterizes spaces in specific and non-specific. The specific spaces, according to this author, are those that

were planned, designed, built and properly organized for such purposes, whereas the non-specific ones are spaces used for varied activities in the context of leisure, however, without having been planned, designed, constructed and properly organized for this purpose.

Another factor considered important for the experiences to occur in the contexts of sport and leisure is the time the individual makes available for these experiences, which, in general, is instituted by the practitioner, based on their will and personal permission, being necessary somewhere for these experiences to happen (RODRIGUES; BRAMANTE, 2003). According to Hulteen *et al.* (2017), Blynton *et al.* (2017) and Marcellino (2006), it is essential that there is an available and adequate space for these experiences and that this corresponds to the time available for the experiences in the context of citizens' leisure. In this regard, although space, often, can be considered an aspect of secondary importance, it can influence the choices of experiences, motivating or discouraging people's involvement. The importance of space goes beyond its materiality, preserving significant ethical, aesthetic and affective values (TOMANIK, 2016).

Currently, leisure is understood in societies as a sociocultural phenomenon, comprising educational, communicative and social components, with the ability to promote, in addition to the development of citizenship, the improvement of health as a whole, and may even provide space for experiences significant valuations of available time. (BACHELADENSKR; MATIELLO JUNIOR, 2010; SCHWARTZ *et al.*, 2016). According to Gomes (2008), what differentiates leisure from a simple practice are the elements that identify it, as: time, cultural manifestations, the space in which it is developed and the attitudes of practitioners. Prioritizing leisure as a sociocultural

expression should be a concern, not only in theory, but essentially in actions, especially in the public sphere (ALVES, 2007).

The appropriation of public spaces and equipment for the practice of sports and experiences in the context of leisure, in different urban environments, can trigger a connection between people and enhance the daily life and culture of cities (MARCELLINO *et al.*, 2007). Thus, according to the same authors, it is essential to understand society's interests in the experiences in the context of leisure and the need for investment in Public Policies capable of providing appropriate spaces for these purposes, which must present a meaning to practitioners, as they represent an important way to promote socialization and relationship building.

The concept of Public Policies, including sports and leisure, is complex and may refer to countless aspects (HOWLETT; MCCONNELL; PERL, 2017), and its understanding can be related to actions in society. However, several authors consider it essential to conceptualize Public Policy as a sociocultural phenomenon, capable of providing the structuring of a more respectable and democratic society (MILANI; CARDOSO, 2014). The concept of Public Policy, in general, can refer to a group of factors that guide the creation and structuring of laws, with the intention of bringing benefits to society (WEIMER; VINING, 2017).

For Lopes; Amaral and Caldas (2008), Public Policies are characterized by a set of plans, actions, programs and goals, aimed at solving problems of public interest and the well-being of society. In order for the management of these Policies to be maintained, it is necessary for the state to develop actions and projects, through management programs, aimed at different sectors and interests and related to the problems and needs found in society (BRAMHAM *et al.*, 2017; HÖFLING, 2001). Public Policies have a great capacity to engage the population in social participation,

pointing out their needs, so as to select the activities that may be made available by government officials, through managers (SILVA; SANTOS; ÁVILA, 2013), in different areas, such as the areas of Education, Health and, specifically, the Management of public spaces for sport and leisure, and the union of different areas may result in an increase in values, reverting them to improvements for citizens (BONALUME, 2011).

Even though there is some research and studies, in the academic and scientific spheres, regarding the management, use and appropriation of public spaces in the contexts of sport and leisure, already favoring, in a way, the analysis of the administration and use of these spaces with quality, both by the government and the population in general, these studies seem to be still incipient. This concern is based on the fact that there are few studies emphasizing, for example, aspects of impacts of use or evaluation of their use. Furthermore, the studies already carried out are dispersed in different areas, approaching in a secondary way these public spaces aimed at activities in the context of leisure.

Therefore, a gap is still present on this topic, involving, among other aspects, the management of information and the adequate dissemination of this knowledge produced (COSTA; LEITE, 2017; CASSOTTA *et al.*, 2017; DALKIR, 2017; SCHWARTZ *et al.*, 2014). It was noted, therefore, a need to pay attention to the management of scientific information in a systematic way, seeking to know more about the state of the art on this topic, organizing, managing and transmitting data, with a view to contributing, thus, to the structuring of solid bases on the whole variety of studies, data and information, through new researches and projects in this field of knowledge.

National and international researches that aim to analyze and understand the theme related to public spaces in the context of sport and leisure are already, in a way, developed, as can be seen in the studies listed above. However, there seems to be no systematized and adequate information management hub for these studies, nor are the types of approaches used to understand how public spaces are focused clear. Thus, seeking to support future directions and research that are related to the themes involved, this study aimed to carry out a systematic review of recent scientific production, presenting the state of the art on the management of public spaces in the contexts of sport and leisure, highlighting the main characteristics and perspectives pointed out in these publications.

