

## Not Just Expansion, A Revolution

### How to Understand Brazil's Expansion of Higher Education Access since 2003?

**2003:**  
3 million enrolled in all universities

No public policies to expand access

Limited Options, only in major cities:  
48 universities,  
148 campuses,  
114 cities

Vestibular: separate exams for each university

7% of 18-24 year-olds enrolled.

**2014:**  
7.8 million overall

New public policies to expand access: Reuni, Prouni, FIES

Expanded Options, new universities & campuses:  
63 university,  
312 campuses,  
275 cities

ENEM: single entrance exam for all universities

18% of 18-24 year-olds enrolled.

## Mixed Data & Interdisciplinary Methods

- 7 weeks ethnographic field work
- Online surveys of current students (3500)
  - 499 in 2016 (14%)
  - 376 in 2017 (11%)
- 50 recorded student/faculty interviews
- Visiting colleges, high schools, & technical schools
- Statistical data requested from national Ministry of Education on IM admissions.



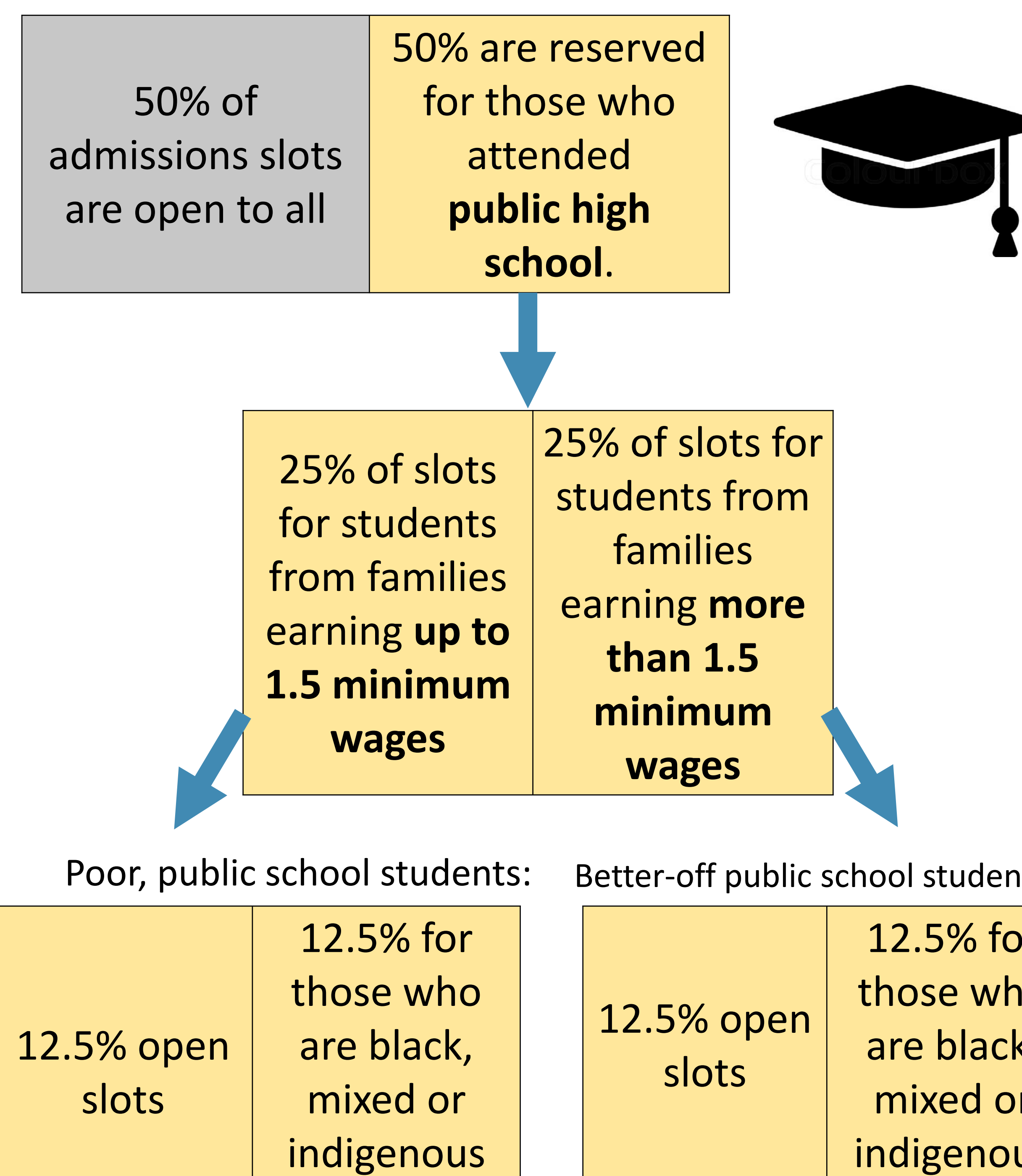
## Democratizing with Quotas

A vast expansion of high-quality federal, tuition-free higher education:

2003  
470,000

2014  
940,000

A national 2012 law mandates quotas in public higher education



Results among federal university students:

- A substantial increase in enrollment of black and mixed students between 2003 and 2014 from 34% to 48% of all students. (The country is about half-and-half)
- A substantial increase in enrollment of students earning less than 2 minimum wages from 26% to 37% of all students.

## The World Bank is Wrong!



The World Bank report of November 2017:

- Brazilian "higher education is highly inefficient, such that almost fifty percent of resources could be saved"
- Brazilian higher education is inequitable and favors the wealthy (they do not discuss quotas)

Recommendations:

- Reduce public spending per federal university student to levels equivalent to low-quality, for-profit sector of higher education
- Introduce tuition fees for federal universities

## Enhancing Access and Equity

Brazil is among the 10 worst countries in the world in terms of distribution of wealth and racial inequality. As a result of the policies of left-center governments since 2003, socio-economically and racially marginalized people have now been incorporated into the student body of the elite federal universities.

Put simply, the best universities are no longer an enclave of white, wealthy private school students, whose tuitions are paid by everyone's taxes.

## Acknowledgements

The two years of this Cost of Opportunity Project have been supported by Bass Connections, Duke Brazil Initiative, the Global Brazil Humanities Lab, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Special thanks to our Brazilian co-director, Alexandre Fortes and his team of undergraduate and graduate students at the Instituto Multidisciplinar at the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro.