Discrimination against Brazilian student immigrants in Coimbra, Portugal

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Abstract

In this paper, the aim is to find out whether Brazilian students are negatively discriminated or have to face difficulties in any way in Portugal due to their nationality. Surveys have been completed by Brazilian students in order to obtain an overall picture regarding their experience of treatment towards whilst living temporarily in Portugal. After the surveys, an analysis is completed to see how often and in which way did the respondents’ experience the different treatment compared to the Portuguese inhabitants.

The main findings in the survey are that the Brazilian students are discriminated, mostly in the city during their everyday activities. In the school area, the discrimination happens on a lower level, there are some cases when the students experienced a negative attitude towards their nationality, but mainly it happens outside of the university area. They did not have any experience of aggressive physical behaviour because of being a Brazilian, most of the times they only experience a general negative attitude towards them, with unpolite way of speaking or behaviour. The discrimination is higher against the Brazilian immigrants than towards immigrants from other countries. It is important to highlight, the surveys were made with high education students from a middle or higher social class, most of them speaks English.

1. Introduction

The reason this topic is worth examining, is because in the last decades more and more social scientists aimed at finding out the reasons behind discrimination and on the social changes and consequences it causes in different cultures. With increasing globalization the opportunities for finding employment opportunities abroad are growing, but with greater diversity there is a counter-reaction which results in the reactive recognition and protection of our national identity, whether we are talking about an individual living abroad, or an individual’s attitude towards immigrants. One way of protecting our national identity in a specific country is to exclude, give less opportunities for the „outsiders”, this is nativism. (Oxford Dictionary) The exclusion can happen in different contexts, in the everyday life, in the politics, at the workplace, at school. The inhabitants of the developed countries might be afraid of the incoming immigrants on account of the growth in population they will bring, poverty or lower social classes and or alien views and beliefs in effect destroying the balance in the society.
As Brazil is a developing country, and Portugal is a developed country in the West, this issue has relevance for the Portuguese inhabitants and the Brazilian immigrants. However, the relationship between Brazil and Portugal is significant. Brazil is the biggest former colony of Portugal, often called the „son of Portugal”. Due to the historical, economical and language connections, the interaction and communication between these two countries are still strong. (Paula Marques Santos, 2017.). The language gives an opportunity for Brazilian immigrants to find employment opportunities in Europe and also for Portuguese individuals the option is given to find better opportunities in Brazil. However, regardless of the easy access and high number of opportunities, discrimination is an issue which causes several difficulties for Brazilian immigrants in Portugal. As Portugal is a European Union member, the moral values are advertised by the modern, Western World, in which discrimination needs to be decreased. The European Union states are obliged to make an attempt towards non-discrimination, as it is a fundamental principle of the legal order of Europe (European Parliament, 1977.) In Portugal, the highest number of immigrants are from Brazil, which is examined below. The increasing number of Brazilian immigrants, who come from low income/status social classes during the decades encourage the creation of negative stereotypes, which ends in discriminative behaviour towards them. In the university area, the social class of the Brazilian immigrants is higher on average. As the studies at the higher educational institution have high financial responsibilities, those that are from middle or high social class can afford it, whether we are talking about Portuguese or Brazilian students. In this research, only students are asked about the discrimination they experience, which helps us to examine the negative treatment, excluding coming from a lower class as a causal factor behind it.

2. Approach and aim

In the research, the approach is to find out whether the Brazilian students are negatively discriminated in any aspect in Portugal, and measure in which ways does it happen. The surveys are being submitted to Brazilian university students, studying at the University of Coimbra in Portugal. Coimbra University is one of the oldest universities in Europe which attracted the intellectuals from across Europe. The activities of the university started in Lisbon at the end of the 13th century, which were moved to Coimbra later in the century. (Universidade de Coimbra), The city is build around the university, which is the central. It is located 200 kilometers from Lisbon on the North.
To be able to prepare research about discrimination and prejudice, a definition is needed. „The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex (Oxford Dictionary.). Prejudice is „Preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience (Oxford Dictionary). While prejudice is a word describing one’s attitude to another individual or group, discrimination means an act toward the other individual or group, resulting from prejudice.

In the research, we have to take into consideration the importance of the question if the negative treatment towards the Brazilians is based on racism, or new racism. „ In the absence of a formal system of segregation and other blatant forms of racism, new racism describes the system of persistent inequality, injustice, and racial differentiation.” (IGI Global, Disseminator of Knowledge.). New racism has a quality which racism does not, it is not believed to be racism. The discrimination against the Brazilian immigrants occurs in a way in which they face difficulties because of their nationality without rational reasons in a specific situation (e.g. discrimination at the workplace based on nationality and not on performance).

In this case, the question arises as to whether we can consider the Portuguese people as scapegoats arising from discrimination. A scapegoat is the person or people who are to blame, even though they are not the ones who made the mistake (Oxford Dictionary.). In many cases, the reason behind the discrimination is the existing stereotypes towards a specific social group. The stereotypes are usually based on a believed behaviour from the social group which is different from the behaviour of the social group which creates the stereotypes. The cultural differences have a big impact on the stereotypes. A difference can be made between positive and negative types of stereotypes, however, they are harmful only if they have an effect on the individuals behaviour in a negative way, causing a decrease of a lack of possibilities towards the social group. In the next chapter we examine the evidence for discrimination, and then the possible reasons behind it. If we are looking for the answer if the Portuguese people are the
scapegoats, the answer is more complex. The true scapegoats are the cultural differences and the stereotypes’ existence.

