

# Documentary Method and Participatory Research: Some Interfaces

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As the pluralisation of spheres of life emerged, qualitative research became more relevant to study social relations. In an attempt to recognise the potential of the documentary method and of participatory research for the study of issues concerning the social and educational experiences of subjects, this article proposes to present conceptual and methodological frameworks of both approaches. Initially we explain the historical context of participatory research and also present the frameworks of reference of this approach. Then we discuss the documentary method developed in Germany since the 1980s based on Karl Mannheim's sociology of knowledge. Furthermore the authors describe the ethnographic route of two experiments in research with young Brazilians in different socio-spatial contexts. These experiments were guided by the assumptions of the documentary method, but also by principles that establish points in common with the assumptions of participatory research.

**Key words:** qualitative research, participatory research, documentary method, black youths, rural youths, Brazilian youths

## 1. Introductory notes

The new social contexts and perspectives present specific local and temporal peculiarities, in which human expressions and activities clamor for recognition and transformation. These new configurations provide challenges as regards the theoretical-methodological procedures to be adopted in research,