

In principium...

Brazil is currently establishing itself as an economic and political power within a global context and, at the same time, the interdisciplinary study of Brazil is emerging at a high academic level. Several universities worldwide are offering programs under the term 'Brazilian Studies', which differs from the traditional Latin American Studies, by putting in evidence the specificities of Brazil in comparison with the other Latin American countries. More and more, academic communities of Brazilianists exchange ideas across universities and collaborate on research projects inside and outside Brazil.

In view of this context, the arrival of a journal totally dedicated to Brazilian Studies is both exciting and very necessary. *Brasiliana* intends to be a dynamic international academic forum where scholars from diverse disciplines in Humanities and Social Sciences will be able to publish research, establish academic discussion, exchange ideas and draw on each others' research within the field of Brazilian Studies.

This first issue of the journal already shows its importance to the academic discussions on how to define Brazilian Studies today, which makes the journal a precursor within its field. In the pages of this inaugural issue we are setting the point of departure for the construction of a field of research in order to open an epistemological discussion of the term Brazilian Studies. Two texts in the Dossier section are addressing this question, discussing parameters for 'Brazilian Studies', its scope, limitations, projections and perspectives. These texts are addressing very relevant points concerning the definition of what is an interdisciplinary field of study. Prof. Anthony Pereira, director of Brazil Institute at King's College London, member of our Editorial Board and currently Vice-President of the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA), opens the journal with an essay that summarizes the difficulty of justifying an academic discipline

that revolves around the study of a single country. Pereira's text addresses the historical background of the idea of Brazilian Studies and considers the challenges to improving and developing it today. Rambourg's article, in turn, proposes a solid ontological discussion about Brazilian Studies within a French context.

The General Articles section contains a provoking article about the education of Brazilian elites in foreign countries and the relevance of this to the construction of the academic community in Brazil. The remaining two articles in this section focus on literature. One analyzes Danish literature translated into Portuguese, but takes the discussion further by addressing the world of literary translation in Brazil. The other article provides us with readings on Hilda Hilst's writings.

The Varia section of this issue contains two contributions: the transcription of the Danish translator Peter Poulsen's lecture at Aarhus University about the difficulty in translating the word *sertão* into Danish; and an interview with Prof. Timothy Power from Oxford University, about corruption in Brazil.

We are proud to publish this first issue and we are certain that *Brasiliana* can be a solid platform within the field of Brazilian Studies, both in Humanities and the Social Sciences, as well as a firmly established international forum of ongoing academic discussions of Brazil.

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Editor