3. Literature Review

3.1 Sociological Theory on Migration

First, let us take a look at the sociological migration theory. As Karen O’Reilly states, migration always existed. The difference between the migration nowadays and before is in the number of people, from the 1980s the number of immigrants increased dramatically, as the globalization increased as well. The second difference is in the location, nowadays we can find immigrants in more and more countries. The social and economic scientists usually examine migration as a rational act, where the approach is to go to a place for the individual’s economical benefits. In this case, the individuals have free choice. Others explain migration not only with the economical gains, but also they examine the effects of the social processes. The social processes play a crucial role, as the network of the connections, the family, friends affect the migration process. Another theory explains how migration has to be understood in a more complex, wider system. In this system, the connection between the two countries, from which the individual goes, and the country to which the immigrant arrives plays an important role. In this theory, they look at the economical and social relationship between the countries. (O’Reilly, 2012).

3.2 Evidence for discrimination

Before describing the research, it is important to take a look at reported or statistical evidence concerning the discrimination against Brazilians in Portugal. „Between July 2004 and September 2005 fifty complaints were filed with the commission, ten of which were related to discrimination in employment (hiring and firing, among other issues) and two related to access to social security. It should be pointed out that within this period most of the victims were of Brazilian .This shift in the victims’ nationality is perhaps a symptom of the growing number of Brazilian immigrants in Portugal.” (Bruno et al, 2005.). This article reflects the discrimination in employment. It is important to add, the discrimination does not only exist at the workplace. It may be existing in every kind of social situation, however, the evidence can
be found in the working area much easier. People might consider to report if they face discrimination.

Source: International Centre for Migration Policy Development. 2013. „Brazil-Europe Migration. The situation of Brazilian immigrants in Spain and Portugal, and Spanish and Portuguese immigrants in Brazil: Legal aspects and experiences.” Portugal.

„The upper middle classes are no longer those leaving Brazil; the lower classes are now the predominant ones. In Portugal, social and economic integration of immigrants is less successful than before. The majority of immigrants belong to what is known as the “secondary” labour market, where low-skilled jobs and poor working conditions are predominant...The stereotype associated with the “cheerfulness” of Brazilians, in conjunction with the common language, eases their entry into the world of services”. (Padilla, Beatriz. 2006.). According to the data, the professionals of the Brazilians immigrants changed during the last decades. As the article explains, the reason behind this might be the change in the integration of the Brazilians in the Portuguese society, which is not successful, after the changes in the labour market in the last decades, especially after the economic crisis which affected the Portuguese economy in 2008. The crisis had an effect on the unemployment rates, the number of unemployed people increased until 2012.

![Figure 6: Unemployment rate](source: Portugal, Pedro. 2015. The Portuguese Economic Crisis: Policies and Outcomes.)
After the economic crisis, from 2013 the unemployment rate in Portugal started to decrease.

![Portugal Unemployment Rate Graph](http://www.tradingeconomics.com/portugal/unemployment-rate)

In 5 years, the unemployment decreased from more than 17 percent to 10 and a half percent.

In Brazil at the same time the unemployment rates increased by more than double. In 3 years, the unemployment increased from 6 percent to 13 percent.

![Brazil Unemployment Rate Graph](http://www.tradingeconomics.com/brazil/unemployment-rate)

These rates might be a reason behind the increasing number of Brazilian immigrants in Portugal.

As it is reported, common language is not enough to be easily integrated in the Portuguese society for the Brazilians. The cultural differences are outstanding, the Portuguese people are considered to be rather introverted and sad according to the Brazilian people. (Padilla, Beatriz. 2005).
In a research, it was examined what the Brazilians think might be the reason of the discrimination, being an immigrant or being a Brazilian immigrant. It was shown that a really high number of Brazilians (75 percent) reported they have felt that the discrimination is specifically towards the Brazilian nationality, not because of the fact that they are immigrants. It was also reported that a low number of Brazilians, only 20 percent reported they do not think they are discriminated. (Padilla, Beatriz. 2005.) As it is also stated in the article, according to the research what makes the Brazilians aware of the difference between them and the Portuguese society is the feeling of being unwelcomed. This negative feeling was reported by a high number of respondents. (Padilla, Beatriz. 2005).

We examine the language as a possible reason behind discrimination in the next section. While the Brazilians and the immigrants from former Portuguese colonies speak the same language as the Portuguese, the immigrants from other nations face the difficulty of the necessity of learning the language, or using English. Further analysis is needed to conclude which groups are in a favourable situation in Portugal, who do not speak the language (but can communicate in English) or who speak a different version of their own national language. The difference might be a causal factor behind the level of discrimination.

