

The image of Brazilian emigration in the news: some remarks

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General context:

- emigration phenomenon in Brazil: a discontinuity in the history of an immigration country
- “migration transition” has more than a demographical significance: also social, political and identity-related
- new national perceptions of a country that is now mainly a land of departures, more than of arrivals
- similar perceptions may be found related to other Latin American countries

Brazilian emigrants in the news:

table 1 – Occurrences of the subject “Brazilians abroad”, per year

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	total
living and working conditions	6	6	3	13	16	44
remittances	2	1	3	1	8	15
detention, imprisonment, deportation for documentation problems or illegal border crossing	10	5	4	8	23	50
involvement in human traffic, sexual exploitation and prostitution	8	-	-	10	21	39
other themes associated with Brazilians abroad	7	8	4	10	24	53
total	33	20	14	42	92	201

table 2 – Occurrences of the subject “Brazilians abroad”, according to destination area, from 2001 to 2005

geographical area	occurrences
foreign*	27
United States	74
Mexico	9
Japan	10
Portugal	18
Spain	11
Italy, France and Ireland	4
United Kingdom	19
Paraguay and Bolivia	10
Northern Border **	5
others	14
Total	201

* no particular reference to any country

** Colombia, Suriname, French Guiana

- media information about emigrants abroad helps to disseminate this new image in Brazilian public opinion
- increasing awareness about Brazilian emigrants situation in reception countries > situations in common with other Latin American emigrants abroad
- consolidation of a Latin American (mainly South American) transnational migration territory, with border crossings and similar transcontinental emigration situations
- need to reconstruct traditional national images related to former situations in international migration context
- other transitional situations: former emigration countries (Spain, Portugal, Italy) which become immigration areas; traditional origin countries which turn to be transit and even destination areas (Morocco, Mexico)