#### Method

This qualitative study is characterized by a systematic literature review, with the aim of identifying the state of the art in studies on the topic: management of public spaces in the context of sport and leisure. The systematic review of the literature allows us to analyze previously published research, obtaining results in a more concrete way, arising from a cluster of studies and researches present in several databases, and this research method allows a broad analysis, thus providing discussions and more informed reflections on the objectives, methods and results of research, detecting gaps and being able to indicate new directions (MENDES; SILVEIRA; GALVÃO, 2008). In this regard, the systematic review provides the analysis and understanding of a given phenomenon, based on previous studies (PALMATIER; HOUSTON; HULLAND, 2018; GOUGH; OLIVER; THOMAS, 2017).

The systematic literature review can be seen as an important tool for the systematic management and dissemination of academic and scientific information, as it presents the possibility of synthesizing and highlighting the characteristics, both favorable and unfavorable, on the analyzed topic. With this, this type of research favors

a foundation for future directions and research (PALMATIER; HOUSTON; HULLAND, 2018; MOHER et al., 2015; SAMPAIO; MANCINI, 2007). As data sources, articles hosted in five databases were analyzed, namely: Scopus, SPORTDiscus, Web of Science, Pro Quest and SciELO. The selection of databases was based on the conformity of the limits of the intended subjects and, also, on the bases available online and with free access by the Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho, Biosciences Institute, Rio Claro campus.

For the research, the following search procedure was used in the respective titles of the articles, using the Boolean terms "sport and leisure management" OR "Sport space" OR "leisure space" OR "Sport equipment" OR "leisure equipment" OR "public Sport policy" OR "public leisure policy". The use of the Boolean operator "OR" was due to the fact that it is a tool capable of expanding the search result, as it searches for one descriptor or another, not excluding any of them (SILVA; MENEZES, 2005).

The search through the title was given for the reason that this method proved to be adequate, as it included a significant number of more specific articles on the subject. The use of terms in English was justified by the understanding that articles published in international or national periodicals or journals with greater scientific impact have, at least, the title in English, thus allowing for greater coverage, both nationally and internationally. This systematic review was carried out during the period from July to October 2017, following a set of inclusion and exclusion criteria described in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Inclusion and exclusion criteria for the systematic review

	a) full articles available in selected databases of UNESP/Rio Claro			
	b) original article, including case studies or essays, published in scientific			
	journals or journals			
	c) to have title in English			
Criteria of	d) to respect the set of keywords established			
Inclusion	e) publication date from 2013 to 2017			
	f) to have the body of the article in English or Portuguese			
	g) to have been published in a peer-reviewed journal			

	h) articles inserted in the thematic areas selected in the databases
	i) articles with direct connection to the theme
Exclusion Criteria	a) Repeated articles
	b) Articles without open access

Source: Prepared by the authors (2018).

According to the characteristics of each database, the subjects of publication of the articles were selected, which were closer to the themes of the study, in order to obtain greater specificity in the search and selection of articles. Such aspects of knowledge are designated within these bases as Thematic Areas (SCOPUS, 2018; SCIELO, 2018), Subjects (SPORTDISCUS, 2018; PRO QUEST, 2018) and Categories (WEB OF SCIENCE, 2018), and, in this article, it was adopted the terminology "subjects", considering that this seems to be the most appropriate, and are described in Table 2, presented below:

**Table 2: Subjects selected in Database** 

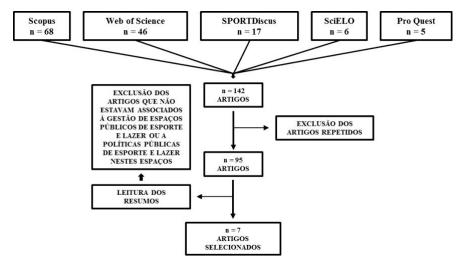
Data base	Subjects
Scopus	Business, management & accounting; social sciences; health professions
SPORTDiscus	Social aspects; data analysis; leisure research; public spaces; segregation;
	social media; cities & towns – Brazil; economic development; government
	policy
WEB OF SCIENCE.	Social sciences and other topics; sport sciences; sociology; public
	administration; urban studies
PRO QUEST.	Leisure; sports; analysis; politics; sport management; economics; policy;
	studies; cities; leisure activities; physical education; public policy; research;
	sports management; urban areas; equipment; management; public space
SCIELO.	Sport sciences; geography

Source: Prepared by the authors (2018).