„Surveying the total of foreign citizens registered in the Employment Centres in continental Portugal, one notices that the number of unemployed of African origin has been decreasing, amounting to 44.7 per cent of the total number of foreign employed in August 2005 (compared to 48.1 per cent in 2004), while the unemployment rate of Eastern European and Brazilian immigrants has been increasing: 21.7 per cent and 20.9 per cent, in the same period, respectively, against 20.8 per cent and 15.6 per cent in 2004.” (Bruno et al, 2005),

3.3 Possible reasons behind discrimination

As Jorge Vala states in his article, Portugal has always been the country of immigrants, most of them coming from the former Portuguese colonies. (Vala, Jorge. 2008.). A big number of these colonies are in Africa, which does not only mean that the immigrants from there are usually black people but also a high number of the immigrants would be from these African countries, since it is quite close to Europe, and they might look for better opportunities in Portugal than the opportunities they might have in their country. Other portuguese-speaking immigrants come from Brazil, or the portuguese colony in China called Macau.
After the discovery of Brazil in the 1500s, the migration between Portugal and Brazil was always high, however, the direction changed over the history a couple of times. „During the 1990s, most immigrants came from lower middle class and working class families, instead of the upper-middle classes or middle class professionals. This intermediate position is reflected both in the labor market in which Brazilians occupy some important niches such as working in catering and restaurant services, hotel, and other services), and in terms of images and how Portuguese society sees different immigrant groups (Brazilians are better off than Africans coming from the former colonies).” (Padilla, Beatriz. 2006.) The article suggest that a high number of the Brazilian immigrants were coming from the middle class. This fact has different effects on the attitude shown by Portuguese people towards the Brazilians. On one hand, the Portuguese from higher classes are more likely to generate negative stereotypes about the Brazilians, who are working in lower positions because of the middle class educational level. On the other hand, it gives competition to the Portuguese from the middle and lower class at a working environment. Both effects might lead to discrimination towards the Brazilians.

Besides the educational/social class level, another reason might be the different pronunciation of the Portuguese language. This situation is similar to the difference between British English and American English. After the discovery of America, the European languages started to disappear in the American continent. During the centuries, the European and the American versions diverged in terms of pronunciation and grammar. As in English, in the case of
Portuguese language also the Europeans tend to think that theirs is the original one, hence the ‘right one’, the more elegant one. The difference between the Portuguese language from Brazil and Portugal is more significant compared to the difference between the English from the UK and the US. The difference is so significant, that it might lead to conflicts. As an example, let us have a look at the word 'moço'. In the Brazilian portuguese, this word means 'young man’. The difference is in the way they use this word. In Brazil, this is an accepted way to call someone ‘moço’ in an unformal situation (e.g. the waiter in the bar, the taxi driver). In Portugal, the meaning of the word is the same, but they usually use it in a context in which the person ‘moço’ is hierarchically under them. These differences might lead to conflicts. If the Portuguese people do not have a specific knowledge of the exact meaning of the same word in Brazil, they might find the Brazilians way of talking rude.

3.4 Possible solutions for discrimination

The number of the Brazilian immigrants might be high in Portugal because of different reasons. First of all, while Visa is needed to enter the USA, in the case of Europe Visa is not needed to enter, especially not to Portugal or Spain for Brazilian immigrants. This way, the migration process is faster and easier. The administration is cheaper, and there are no language barriers. This way, the number of immigrants in the future might not decrease. (International Centre for Migration Policy Development. 2013.)

Graph 4 – Evolution of the number of Brazilians in Portugal, 1990 - 2011

Source: International Centre for Migration Policy Development. 2013. „Brazil-Europe Migration. The situation of Brazilian immigrants in Spain and Portugal, and Spanish and Portuguese immigrants in Brazil: Legal aspects and experiences.” Portugal.
„In the case of Brazilian immigration, it seems that the increase in immigration after 2001 resulted from a redirection of the previous migration flow to the United States; the response to the events of September 11 included increased border control and made migration to the United States more difficult. (Pinho: 2012). However, unlike general immigration to Portugal, the inflow from Brazil maintained a high level of growth throughout this first decade of the 21st century. This explains why Brazilians increased from being 10.7% of the total number of foreigners in 2000 to 25.5% in 2011”.(International Centre for Migration Policy Development. 2013.) As it is shown in the article, the increase in the number of Brazilians in Portugal can be connected to the labour market and the immigration policies, the number of Brazilians increased when there was an economic growth in Portugal.

Because of the above mentioned facts, it would be important to find a possible solution for the discrimination. The discrimination exists because of the stereotypes, and one of the reasons the stereotypes exist is the cultural differences, hence it is important to find a solution for integrating the Brazilian culture into the Portuguese culture. This process can be managed in different ways. In this case, the multiculturalism seems to be the one which fits the most.

Multiculturalism is when the individuals in a state are represented to be equal, regardless their race, culture or gender (Taylor, Charles. 1994.). Instead of integrating the existing cultures together as it would happen in interculturalism, multiculturalism would allow the cultures to exist parallelly besides each other. The positive side would be that these two countries do not differ in the native language and the main religion, because of this, the number of possible conflicts is lower. The negative side is the low possibility of the multiculturalism to happen.

The culture of Brazil and Portugal are similar, but they do not share the same territory, they are not neighbours. If we take a look at where multiculturalism already happened, e.g. Canada, United States, and United Kingdom, it is usual that it happens in one specific territory. It should also be noted that multiculturalism is increasingly being attacked as divisive, for example by creating conflicts between the minority groups within the society. (The Guardian. 2010.). Another reason behind attacking the multiculturalism is that it creates separation, where the minority groups focus only on their own culture (Open Democracy. 2011.). Instead many policy makers favor integration which could be viewed as assimilation, where the cultures would not exist parallelly, but it would integrate the cultures into the culture of the dominant group to involve the individuals in the society. (Open Democracy. 2011.). As assimilation does not create separation between the minority groups, it is a favored method to involve the immigrants in the society.
3.5 Black Brazilians in Portugal

A high number of black Brazilians live in Portugal, not taking them into consideration might lead to errors in the overall results. Portugal is a country where the majority of immigrants come from former Portuguese colonies in Africa, and Brazil. Some of them are from the Eastern part of Europe. (Lopes and Lim, 2008). Due to historical reasons, there are some Southern former colonies in Africa such as Angola, Mozambique and Cape Verde, from which portuguese speaking black people migrate to Portugal in the hope of better opportunities. This migration results in an increasing number of black inhabitants in Portugal.

