Commuting through the Araucanía: an analysis of the mobility practices of university students with access to free education

The present paper analyzes the commuting of university students from La Araucanía region, who had access to free education in 2016. It is important to mention that the study subjects do not live in Temuco, but they study there, for that reason they need to commute from their towns to the capital city. The requirements to be applicable for free education are the following: the students must belong to the first socioeconomic decile of the population and they must be enrolled in an undergraduate in-person program – daytime or night school - offered by eligible institutions (Mineduc, 2015). The study aims to analyze the conditions and experiences of the student’s daily commuting to school, considering unnoticed aspects that are not included in the promotion of inclusive educational policies by the introduction of free education. These aspects are supported by the social differences that affect the access to higher education based on an approach focused on daily mobility.

**Keywords:** free higher education, mobility, commuting, social exclusion, residential segregation