Through this initial search for study titles, 142 articles were found (Scopus = 68, SPORTDiscus = 17, Web of Science = 46, Pro Quest = 5, SciELO = 6). The titles of the articles were analyzed and the repeated ones were excluded, resulting in 95 articles. From this initial search, all abstracts were read and from these, all full articles relevant to the topic were selected, studies that were not associated with the management of public spaces in the contexts of sport and leisure and with Public Policies for sport were excluded. and leisure in these spaces, resulting in a total of 7 articles, which fit the criteria established a priori.

The search in the abstracts was due to the fact that, often, the titles fail to include exactly the content of the article, in addition, it is understood that, if the article addresses the theme that permeates public spaces in the contexts of sport and leisure and its ramifications, such terms, even if they are not exactly in the title, must consequently be cited in their abstracts. Figure 1, inserted below, represents and illustrates the strategies used in the search:

Figure 1: Identification of articles for analysis



Source: Prepared by the authors (2018).

#### **Results and Discussion**

In order to understand, in a more comprehensive way, the material selected for this study, some items were highlighted, which were part of this analysis, namely: the purposes of the studies, the nature of the researches, the main results achieved in these, the suggestions of the authors for new studies and the conclusions of the respective articles analyzed. These data are summarized in Table 3, below:

Table 3: Articles analyzed

	YEAR, TITLE, AUTHOR( S), JOURNAL, DATABAS E	ARTICLE LANGUA GE	PURPOSE	NATUR E OF RESEAR CH	MAIN RESULTS	CONCLUSI ONS	SUGGESTI ONS
1	2013. Public Policies for Sport and Leisure: Reflections on its Applicabilit y in Brazilian Municipalit ies. (Silva, N. V.; Tenório Júnior, J. B.; Silva, W. M.; Silva Leonídio, L. F.); Intercontine ntal Magazine on Sport Manageme nt; SportDiscus	Portugues e	- Cause reflections, contributin g to the structuring of an explanator y matrix about the applicabilit y of Public Policies for sport and leisure in Brazilian municipalit ies.	Qualitativ e	- Need for consistent public policy, prioritizing popular participation More democratic management, strengthening the government/so ciety relationship.	- Need for a consistent public policy on sport and leisure Greater popular participation and more democratic management Strengthenin g the relationship between government and society Encourage the construction of research groups.	- Formation and development of study groups Encourage the strengthenin g and expansion of knowledge in the area.
2	2013. Public policies and sports in Marginalize d communitie s: the case of Cidade de Deus, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (Reis, AC; Sousa- Mast, FR; Vieira, MC); World Leisure Journal;	English	- Discuss how the Brazilian governmen t has been offering opportuniti es for sport and physical activity to society.	Qualitativ e	<ul> <li>Instability</li> <li>and</li> <li>discontinuity</li> <li>of programs</li> <li>and policies.</li> <li>Failures in directing</li> <li>public funds</li> <li>not favoring</li> <li>social</li> <li>development.</li> </ul>	- It is not enough just to elaborate actions spread in the sport context - Need for a participatory, critical and emancipator y approach with regard to the sporting context.	

SportDiscus						
2013. Understandi ng Urban Public Space in a Leisure Context. (Johnson, AJ; Glover, TD); Leisure Sciences; Scopus.	English	- Discuss and argue that public spaces should receive greater attention from research, in the light of Public Policies for sport and leisure Outline the properties and forms of accessibilit y of these spaces.	Qualitativ e	Categorization s of urban spaces aim to accentuate the difficulty of defining spaces as public - The difference between private and public spaces is purely reductionist and impossible to practice nowadays.	- Difference between public and private is simplistic Impossibility of excluding the spaces defined by them as "non-traditional public spaces".	- Analyze who is excluded from the "public" of spaces, as according to these, no space is accessible to everyone all times.
2014. Public Leisure Policies: Games, Toys and Playful Activities of Children in Plazas, in the City of Araras. (Alves, C.; Camara, AR; Geraldin, C.; Martins, IC); Mackenzie Magazine of Physical Education and Sport, São Paulo; SportDiscus	Portugues e	- Identify the offer by the governmen t and the practice of games, games and activities in the context of sport and leisure, carried out by children as a form of leisure in public squares.	Qualitativ e	- Squares are used as leisure facilities Considered significant spaces for society.	- Need to exist and stimulate criticism They emphasize that there are no readymade solutions, especially when dealing with macro issues, such as culture, thus making it unthinkable to use readymade models.	- Need for urgent elaboration of Public Policies in the context of leisure in the city, which not only serve children, but also the community as a whole.
2015. Spaces and Equipment of Leisure in Vila Nossa	Portugues e	Investigate the planning of public actions and	Qualitativ e	- Activities formulated by local community leaders.	- Space is responsible for the lived experiences, through the playfulness	-