As Jorge Vala explains, there is a big difference in the attitude towards black people in Portugal than in Spain or in England, which used to be the other two big colonizers in the past. In the case of Portugal, the relationship between the country and the colonies were better, the hierarchy was less relevant, which opened up the possibility for not having and inflexible prejudice against them. „Despite this somber history, luso–tropicalism functions as a representation of the uniqueness and kindness of the Portuguese colonization, and of the relations between Portuguese and other people. And it helps to explain the prevalence of an antiprejudice norm in Portugal.” (Vala, 2008).

In the Western countries, black people have to face discrimination against them which impacts their lives in different aspects. The level of discrimination is high in the United States, where black people have less employment opportunities. The lack of job leads to less, or no income at all in the household, which might lead to participation in illegal activities of making money. From this point, the circle starts from the beginning, the discriminated group acts accordingly to the stereotypes.

In Europe, the discrimination against black people exists on a different level, but in the same way. In Portugal, black people are members of a minority group. If they are nationally Portuguese, they are in a more favourable situation, because they are speaking the same language, with the same accent. If someone is a member of two groups of minorities in Portugal, if they are black and Brazilian, their situation might lead to even more difficulties. Both groups have to face discrimination, the combination of it leads to even less opportunities.
3.6 Reflection

As the number of Brazilian immigrants who come from lower classes or are not highly educated is increasing in Portugal, while the unemployment in the country is decreasing, the integration of these immigrants in the society is going to differ from the methods they used in the last decades. As this research is made with well-educated students, the result shows us the general treatment they experience, which is not based on education or social class, but only on the nationality. While Portugal is known to be a welcoming country for immigrants, the case of Brazilians might be special, due to historical reasons.

4. Research Methodology

4.1 Main information about the research

The research has been completed with surveys. The reason why this method is chosen, is because this way a high number of people can be approached, the results are more representative about the discrimination than if only a handful of the students were interviewed. The main forms of discrimination are well-known, but every single student might experience it differently, in different situations or from different kind of people. This way, the survey enables us to take a look at how the students experience it, and might find a connection between their gender, language skills, age and discrimination.

The surveys have been handed to them in English and Portuguese version, based on their English knowledge. The ones that speak english complete the surveys in English, the rest of them were given a Brazilian-Portuguese version. The survey can be found in the appendix.

Focus group interviews

Two students of the Brazilian interviewee sample, who also completed the survey were asked about their thoughts about the results of the survey, a 20 years old female and a 26 years of male. In the short interviews they were told the results of each related questions to the treatment and they were asked about their opinion, how they see the results are representative and further comments. The focus group was useful because the students had an opportunity to tell if the results are reliable. As they experience the discrimination, with showing the results they were able to give an explanation for certain behaviours. The interviews are analyzed after the analysis of the survey results.
4.2 Sampling method

During the research, the snowflake sampling method was used which is asking the participants to find more participants. This way, when it is difficult to find a specific social group, the network of the students helps us to be able to find more students. (https://revisesociology.wordpress.com/2011/05/04/5-sampling-methods/) The Brazilians in Coimbra usually tend to know other Brazilians, they are likely to form friendships because of their same nationality. Accordingly, it is easier to find a bigger number of respondents. The disadvantage of this sampling method is the possibility of finding Brazilians only from a specific social group (e.g. from the same faculty or from the same activist group), or from the same gender or age. To eliminate this possibility and to obtain a more representative data for all the Brazilians at the University of Coimbra, the surveys are filled out by students studying at different faculties in the university. The surveys have been distributed online or handed over in a printed version to the Brazilian students, who had a few days to return the survey, which did not take more than 10 minutes to complete.

The reason of choosing the students from this university to complete the survey, was because they might experience discrimination in several different situations. As they are young, and attend university, they might meet discrimination in the school, in the everyday life and even at work if they have any. They are treated as adults, especially in the everyday life. Their different kind of social roles in several different situations enable us to take a look at how they are treated in general, and also it can be seen in what situations they experiencing it on a higher or lower level. The age difference and the different faculties help us to ask people from different backgrounds or interests, how the discrimination affects their life, if it is in the same way or in a different way, and this way it is easier to rule out gender inequality or age as a causal factor in the discrimination, and we can concentrate on the discrimination based on nationality easier.

4.3 Circumstances

The students have been assured that they will remain anonymous, and the data is used only for this research. „The security, anonymity and privacy of research subjects and informants
should be respected rigourously, in both quantitative and qualitative research.” (International Sociological Association. 2001. „Code of Ethics“)

Further personal data has been asked from the respondents about themselves. These data specify their gender, age, the subject they are studying, the time they have already spent in Portugal, the length of their future stay.

4.4 Structure

The basic questions refer to their experiences about the discrimination against them, whether they experienced any negative discrimination, and if it happened, in what form. The answers to the questions in the survey are given in most of the cases. The students had to decide which one is the one that describes their thoughts about the subject the most. In the majority of the questions, the students have to decide if the treatment they experience from the Portuguese people are positive, negative or neutral in certain situations. In the survey, the word „discrimination” is avoided. The word „treatment” is used because of its neutrality. When hearing the word „discrimination”, people tend to think about the negative discrimination only, using this word might change their thoughts and answers. With a more neutral word as „treatment”, they are less affected by the usage of the words and might give more valid answers.

