

Brazil and Water

Among other superlatives to describe Brazil, water would probably come as one of the first on a list. No country in the world has greater fresh water resources than Brazil. Despite this fact, nearly 40% of Brazil's population, or about 77 million Brazilians, are affected by the current water crisis. The explosive nature of this topic is made evident by implications of Brazil's severest drought in 80 years, which has forced authorities to ration drinking water in Southeast Brazil. A survey from 2013 had already predicted that sixteen from the total of 29 urban centres would have to look for new sources to be able to supply water until the year 2015.

Historically, water has also been an important subject of Brazilian arts and philosophy. Brazilian art and literature has a rich tradition of dealing with its exuberant water resources, their unequal distribution and the country's periodic droughts.

In this edition, *Brasiliانا* brings a dossier on Brazil and Water, with articles from across the disciplines – social science, humanities, public health, modern history, and the arts. The diversity of approaches represents how the research on water in Brazil is also superlative, in the same way as this natural resource.

The articles of this dossier focus on the origins and responses to the actual drought and the social conflicts that come together with policies related to management and exploitation of this natural resource. That this dossier represents is an effort of the academic community to address a key question for Brazil, but also with global impacts. In this dossier, we have articles that examine possible solutions for the management of water resources in Brazil in a pluridisciplinary way. The main questions the articles of this dossier address are: What kinds of relationships can a society have towards nature? To what extent is the dichotomy between nature and culture resolved through the way resources are used? And how is all of this reflected in art?

This dossier was co-edited by the organization team of the congress *Brazil and Water – Resource conflicts and the dissolution of the dichotomy between nature and culture?* held in Hamburg, Germany on December 4th and 5th 2015, Dr. Júlio Matias, Dr.

Gilberto Rescher, Prof. Dr. Markus Klaus Schäffauer, Dr. Tobias Schmitt, M.A. Yôko Woldering, to whom *Brasiliana* team express their gratitude.

This issue also brings a series of studies in the General Articles session, covering many topics of contemporary Brazil, from public policies, to literature, defence and indigenous issues, in a clear dialogue with previous editions of *Brasiliana*.

The editorial team of *Brasiliana* is extremely proud of this issue that consolidates the role of the Journal in the academic community globally.

Dr. Vinicius Mariano de Carvalho