

From "Brazilian thought" to "thinking Brazil".

Considering the number of visits to the first issue of the Journal, it is clear that the idea of creating a journal totally dedicated to Brazilian Studies within the disciplines of Humanities and Social Sciences was really a necessity. This second issue of *Brasiliana* is another step in the consolidation of the initial proposal.

Continuing the initial idea of discussing the epistemology of Brazilian Studies, this second issue articulates a debate around a possible "Brazilian thought" in the humanities and social sciences. Is it possible to say that a Brazilian thought exists? If so, what are the characteristics of a Brazilian way of thinking and how can this influence the social sciences and humanities? What critical tools originate in Brazil, from a Brazilian mentality? These were the questions proposed for this issue and during the process of editing the volume we observed that the idea was expanding. At the end, we had interesting and provocative contributions that make this second issue quite unusual.

From "Brazilian thought" to "thinking Brazil". More than a chiasm, this would be the best description of the dossier of this issue. The first text, by Cristovam Buarque, Senator and Emeritus Professor of Universidade de Brasilia, and Fernanda Cornils, proposes a provocative and necessary reflection about the Brazilian democratic mentality. This text describes Brazil's political and economic progress after the redemocratization in the 1980's and then shows the recent signs of exhaustion of the Brazilian democracy in a very accurate analysis of what is called "mente do povo brasileiro". Professor Ricardo Vélez Rodríguez, in a didactic text, discusses the dilemma of the national philosophies in opposition to a universal philosophical thought and within this dilemma, he exposes the characteristics of "the adventure of thinking in Brazilian Portuguese". Still discussing the formation of a Brazilian thought and mentality, Sérgio Campos Gonçalves analyses the concept of intellectuality behind the foundation of the "Instituto Histórico e Geográfico Brasileiro" (IHGB) in 1838. This institution has been, since its origins, fundamental in the construction of the historical discourse in Brazil and, by extension, responsible for the conception of Brazilian nationality, especially through the *Journal of IHGB*, first published in 1839. The next text

addresses a very important personality of Brazilian literature and culture: Lima Barreto. Felipe Botelho Correa highlights the importance of Lima Barreto in creating a 'Brazilian diction' of Portuguese language, especially with his texts published in magazines and newspapers. Barreto's urban discourse displays, according to Correa, a picturesque view of Rio de Janeiro and this discourse would influence the diction of Portuguese language in Brazil, considering the dissemination of the magazines for which Barreto wrote. The dossier closes with an article by Professor Susanne Klengel about Vilém Flusser's well-known book about Brazil: *Auf der Suche nach einem neuen Menschen. Versuch über den Brasilianer* ("In search of a New Man. Essay on the Brazilians"). This text, written in the 1970's, constantly provokes contradictory reactions on the part of its readers. Flusser's phenomenological description of Brazilians, carefully analyzed by Klengel in this article, is still provocative in the discussion about a possible Brazilian thought.

The General Articles section contains three articles addressing, from three diverse perspectives, a very sensitive topic: the representation and participation of segregated groups within Brazilian society. Marinyze Prates de Oliveira discusses the impasses of representation of residents of Brazilian suburbs in contemporary cinema, highlighting the tendency of those films to represent an antithetic society as well as their insisting on models of subalternization of suburban characters. Rafael Leite Ferreira's article on the development of Labors' movements in the ABC region from 1978 to 1980 shows the dispute between four different interpretations to this historical movement and which meanings are behind each one of those interpretations. In the last article in this section Madhvi Gupta carefully explains why Brazil's popular sectors participated actively in health movements during the 1970's, but reduced drastically in the 1990's.

If this issue will provoke more debates, discussions and reactions, *Brasiliana* will be fulfilling its purpose and our work will be rewarded.

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