4.5 Observation

After the surveys, a descriptive analysis is completed. We are interested in different aspects Brazilians experience the discrimination if they experience any. The error that needs to be avoided is the possibility of observing an existence of a negative discrimination which is truly a cultural difference in the behaviour. Portuguese people might behave in social situations in a different way than the Brazilian people in Brazil. They have been asked about how they see the treatment from Brazilians to Portuguese immigrants in Brazil.

4.6 Further possible errors

During the research, the fact that the discrimination the respondents reported might be caused by another factor, not only the nationality, needs to be taken into consideration. The reason
can also be gender, appearance, and sexual orientation or immigration. Knowing this possible error, the questions in the surveys are formed in a way in which it is emphasized towards the respondents that the discrimination because of national reasons are to be examined. In the surveys, the Code of Ethics according to the International Sociological Association. (International Sociological Association. 2001. „Code of Ethics”.) are followed.

5. Findings

5.1 Analysis of the surveys

The surveys was completed by 21 Brazilian students. In this section, we are taking a look at the results and see how they experience the treatment towards them so far in Portugal. At the end, we are making a conclusion about the general treatment.

5.1.1 Gender, Age and Education

The surveys were completed by 13 male and 8 female students.

Most of the students are aged between 18 and 23, who are making their Bachelor degree at the university. One respondent is 26 years old, and the eldest one is 40 years old.
Since the snowflake sampling method has been used, the majority of the respondents are studying at the Faculty of Economics. The other respondents were Law, Psychology, Sociology, Languages and Management studies.

![Faculty of studies chart]

5.1.2 Staying in Portugal

The respondents were asked about how much time have they already spent in Portugal, and for how long are they going to stay. The importance of this question was to see how their answers might be relevant to the questions of the survey about the treatment. Those who have been in Portugal for longer time have more experiences, and might have a more clear vision of the Portuguese people’s attitude towards them. Some of the students have been here for shorter time, and are here for a shorter time period due to a scholarship opportunity, the rest of the respondents stay here for longer years, completing the Bachelor’s or Master’s degree. 3 of the respondents reported that they have been in the country for less than 3 months, 3 of them reported they have spent more than 3 and less than 6 months, the rest of the respondents have spent more than 7 months, 8 of them have spent more than 1 year already in Portugal. The high number of students who have spent more than half a year in the country enables us to say, the respondents are reliable due to the lot of experience of them.
The respondents were asked how much longer are they staying in Portugal. Most of the respondents said, that they are staying for more than 1 year. Most of the students are not here with a determined scholarship (e.g. Erasmus) but are students from the university for the Bachelor’s degree. It is important to mention, that the Brazilians can only go to the university with a high monthly fee, which is higher than the monthly fee which the national students, or students from the European Union countries have to pay. For this reason, some of the Brazilians make an attempt to get a Portuguese nationality. However, this fact enables us to assume that the students come from a middle or higher social class. The discrimination they have to face might be different from the treatment towards the Brazilian immigrants who come from lower classes or poverty. The 3 students who reported to stay here for 0-3 months are currently in Brazil, they have spent 1 semester at the university with a scholarship opportunity.
5.1.3 Description of treatment in the university area

In the survey, the students were asked about how they would describe the general treatment towards them at the university area, as an example, during the classes, treatment from the teachers. The respondents had to choose the answer from a scale from very negative to very positive.

Most of the students reported the treatment towards them is 'Rather positive' in the school area. 3 students reported it is very positive, 5 of them reported it is neutral, and no one reported a negative general treatment towards them. The university is an institution for higher education, where usually a high number of students are from different nationalities. At the University of Coimbra, not only the number of Erasmus students are high, but we can find a big number of Brazilian and other Portuguese speaking students also from Portuguese post-colonies, who decide to finish the degree in the city. As they are well-educated students, the majority of them are from middle or higher social class, the discrimination towards them at the university area might not be high, where the personal interaction plays an important role with teachers and other students.

5.1.4 Description of treatment towards them in the city during everyday activities
In this question, the students were asked to describe the treatment they experience in the city from Portuguese inhabitants (e.g. When they are in the supermarket, on the streets asking for help, at the train station buying tickets etc).

As we can see from the responses, the treatment is slightly more negative in this area than at the university. 8 students reported the treatment is positive, 8 students reported it is neutral, 4 students reported the treatment they experience is rather negative and 1 student reported it is very negative. There might be different reasons behind the difference in the treatment at the university and city area. It might not only be because of nationality reasons, but also because in the university, the students are treated in a different way than in the everyday life in the city. They are receiving a lot of help from the teachers, and are studying in an institution of higher education. In the city, where they are treated as adults, their roles in the society are different, they might get treated in a more neutral, or negative way. Without the high amount of personal interaction which exists at the university area, they might be discriminated based only on their Brazilian accent. In this case, without knowing more about the personal information or social roles of the specific young adult immigrant, the frequency and the type of treatment is different in the everyday life area.
5.1.5 Treatment towards them during student related social activities

In this question, the students were asked to describe the treatment towards them during the social activities which can be connected to the student life. In the survey, going out with friends or sport events were mentioned as examples.