Senhora of Light and its Forms of Appropriati on. (Gonçalves, FS; Rechia, S.); Brazilian Journal of Sport Sciences; Scopus.		how the appropriati on of public squares by the community is characteriz ed and occurs.		experiences through various bodily practices in these squares.	and the experiences lived in the squares.  - Increased sociability through the exchange of experiences.  - Improvement in the form of appropriation of these spaces and equipment.	
<sup>6</sup> 2015. São Paulo City Hall's Leisure Streets Program: Modernizaç ão na Gestão Pública do Esporte e Lazer. (Costa, AQ; Sampaio, CM); Podium: Sport, Leisure and Tourism Review; Web of Science.	Portugues e	Contribute to the updating and improveme nt of the rules and regulations of the Ruas de Lazer program.	Qualitativ e	- 31% of leisure streets (331) in the archives (1058) work sporadically 13% work regularly (138) 69% of the Leisure Streets in the city of São Paulo do not work (727).	- Need for planning and research for an effective preparation of proposals and Public Policies - Need for a different management from the current scenario, building goods and services in the social sphere in a joint and participatory way.	- Need for planning and research as important tools for the formulation of Public Policies that aim at intersectorial ity and transversalit y.
2017. Field, Light and Food: Adapting of the Town Square as a Leisure Gathering Space at Night. (Zakariya, K.; Harun, NZ; Mansor, M.); Planning Malaysia Journal; Scopus.	English	- Examine the factors that contribute to attractiven ess and carrying out activities in a city square in Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia.	Quantitati ve	- Intrinsic connection between the opportunities for the various activities and the provision of an adequate infrastructure Highlight for the blocks as a public space option for people during the night period.	Accessibility and infrastructure are crucial factors to facilitate the use of an urban space by the public Emphasis on the use of spaces resulting in an increase in attachment and closer relationships	

that individuals have with it.
- Decline of public spaces in terms of vitality.

Source: Prepared by the authors (2018).

Regarding the purposes of the studies (underlined authors), their analysis showed that all articles selected for analysis, that is, the studies by Silva et al. (2013b), Costa and Sampaio (2015), Reis; Sousa-Mast and Vieira (2013), Alves *et al.* (2014), Johnson and Glover (2013), Gonçalves and Rechia (2015) and Zakariya; Harun and Mansor (2017) converged on the common purpose of analyzing Public Policies in the contexts of sport and leisure, both in theory, in relation to the management of scientific information about them, and in practice, analyzing the insertion of these Policies in the spaces sport and leisure publics and the forms of use and appropriation of the community in general. Thus, these studies sought to raise reflections and contributions to improvements and improvements in the field of management of these Policies in the context of sport and leisure, with a view to offering benefits to the population.

There is a concern, however, regarding the activities proposed in the contexts of sport and leisure through Public Policies and not, specifically, the spaces where these experiences can occur, thus demonstrating that spaces figure in a secondary way in these studies analyzed. Similar purposes to the articles analyzed by this systematic review were found in the literature in general, such as the studies carried out by Brito (2017) and Grasso and Isayama (2017) and Dunn (2016), who sought to analyze Public Policies, including sports and leisure, with the intention of helping the creation and improvement of new Policies, proposing integration and multidisciplinarity between the different sectors of public administration, in order to solve practical problems in organizations, seeking to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

The study presented by Bramham *et al.* (2017), also argues that, in an interdisciplinary way, Public Policies for sport and leisure can be improved and contribute to the evolution of society, in order to promote an improvement in social integration. In this study, the European context was specifically addressed, however, the themes analyzed and presented may raise new forms of public policy management worldwide.

When analyzing these studies, it can be noted that the main concern of the studies mentioned was about contents involving Public Policies, with a focus on experiences in the contexts of sport and leisure. This reinforces the idea that the spaces in which such experiences can occur are generally not the main concern of the studies, although, in a way, they are always mentioned in them.

Differently from the researches mentioned above, it is possible to mention the researches carried out by Benages-Albert et al. (2015) and Santana and Alves (2014), which, although they have analyzed the theme of Public Policies in the context of sport and leisure, identifying programs already offered by the government and proposing improvements in them, effectively highlighted the importance of spaces. In these studies, the processes of appropriation of spaces by the community were identified, verifying the form of appropriation of them and the main equipment and activities used, thus demonstrating the importance that spaces have for the implementation, with quality, of Public Policies of sport and leisure. Even so, there is a lack of approaches specifically highlighting and analyzing spaces.

Regarding the nature of the selected researches, the studies by Silva *et al.* (2013b), Reis; Sousa-Mast e Vieira (2013), Johnson e Glover (2013), Alves *et al.* (2014), Gonçalves and Rechia (2015), Costa and Sampaio (2015), used the qualitative method, whereas the study by Zakariya; Harun and Mansor (2017) used the quanti-

qualitative method. It was noted, therefore, a supremacy of qualitative research, citing a factor that, in a way, may have contributed to such choice, which is the social bias of the analyzed research.

