



THEME MONITOR, 07/04/2015

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## Fla-Flu Game in Carioca Championship feeds controversy on the nets

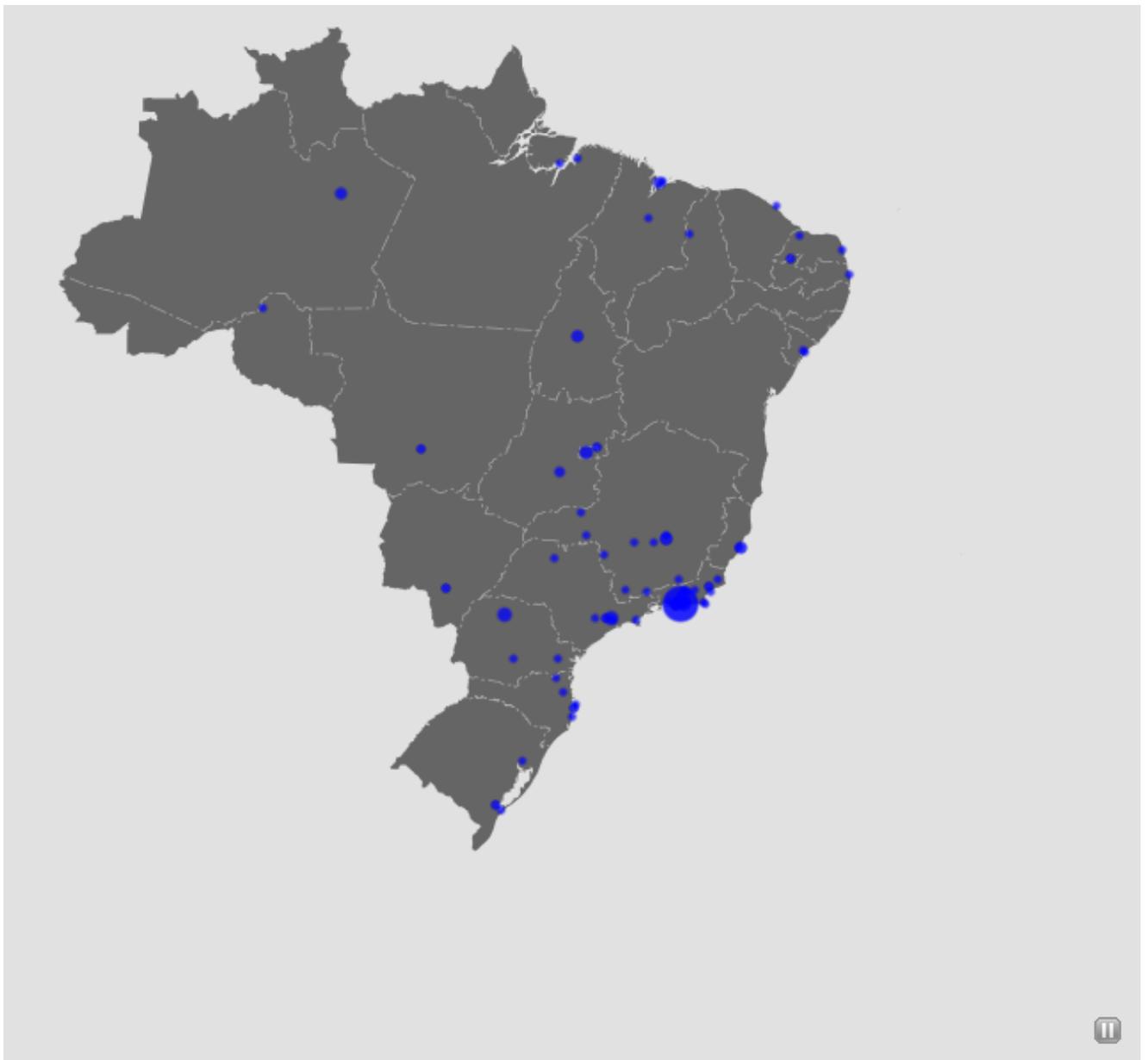
 Lucas Calil



Historically known as the ‘most charming game in Brazil,’ the Carioca Championship gained this year another definition – the ‘most controversial.’ The disputes on and off the field between Flamengo and Fluminense, on the one hand, and the Rio Football Federation (FERJ) on the other, had been stealing the spotlight from what has been happening in matches and mobilizing fans on the social networks, who have been defending the teams they support. Over the last week, for example, around 128,000 posts on Twitter – according to DAPP/FGV research – about the ‘gag law’ invoked by the entity against Vanderlei Luxemburgo, the manager of Flamengo, and refereeing controversies in the classic game this Sunday between Flamengo and Fluminense and the duel between Vasco and Friburguense.

Punished by the Court of Sport of Rio (TJD-RJ) for criticizing FERJ, Luxemburgo maintained his protests against the entity and even tapped over his mouth in a press conference as a mark of repudiation. Adversaries of the federation, Flamengo and Fluminense joined their complaints causing a great impact on Twitter: there were 51,600 mentions between Monday of last week and Saturday, before the Fla-Flu match, about the punishment of Luxa and the behaviour of FERJ towards complains – the hashtags #fechadocomluxa (with Luxa) and #somostodosluxa (we are all Luxa) were shared more than one thousand times on the social network.

This Sunday, due to the events in the match – won 3-0 by Flamengo in Maracanã –, the volume of mentions increased, principally due to the controversial sending off of the Fluminense forward Fred. During the game there was a peak of 3100 mentions per minute, many with explicit criticisms of Ferj, and 77,100 between Sunday morning and 1 pm on Monday. Vasco’s defeat to Friburguense also had repercussions, due to the three penalties given to the club from São Januário (Vasco), who nevertheless still lost 5 - 4. On the social networks supporters of other teams from Rio have questioned the high number of penalties awarded to Vasco during the state championship.



Notable among the words most used by internauts about the subject are offenses and criticisms of the organization of the Carioca championship, such as shame, robbery, and gag, each cited at least 1500 times between Sunday and Monday. Due to the particular events of the games this Sunday – the sending off of Fred and the defeat of Vasco –, DAPP-FGV used two research structures to capture on the nets the different contexts of Monday to Saturday and Sunday, polarized by to special events.

## Sobre o autor



Lucas Calil

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