The respondents described the treatment from very positive to rather negative, most of the students said 'Rather positive'. During these events, they usually meet with friends, or with other students from the university. Coimbra is known for being a city for students, the central point of the city is the university. In the nightlife, the city is filled with the students from all the faculties, this way, the treatment the Brazilian students experience when going out, it is mostly from other Portuguese students, or international students.

5.1.6 Different treatment

In the next question of the survey, the students were asked if they have ever felt treated in a different way compared to Portuguese inhabitants because of their Brazilian nationality.
The majority of respondents reported they have experienced a different kind of approach. 4 students reported they experienced a more positive, 5 students reported they have experienced a more negative, and 10 students reported they have experienced both more positive or more negative approach. Only 2 students reported they did not experienced a different, more positive or more negative treatment. It is important to mention, that both these 2 students have spent less than 3 months in Portugal so far. The respondents who reported that they have experienced a both more positive and negative approach have all spent at least 4 months in the country, and 5 of them have spent more than 13 months in Portugal so far. Only male students, who already have spent more than 7 months in the country reported a more positive approach. 3 of the students that reported a more negative approach are females.

5.1.7 Frequency of experiencing a different approach

In this question the students were asked to describe how frequently they feel the more positive or more negative approach, or discrimination from the Portuguese inhabitants.
The majority of the respondents chose the answer 'Rather frequently' or 'Only a few occasions'.

5.1.8 The type of negative treatment

The students were asked about the type of the negative treatment they have experienced because of their nationality. A list was given, to choose those that apply with the option to choose more than 1.
As it can be seen from the data, the majority of the respondents reported a negative attitude from Portuguese inhabitants to Brazil and Brazilian people. More than half of the students reported an unpolite way of speaking, 9 students reported ignorance, 8 students reported unpolite behaviour and 7 Brazilians reported contempt. There was no ‘Aggressive physical behaviour’, and only one ‘Negative non-verbal signs’.

5.1.9 Reaction to negative treatment

When the students were asked about how their reaction to the treatment, most of them reported they ignored it. 3 of them showed intolerance in a verbal way, 4 of them reported different reactions, e.g. not taking it seriously, polite reaction without any conflicts, sometimes getting mad but sometimes just laughing on it, and one reported to act in the same unpolite behaviour as he have been treated.

![Reaction to negative treatment chart]

5.1.10 Language

The students were asked what would happen if they used another language. In one question, they had to answer how the treatment towards them would change if they used the European Portuguese accent.
To this question, the expectation was a more positive approach. As language is one of the reasons behind the discrimination, avoiding this factor might lead to a better treatment. Almost all of the respondents think the treatment they experience would be more positive in this case, only 5 of them reported there would not be a difference. These 5 students have been in the country for more than 7 months, and when they have been asked about the treatment they experience in different contexts, they all reported a neutral and positive approach towards them. 4 of them are males.

After, they have been asked if they thought about speaking in English in order to hide their nationality and get a better or more neutral treatment.
Almost all of them reported they do not want to hide their nationality by speaking in English. One student has thought about it, and only one student has tried it so far. In the next question, she has been asked how the treatment changed when speaking in English, she reported a more positive approach than when speaking with Brazilian accent. This result shows, how the discrimination or negative treatment the student experienced was based not on the fact that she is an immigrant, but because she is an immigrant from Brazil. As the data shows, the Brazilian immigrants in Portugal in the last decades tend to come from lower social classes (Padilla, Beatriz. 2006. „Brazilian migration to Portugal: Social Networks and Ethnic Solidarity”. Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico. p.2.) the discrimination against them might increase. In the case of the University of Coimbra, the international people studying there are usually from Europe, and usually use the English language which shows a higher educational level, as in Portugal it is not the native language. Speaking with a Brazilian accent does not show any higher educational level in the same way as English does.

5.1.11 Employment opportunities

The students have been asked about how they see their future employment opportunities in Portugal and in Brazil. Even though they are currently living in Portugal, studying at the University of Coimbra, only 2 students said there are more opportunities for them in Portugal. As Brazil is a developing country, with a high rate of poverty and unemployment, and Portugal has a decreasing unemployment, the expectation to this answer was a higher number of ’More possibilities in Portugal’. The reason behind the high number of students reporting to have more possibilities in Brazil might be caused by different factors. The higher social class which the majority comes from opens up more options in Brazil, especially if they have the opportunity to study. Another reason might be the discrimination against Brazilians, or the less opportunities for foreigners in general in Portugal. However, there are more possibilities for foreigners in employment when they speak the native language of the country.
5.1.12 Discrimination against Portuguese immigrants

The students were asked if they think the Portuguese immigrants are positively or negatively discriminated in Brazil. The answers were almost equally distributed. 7 students reported the Portuguese people are positively, 6 students reported they are negatively discriminated and 8 respondents said that the Portuguese immigrants are not treated differently in Brazil. The distribution of the answers show, that the discrimination against the Portuguese people is not extrem. Since they did not see any difference in the treatment, or might mention either a positive or negative treatment in equal distribution, it can happen that those have seen a couple of cases in which Portuguese individuals experienced a different treatment. However, it can be stated, that if they were either positively or negatively discriminated on a higher level, the answers to this question would not be so equally distributed. In the next question the students have been asked about what they are going to add or mention, which we are going to discuss below, however, one of the answers gives an explanation for the positive discrimination towards the Portuguese in Brazil. One of the respondent said, that it is known in Brazil, that if someone comes from Europe, he must be highly educated. Europe gives a good reputation to the immigrants, which might lead for better opportunities.