Research carried out using the qualitative method can be used when they seek to understand a certain characteristic or phenomenon, the existence of which is not fully known, is usually exploratory in nature, that is, intends to obtain data that may indicate a possible way, so that, in a way, a possible alternative can be indicated on a problem-question (GLASER; STRAUSS, 2017; MEZZADRI; MORAES; FIGUERÔA, 2015). Thus, qualitative research can be seen as a very valid strategy for conducting reflections, when the theme involves perspectives of a social nature, as is the case of Public Policies in the contexts of sport and leisure, which can be used for the deepening of the researched data (ALVESSON; SKÖLDBERG, 2018; GLASER; STRAUSS, 2017; BOTELHO; DE ALMEIDA CUNHA; MACEDO, 2011). Research of a qualitative nature, however, has certain weaknesses pointed out by authors such as Mezzadri; Moraes and Figueroa (2015), citing as one of the main weaknesses the interpretation performed by the researcher in a more personal way, which may leave its subjective veracity.

Research using the quantitative method, on the other hand, presents as its main characteristic the use of numerical formulas, thus bringing more precise measures about certain phenomena. This type of research can be used for more assertive measurements and decisions (BERNARD, 2017; CRESWELL; CLARK, 2013). Quantitative research generally has as its main weakness the impossibility of properly interpreting the context in which the study is inserted, that is, the more subjective factors (BERNARD, 2017; CRESWELL; CLARK, 2013; MIGIRO; MAGAGI, 2011; BRANNEN, 2005). It was noted that there was no incidence of studies performed based on a quantitative method,

and one of the reasons may be the social bias adopted in the studies, which requires more detail on the reflections and discussions to be developed.

On the other hand, research carried out using the mixed, quanti-qualitative method, argue that it can compensate and minimize the weaknesses of both methods listed above. Thus, the quanti-qualitative method has been suggested, as it presents conditions to offer greater support to analyze the problem of a study, than the quantitative or qualitative methods used in isolation (BERNARD, 2017; CRESWELL; CLARK, 2013; MIGIRO; MAGANGI, 2011; BRANNEN, 2005). However, in the context of the analyzed studies, it was noted that this method is still little explored to understand these intricacies, given that it was used in only 1 study.

As for the main results of the analyzed research, the articles by Silva et al. (2013b), Kings; Sousa-Mast and Vieira (2013) and Costa and Sampaio (2015), who were part of this systematic review, bring the need for robust and solid Public Policies for sport and leisure, prioritizing the participation of society and democratic management. According to data in these articles, there is an instability and discontinuity of programs and Public Policies for sport and leisure. Furthermore, when these occur, they are directed in a way that is inconsistent with reality, making it difficult and, at times, even preventing their effectiveness.

Similar to the results of the articles by Silva *et al.* (2013b), Kings; Sousa-Mast and Vieira (2013, Costa and Sampaio (2015), we can mention the study by Grasso and Isayama (2017), which was not part of the review, as it did not meet the inclusion criteria, also highlighting the related issue to the discontinuity of Public Policies. Grasso and Isayama point out that this discontinuity is not exclusive to the fields of sport and leisure, but it can even occur in these fields. These authors consider the possibility that this fact may occur, mainly due to changes in government and the fact

that many of the implemented Public Policies serve as a springboard for electoral purposes. According to Souza (2006), the electoral cycles and, consequently, the "political game" that precedes it directly affects public policies, including those in the sphere of sport and leisure, causing difficulties in their continuity, and even causing, according to the author, bureaucratic obstacles in bodies and institutions related to sport.

Still on this aspect of discontinuity, Pinto et al. (2011), point out that this can come from changes in government, from the inadequacy of offering programs in the context of sport and leisure, which often fail to meet the needs of the target audience. Another factor directly associated with discontinuity, according to these authors, is the precariousness, or even lack of communication between the government and program managers. It is noted, therefore, that the discontinuity of Public Policies, whether in the contexts of sport and leisure, or in the general context, is a reality and a primordial factor, which can cause a series of concomitant factors, with conditions to drastically harm the public offering of experiences in the context of sport and leisure and public programs aimed at these.

They also bring as results the malfunctioning of public programs of sport and leisure activities, which already exist, based on empirical data, such as the one in the specific article by Costa and Sampaio (2015). In this article, the authors analyzed the functioning of the Ruas de Lazer program in the city of São Paulo and found that 69% of these activities involving the Ruas de Lazer, which are listed in municipal public archives as still active, do not actually work, clearly demonstrating the situation described by the other articles mentioned above about the ineffectiveness of these actions in Public Policy.

