Abstract
This article presents the results of research on expert discourse about teenage crime in the criminal justice system of Uruguay. This research was conducted in Montevideo between 2009 and 2010. Materials and methods: The study analyzes the discourses that emerge from a random sample of court records filed in 2009 in two of the four Youth Courts of Montevideo, including the interventions of prosecutors, defenders, judges and social and psychological experts. It also analyzes the expert reports of psychologists, social workers and social educators from penal institutions for adolescents that are addressed to the Court and, therefore, included in court documents. Results: Empirical work accounts for the influence of the social and family context of teenagers on judicial processes and the relevance that the de-socialization of poverty may have to decision-making. Discussion The debate opened by the results of the investigation is related to the legal debate over the right to judge the actor in place of the infraction, as well as the alarm that social risk causes in punitive mechanisms—which often leads to the criminalization of poverty.

Keywords
Adolescent Infringement, Judicial System, Youth Penal System.