5.1.13 Specific negative or positive treatment

In some cases, the students mentioned some specific treatment in the last question in which they were asked to describe if they would like to add something related to the questions. Let
us start with the ones that contain a positive meaning, treatment. As the survey aimed to find out more about the negative discrimination, the students who reported a positive approach in general explained in the last question how they see the positive treatment. One student said, Portuguese people treat him very well. Another student mentioned, the treatment is not different from the Portuguese inhabitants. Another respondent reported, it seems that Portuguese people like his accent, and the last reported a general good experience.

In the rest of the surveys where the 18th question was completed, the specific treatment the student mentioned contain negative treatment. A female respondent reported, she heard a Portuguese man saying that Brazilian women are all 'whores’, and Brazilian men are all 'thieves’. Another student reported to hear the words 'Brazilians do not speak the real Portuguese’ from a Portuguese individual. Another female respondent mentioned to be badly treated when some of the Portuguese found out her nationality. Another female reported a specific occasion when the form of negative treatment can be connected to the language differences between Brazilian and European Portuguese. In Brazil, the word 'Você’ means 'You’, both in a formal and informal way. In any situation, it is not only accepted to use this word, but they do not have any other form. In Portugal, the word 'Você’ is formal, but only in some cases. The teachers at the university can say 'Você’ to the students, but it is not polite for a student to use this word to the teacher. This form is similar to the word 'Maga’ in Hungarian. It is formal, but it does not show politeness when an individual is using it. This difference between the Portuguese and Brazilian accent is well known for the European Portugues individuals. A student reported, when she talked to the teacher at the university, she used the word 'Você’. After this, the teacher asked back with an angry tone in his voice, 'What is your cultural level?’.

Another student reported a general bad treatment because of her nationality, saying bad words and unpolite behaviour.

A student reported a negative specific case, when he arrived to the airport in Portugal from Brazil. The security guard said to the other in the respondent’s presence: 'The ones that were dominated are now invading us’.
5.2. Focus Group Interviews

First, the male students were asked about the results. When asked about the results of the treatment in the school area, one reported: „The results are representative. In the institution of higher education, even if the teachers or students do not like Brazilians, they are not going to show it, as they are more educated they show more tolerance and a more positive approach”. To the question of the negative treatment in the city area during everyday activities, he reported the different treatment is not common, but it happens in some cases. Normally, it is a neutral treatment. To the results of the type of the negative treatment, he reported: „The results are realistic, the general negative attitude is the most common. It is not surprising there was no aggressive physical behaviour, the Portuguese people are more polite than that. If there is a negative treatment, it is happening in a different way, e.g. unpoltie speaking.”. He commented about the results of the reaction to negative treatment: „The results are perfect, they are representative. Brazilians are usually passive people, even though sometimes it would be important to fight back.” When showing the results of the question about the European Portuguese accent, he reported he knows a Brazilian family in Portugal, in which the family members only use the Brazilian accent at home, they prefer using the European Portuguese when going out in order to avoid negative stereotypes and treatment. He reported about the employment opportunities, that the results might be dependent on the area of studies, not the country. In Brazil, a lawyer or doctor has the possibility to have a higher amount of monthly income than in Portugal, while other professions have lower income in Brazil than in Portugal. He has been asked about his opinion to the results in general, he reported: „The results are representative. Only the one about the employment opportunities can depend on area of studies as well, I think the rest of the results are reliable.”.

The second student is the female, and is a 20 years old Brazilian. She reported, that the negative treatment depends from person to person, not only because of behaviour but because their perception of the treatment is different. „I am more sensible, and I am used to talk to educated people who act polite, and here in Portugal I am not treated so good.”. She also reported that the results of the question how Brazilians experience the approach towards them is reliable. „The approach is either really positive or really negative. Neutral exists, but only in the first few minutes, as the conversation goes on it usually goes in a really positive or really negative way”. She has been shown the results of how the students reacted in case of negative treatment. She said: „Ignoring it sometimes the best way to react. We are the
immigrants in their country, we have some fear that if we react unpolitely, then we only enforce the stereotypes they already have about us.”.

The comments from these two Brazilians on the results show how the data is reliable. With the help of short interviews, the reasons behind the certain way of behaviours can be seen, and how the ignorance is the best way to react to negative treatment.

6. Conclusion

According to the data and the scientific articles, the language differences, the different culture, the history of these two countries’ relationship and the increasing number of Brazilian immigrants in Portugal can be connected to the discrimination they have to experience in the country. In the surveys, the students have been asked about the type of the treatment, from which we can see that the negative treatment mostly happens not at the school area but in the city, during the everyday activities. The majority of the students reported a general negative attitude to Brazil and Brazilian people, from which it is visible that the discrimination exists not because of the fact that being from another country, but it is specifically towards Brazil. This way, it might be possible that the discrimination in the city area happens in the same way to the immigrants that are not students.

As the research was made at the University of Coimbra, the negative treatment towards the Brazilian students might differ at other parts of the country. Portugal is known to be a conservative country, but as Lisbon is a bigger city, the outcome of the same research would probably show different results. One of the students reported apart from the survey, that as she sees the negative treatment towards her was lower in Porto, which is the second biggest city in Portugal, located on the Northern part of the country. She also said, she thinks the inhabitants in big cities are more open minded, this is why the approach is more positive. The difference between the treatment in the Southern and Northern parts needs more research, as this paper concentrated on Coimbra.