On the other hand, the articles of Alves *et al.* (2014), Gonçalves and Rechia (2015) and Zakariya; Harun and Mansor (2017), analyzed in this review, demonstrated

as a result that public squares present in the urban environment proved to be suitable spaces for experiences in the context of leisure, with conditions for the population to enjoy recreational activities, experiences such as games and games and several others. These spaces and their experiences could bring, in this way, social benefits and in the aspect of the quality of life of the population involved.

Through systematic reviews, Mensah *et al.* (2016) and Hunter *et al.* (2014) also analyzed the influence of spaces on the quality of life and social integration of users of these spaces. In these studies were emphasized green spaces, including squares, and the results of these studies demonstrated that the relationship between the use and appropriation of these spaces by the population is able to promote an improvement in physical, emotional and psychological, improving social relationships and, consequently, raising the quality of life in general.

Specifically in the article by Gonçalves e Rechia (2015), analyzed in this review, the activities promoted in public spaces referred to in the study were established by local community leaders, through the cooperation of the population and not, specifically through an action within a Public Policy. With this, the authors demonstrate a possible gap in the government, or even in the implementation of efficient Public Policies, capable of adequately providing for the appropriation of these spaces.

Grasso and Isayama (2017), as well as Santos; Freire and Bastos (2017) corroborate these results pointed out by the aforementioned studies in which the local population, through their community leaders, established a joint action with the state, to minimize this deficit in the offer of programs or activities of a public nature. It was noticed, therefore, that the emphasis of these studies was on the issue of spaces, leaving Public Policies in the background. This represents an advance in knowledge, as well as an important contribution to understand, in fact, the relevance of proper management of

public spaces, given the benefits and positive impacts that these are capable of promoting in a given region.

Another aspect addressed in the results of the analyzed studies was related to the categorization of spaces in public and private. The study by Johnson and Glover (2013), included in the analysis for this review, also emphasized space in the foreground and resulted in the fact that, according to them, the categorization of spaces into public and private, generally used in the literature, is inadequate today, as there are several forms of composite spaces, that is, privatized, semi-public or semi-private, which goes beyond the two categories frequently used in studies. Based on this result presented by the authors, it is impossible to simply exclude these other categories of spaces.

In the same line of reasoning, Freitas and Elias (2017), Camargo *et al.* (2017) and Silva and Costa (2017) present the argument that, at the national level, the boundaries between public and private spaces are increasingly blurred, with new forms of partnerships and provision of services. These authors emphasize that, in most cases, these spaces defined by Johnson and Glover (2013) as non-traditional or hybrid, are excluded from official public websites, making it difficult for the population to identify and access them (SMITH; LOW, 2006). This brings very worrying consequences, regarding the use and appropriation of these spaces, representing a challenge for new studies, in the sense of collaborating with the identification and new conceptual models regarding the categorization of spaces.

Therefore, it is essential that there is an in-depth discussion, especially at the national level, about this categorization, considering that, currently, there is this trend of privatization of public spaces, in order to reduce public spending. New studies that address the issue of categories involving public spaces represent part of the strategies for advancing the area and deserve attention in the academic context.

From the results presented in the analyzed studies, it is clear that public spaces in the context of sport and leisure are essential for the offer of programs and activities and that these can positively impact the users' lives. This reinforces the notoriety and importance of Public Policy actions in the efficient use of these spaces. However, it was also noted that, with regard to more open spaces, such as squares and parks, when these political actions are not as efficient, there is an initiative by the citizens themselves in the appropriation of these spaces, which is more conditioned to their own interest of these citizens. Thus, the discontinuity of Public Policies seems to affect open spaces in a less forceful way. Even so, there is no way to dispense with the efficient participation of the State in the quality of services offered to citizens, so that the right to leisure is actually fulfilled.

With regard to <u>suggestions</u> and directions for new studies, there was a convergence of four of the studies analyzed in this systematic review, namely the studies by Costa and Sampaio (2015), Alves *et al.* (2014), Silva *et al.* (2013b) and Johnson and Glover (2013). These studies suggested the expansion of scientific research in the field of Public Policies for sport and leisure, subsidizing new directions, both for researchers in the area and for public administrators.

However, each of these surveys pointed to specific suggestions. The studies by Silva *et al.* (2013b) and Costa and Sampaio (2015), in addition to pointing out the need to expand research in the area, they also emphasize the importance of intersectorality between the areas that study these themes and even suggest greater dialogue between the sectors of government, to promote greater social impact.

The study by Johnson and Glover (2013), on the other hand, suggested an analysis to identify the audiences still excluded from actions and spaces. According to these authors, no public space is accessible to everyone at all times, however, initiatives

must be developed, capable of enabling the inclusion of the majority of the population in these spaces.

