How is governability build in the city? Councillors, policies and territories in São Paulo

The research engages with the question of how political mobilization is produced in large cities and what are its effects on urban governance and policy implementation. When it comes to the global south, clientelism is often the theoretical key by which this issue is analyzed. In its best formulation, it abandons the culturalist and developmentalist approaches and replace them with an understanding of the phenomenon as a form of aggregation and interest intermediation between state and society. On a macroscopic level of analysis, the literature of political science that mobilizes such a reference has focused attention on understanding the transformations of national political systems and how clientelism has changed and adapted over time. At the micro level, sociological and anthropological approaches have looked at the daily life of political mobilization in an urban context through the actions of brokers. The connection between the two analytical levels, however, remains overlooked and is the focus of this work. The research looks at the city of São Paulo and is carried out using different methods, including data analysis, interviews with bureaucrats and politicians, and participatory observation of two parliamentary mandates (center left and center right) from the perspective of two brokers. Following their networks of relationships with people and institutions (micro-brokers, bureaucrats, participatory councils, social movements, evangelical churches) as well as their multilevel negotiations, we seek to demonstrate how these actors affect public policy, urban governance and their role in the connection between local and national level.