The students would feel a lower level of exclusion if the prices of studies at the university were the same for them as for the Portuguese students. The higher financial responsibilities only allow Brazilian students to study from a higher social class. This way, the surveys were completed only by students from this specific class. If the Brazilian immigrants could attend the university for lower prices, it would allow us to measure the discrimination in a wider
social class level. A 20 year old female student reported, while the price of studies is 100 Euros per months for the Portuguese students, the Brazilians have to pay 700 Euros per month. Even though Portugal is known to be a welcoming country for immigrants, especially for the ones from former colonies, the discrimination appears in social situations as well. Since the main reason behind the discrimination is the existence of negative stereotypes, it cannot be solved easily.

The reason of choosing the topic of discrimination in this research was that even though it exists everywhere, the negative treatment differs in several aspects in every culture and affects the individuals’ lives differently. We could see how millions of people died during the history because of their nationality, culture or skin color, nowadays in the European Union the approach is to eliminate the negative treatment which is not based on the person’s performance. The case of the treatment towards Brazilian immigrants in Portugal is wide, more information, research is needed to see how Portuguese treat them in different age, gender, situation, workplace, social class etc. After, a companion of the surveys would allow us to see in which part of the country are they more, or less discriminated and see what correlation exists between the qualities of the Brazilian individuals there in average and the level of discrimination. From the results of the surveys that were made in this research, it can be seen how the young students from middle or high social class experience the treatment. For further research, it would be important to prepare a survey for young immigrants who are not highly educated, to be able to see the difference. The next step would be to prepare a research for highly educated, working Brazilian immigrants to take a look at the employment opportunities for them, and to see what kind of treatment they experienced while searching for a job. After this, we would have an overall picture of the discrimination in the school, working and everyday life area.

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Appendices

Questions

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this survey measuring the treatment of the Brazilian students studying at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. The survey may take 5-10 minutes to complete.

All personal information in this survey are going to be used for research purposes only, will be evaluated, accumulated and will be kept in the strictest confidentiality.

Choose and **underline your best appropriate answer** from the list where given. Write your detailed answers where no rates are provided.

Your participation is highly appreciated.

Zsófia Haffner

1) Age: ........

2) Gender:  Male / Female

3) Faculty of your studies at the University of Coimbra:

............................................................................................................................... 

4) How much time have you spent already in Portugal?

   0-3 months,  
   4-6 months,  
   7-12 months,  
   13 months or more

5) How much time are you going to stay in Portugal?
6) How would you describe the general treatment towards you from Portuguese people in the school area (e.g. during the classes, from teachers and from students)?

   very positive,
   rather positive,
   neutral,
   rather negative,
   very negative

7) How would you describe the general treatment towards you from Portuguese people during your everyday activities in the city (e.g. at the train station, asking for help, in the supermarket)?

   very positive,
   rather positive,
   neutral,
   rather negative,
   very negative

8) How would you describe the general treatment towards you from Portuguese people during student related social events (e.g. sport events, during the nightlife, when going out)?

   very positive,
   rather positive,
   neutral,
   rather negative,
   very negative

9) Have you ever felt that you have been treated differently compared to the local inhabitants only because of your Brazilian nationality?

   Yes, generally I experienced a more positive approach
   Yes, generally I experienced a more negative approach
   Yes, I experienced both more positive and negative approach
   No, I haven’t experienced any difference approach so far
10) Please answer this question **ONLY** if the answer was ‘YES’ to question 9. If your answer was ‘NO’ to question 9., go to question 11.

How frequently have you experienced rather positive or rather negative treatment?

- Very frequently
- Rather frequently
- Only a few occasions
- Rarely

11) Do you think that the treatment towards you would be different (more positive or more negative) if you spoke with a European Portuguese accent and people in Portugal would not find out your nationality?

- It would be more positive
- It would be more negative
- It would NOT make a difference

12) When you experienced a negative treatment from local inhabitants, in what form did it happen? Please underline all you experienced. If there was no negative treatment, please go to question 13.

- Unpolite behaviour
- Unpolite way of speaking
- Negative attitude to Brazil and/or Brazilian people
- Aggressive physical behaviour
- Contempt
- Ignorance
- Negative non-verbal signs
- Other: .............................................................................................................

13) How did you react to the negative treatment? Please describe in a few words.

.............................................................................................................................
.............................................................................................................................
.............................................................................................................................

14) Have you ever thought about speaking in English instead of Portuguese to hide your Brazilian nationality in order to be treated differently?

- Yes, it already happened
- Yes, but I haven’t tried it so far
No, I do not want to hide it

15) Please answer this question **ONLY** if the answer was ‘Yes, it already happened’ to question 14. If your answer was ‘Yes, but I haven’t tried it so far’ OR ‘No’ to question 14., go to question 16.

How would you describe the treatment you experienced when hiding your Brazilian nationality compared to when you do not hide it?

More positive
More negative
It did not make a difference

16) What do you think about your future employment opportunities when comparing Portugal to Brazil?

There are more possibilities for me in Portugal
There are more possibilities for me in Brazil
I do not think there is a relevant difference

17) Do you think that the Portuguese immigrants in Brazil are positively or negatively discriminated?

Yes, positively
Yes, negatively
No, they are not treated differently

18) Have you experienced a specific negative or positive treatment towards you that you would like to mention? Please describe:
....................................................................................................................................................
....................................................................................................................................................
....................................................................................................................................................