In addition to suggestions directly related to the issues of use and appropriation of spaces, the study by Alves et al. (2014) suggested an expansion of programs and activities offered by the government and developed in these spaces, so that they are not restricted to just a certain portion of the population. The authors emphasize this aspect, considering that they perceived a predominance in the offer of activity programs aimed at children, in these analyzed spaces.

When analyzing the suggestions made in these four aforementioned studies, it is clear that one of these suggestions, aimed at the need for more research and more efficient theoretical foundation, was confirmed in the studies by Trottmann et al. (2017) and Farah (2016), in the field of Public Policy in general. It is also worth mentioning the contribution of the study by Santos, Freire and Miranda (2017), who highlight the need for closer approximation between the researcher and the sports manager, whether from the public or private field, in order to collaborate in the formulation knowledge and the implementation of these in practice.

Already the studies of Kings; Sousa-Mast and Vieira (2013), Gonçalves and Rechia (2015) and Zakariya; Harun and Mansor (2017) do not clearly present suggestions for future studies. This fact makes it difficult to understand the directions that may arise from these studies (VEAL, 2018; BERNARD, 2017).

The suggestions of the studies analyzed in this review also demonstrate a more accentuated concern with the field of Public Policies in the contexts of sport and leisure, aimed at the formulation and application of activities and programs, leaving, again in the background, the focus on spaces. This finding reiterates the urgency of turning

attention to the adequacy of spaces for usufruct in the context of sport and leisure, both on the part of researchers and managers involved in Public Policies for sport and leisure.

Another challenge to be overcome is the lack of systematization and adequacy of studies to the models proposed in the scientific methodology, considering that three of the seven articles analyzed did not bring new proposals. This systematization allows for the advancement of reflections, as it allows for advancing knowledge in the area (ALVESSON; SKÖLDBERG, 2018; BERNARD, 2017).

With regard to the conclusions presented in the studies analyzed, the studies by Silva *et al.* (2013b), Kings; Sousa-Mast and Vieira (2013), Alves *et al.* (2014) and Costa and Sampaio (2015), concluded on the need for consistent and systematized Public Policies in the context of sport and leisure. Therefore, such policies must be developed, not only in the short term, being capable of stimulating criticism and inquiry and, consequently, popular participation.

The conclusions of these four studies, in which the look at Public Policies and its importance was emphasized, are somewhat similar to the conclusions present in Santos' article; Freire and Bastos (2017), developed more recently. In this study, the authors concluded that, if Public Policies are treated in a secondary way, both by researchers and by the public authorities, they end up not guaranteeing the fixation of systematized actions in the contexts of sport and leisure, thus having little utility. Social. Therefore, these authors converge their opinions on the importance of Public Policies.

Other studies also confirm this idea mentioned above, however, they present different arguments. The study promoted by Bramham et al. (2017) concludes that Public Policies for sport and leisure can help in the evolution of society, through the promotion of social integration. The study by Rodrigues and Rechia (2016) concluded that, even though the sport and leisure spaces analyzed by them in the research have

gone through improvements and improvements, there is a feeling that Public Policies in these sectors are directed towards the management of structures, or the management of implemented programs and activities, do not represent priorities of the government, being treated in a secondary way.

In the analysis of the studies by Gonçalves and Rechia (2015) and Zakariya; Harun and Mansor (2017), the conclusions state that public spaces in sport and leisure contexts, such as squares and parks, are essential, as the appropriation of these spaces provides an increase in sociability, also narrowing the relationship and the attachment that users have with such spaces and, consequently, with the city. The authors also cite as a conclusion the need for good infrastructure and accessibility in these spaces, crucial factors to facilitate their use and appropriation.

These conclusions concur with those of the research carried out by Benages-Albert *et al.* (2015), in which it was emphasized that the use of spaces for experiences in the context of sport and leisure can result in greater attachment and closer affective relationships with them, resulting in greater responsibility on the part of citizens. This fact can also bring an improvement with the ways of using these spaces.

This represents an important fact, considering that it is necessary that Public Policies value the management of public spaces in the contexts of sport and leisure, thus stimulating a pro-environmental behavior and, consequently, improving education for and for leisure (SCHWARTZ et al., 2016; DATTILO, 2015). Both aspects contribute to the expanded notion of sustainability, which goes beyond economic parameters and highlights the strong relationship between personal commitment and citizenship (RIBEIRO; FORTUNATO; SCHWARTZ, 2016).

The study by Johnson and Glover (2013) concluded that it is currently impossible to distinguish public spaces and private spaces, as the authors' approach was

on the categorization of public spaces. According to these authors, this is a simplistic division, as spaces can have heterogeneous forms of classification. This conclusion is similar to the conclusions of research carried out by Freitas and Elias (2017), Camargo *et al.* (2017) and Smith and Low (2006), who highlighted the trend towards privatization of public spaces in order to reduce expenses and improve the quality of their management. With privatization, however, the possibility of increasing segregation and exclusion of certain social groups from these spaces must be considered, thus fueling the discussion on the extent to which this privatization process is effective, making it a challenge to be more well understood, for the implementation of new and efficient actions in the scope of Public Policy management.

Three blocks of themes highlighted in the conclusions of the analyzed studies were perceived, referring to the adequacy of Public Policies, use and appropriation of spaces and categorization of spaces. The conclusions, however, point out to a predominance of the focus on Public Policies, considering that four of the seven articles analyzed highlighted, in their conclusions, its importance.

Even though the approaches have been varied, it was noted, in these studies, a concern of researchers with some important elements, such as the discontinuity of Public Policies in the contexts of sport and leisure, the urgency of proper management of implemented actions, using data, theories and methods enshrined in the literature already produced. These conclusions highlight that, currently, in Brazil, themes involving Public Policies and the appropriation of public spaces are not treated as priorities by the government. One of the possibilities for interpreting this fact lies in the perspective that there are other priorities, which, perhaps, generate more visibility to the current government, such as improvements in Health and Education.

Furthermore, there seems to be a difficulty for managers to understand the importance and influence of sport and leisure as component elements of Education, Health and Quality of Life vectors (SCHWARTZ *et al.*, 2016). This fact reiterates the need to expand studies and research, which can spread the fundamental role of these elements in all sectors of social life.

#### **Final Considerations**

Through the analysis of the studies that were part of this systematic review, it is noted that the approach to the thematic management of spaces in the contexts of sport and leisure took place in a secondary way, with the greatest interest shown in the studies being in the theme related to Public Policies in the context of sport and leisure, in their aspect of management in general. However, there was little attention to aspects directly linked to spaces, such as infrastructure, accessibility, use and appropriation, location, among others. Although the number of studies found with a direct link to the topic has been reduced, this topic appears to be subtly debated, under different scientific and academic biases.

As for the purposes of the articles analyzed in this review, a concern strictly linked with Public Policies in the context of sport and leisure and the management of programs and experiences aimed at practical activities was noted. This focus can be justified, in part, by the fact that policies aimed at managing programs and activities require less funding than those aimed at managing and investing in spaces themselves, such as infrastructure (implementation of improvements in accessibility, lighting, periodic renovations) and administration aimed at meeting the needs of the population, since, for this, the direct involvement of the population would be necessary, through consultations, to identify the needs and subsequently implement them, quickly and

efficiently. The focus on Public Policies can also bring greater visibility to government officials than investment in the infrastructure of spaces.

Among the studies analyzed, it was also noted a predominance of the use of the qualitative method, given that most of the studies fit into the perspective of social research. The studies used in this review were found in several specific data sources in the area of Sports Science and also in the Multidisciplinary area, presenting different structures, covering not only original articles, but also essays and case studies.

This demonstrates that there is no systematic method for studies on these biases, however, as they cover different structures and natures of methods, such studies can, in a way, fill in more easily the little explored gaps related to the subject. As for the areas of publication of the articles, it was noted a wide variety of areas of knowledge that are interested in and study such themes, demonstrating that these themes involve the need for transdisciplinary perspectives, considering that the knowledge acquired in an area can help others.

The general analysis of the selected studies demonstrates that there is an interest from the public sector in promoting Public Policies for sport and leisure and, consequently, the spaces in this context. It can be seen, however, that there are several obstacles and difficulties for the plans to be put into effect, transforming them into actions, which really bring a positive impact on society.

The need for adequate information management is also noted, with regard to the use and appropriation of public spaces in the context of leisure. Efficient information management can contribute to the dissemination of specific information, bringing to the population data referring to activities, projects and opportunities that these spaces can offer.

Likewise, in the context that permeates the academic and scientific spheres, many researches do not address spaces as a primary aspect, thus failing to recognize their due importance. Therefore, it is urgent that new perspectives be invested in these aspects, to help in the bases of implementation of new actions in Public Policies. The discussions and considerations arising from this study can help to support other directions and new political actions, with regard to the aspect of public management, pointing out new perspectives of approaches, or improving the existing paths.

As limitations of this study, the scarce number of studies found that referred to the topic in vogue can be highlighted, as well as the initial search only by the title of the articles, which, in this study, was carried out with the intention of focusing only studies directly related to the subject. Using search terms only in the English language may also limit access to other possibly relevant data.

Finally, the need for further research is highlighted, using other search terms and other databases, thus deepening the investigation on the subject. The development of studies that directly focus on spaces in the contexts of sport and leisure may enrich the prospects for promoting new approaches in the academic environment, as well as triggering new subsidies for the implementation of new Public Policies and other approaches, capable of revitalizing the reflections in the area.

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