

## ABSTRACTS

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Néstor García Canclini, *Mexico 2010: a city that improvises its globalization*

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In order to contribute to the debate whether Mexico may be considered a global city or not, this article analyzes its cultural and socio-economical infrastructure as well as the imaginary facts that contribute to place it within either an utopian horizon or one of disintegration and degradation. This work is based on a research concerning imaginary aspects in relation to diverse journeys through Mexico City as well as through national and international literature. The conclusion lies on a description of the foreseeable development trends for this city towards the year 2010: dissemination of urban space, prevalence of suburbs over Distrito Federal, democratization and citizen participation, leading place concerning mass media as well as communication nets of advanced technology and increase of violence and insecurity.

**KEY WORDS:** city, culture, globalization, imaginary.

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Eduardo Nivón Bolán, *The contradictions of the diffuse city*

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In this text, the way in which large metropolitan areas grow is called the "diffuse city". It is a new form of organization concerning social life in cities, which will be examined both historically as well as academically. The initial reference used in this reflection is the suburbs in the United States, which already has a lengthy development. Its growth has contradictions, which have been expressed in the production of limits, the weakening of the public sphere, a new type of organizations of social difference and the relation to agriculture.

**KEY WORDS:** periphery, suburb, public, private, diffuse city, edge city, metropolis, megalopolis, society of masses, rurbanization.

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Ana Rosas Mantecón, *The use of cultural patrimony in the Historical Center of Mexico City*

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Throughout various study cases concerning the Historical Center of Mexico City, this article explores the symbolic hierarchy of patrimony that underlies policies of definition and conservation of monuments although there are many different social sectors that

also share it. This article sets forth the hypothesis that such hierarchy segregates some spaces and social groups, excludes the traditional functions of the historical zone –as a daily life sociability center as well as commerce and circulation– and also leads towards a contemplative and a museum-like vision that imposes barriers for the people, who inhabit it, to be able to relate to the surrounding patrimony.

**KEY WORDS:** cultural patrimony, cultural politics, Historical center of Mexico City, social exclusion, historic monuments.

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María Ana Portal, *The construction of urban identity: the experience of loss as social evidence*

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This text represents a first reflection on the specific mechanisms that a social group –resident of a urban neighborhood of Mexico City– uses in the construction of their identity, such as when urban economical and social processes produce fundamental losses in the references that traditionally were recognized as the source of belonging.

**KEY WORDS:** identity, loss, urban issue, citizenship.

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Ricardo Pérez Montfort, *Circus, theatre and shows. Entertainment in Mexico City during the last years of the Porfirian regime*

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The main objective of this essay consists on a revision of the great variety of entertainment and pastimes during the last years of the Nineteenth Century in Mexico City. This work focuses on diverse and unusual documentation and sources in order to make a chronicle of the Mexican society's elder ways to find amusement during their leisure times. This essay concludes that some of these activities still have much to show to cultural historians about the Porfiriato and the Mexican society of those days.

**KEY WORDS:** history, culture, entertainment, leisure, 19<sup>th</sup> century, media, scenic arts, sports, modernity.

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Natalia Grisales Ramírez, *"In Tepito everything is sold but dignity". Public space and economical informality within the "wild neighborhood"*

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Embedded right in the Historic District of Mexico City, Tepito stands out as one of its oldest and most traditional neighborhoods. Many aspects of it have been

used to try to describe the social reality of this place, such as identifying particularities of those who inhabit there. A series of circumstances brought upon by chance through which this neighborhood has endured in time have contributed to the gradual formation of a generalized, expanding and marked social identity. The informal commercial activity that men as well as women and even boys and girls take part in on the streets of Tepito is the social/historical element that this article finds vital within the identity formation process of the involved social actors. The aforementioned element has also been translated throughout history into a social problem that is difficult to resolve due to its complexities.

**KEY WORDS:** informal economy, intergeneric relationships, corporativism, illegal goods, drug trafficking.

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Angela Giglia, *How to become an anthropologist in Mexico City*

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This article reflects –from a critical point of view– on a teaching experience concerning the empirical investigation of fieldwork with students of Social Anthropology in Mexico City. From the theoretical position of reflexive methodology, there is a proposal to form an objective consideration of the subject’s role within the production of knowledge as well as in the conditions of the production of anthropological insight. By means of a detailed account of the different aspects of the project, the importance of learning through practice (and not only through theory) is pointed out in order to obtain the *habitus* of anthropological research. Also, the importance of considering the specific conditions of producing research, particularly those referred to the contemporary context of a mega city such as Mexico’s capital, are emphasized.

**KEY WORDS:** reflexivity, urban anthropology, *habitus*, field work.

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Silvia Carrasco I Pons, *Theoretical orientations and problem formulation within the socio-anthropological study of human feeding*

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In a summarized way, this work exposes a panorama in regards to the cultural study of eating. First of all, three phases in the construction of socio-anthropological speech on the human feeding is distinguished. Next –and based on the previous efforts of Jack Goody and Ann Murcott, British academics– this work reviews the authors as well as the different trends of social

anthropology concerning the nourishing culture until the beginning of the 80’s during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**KEY WORDS:** feeding, anthropology, theory, culture.

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Gérard Althabe, *The construction of the foreigner in urban France*

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This article frames the rise of xenophobia in France within the context of growing unemployment and labor insecurity that represent the effects of social and economical crisis that affected this country since the 70’s. The development and establishment of xenophobia in the 80’s is analyzed through an approach that emphasizes the study of the population that considers itself as “local” and therefore it becomes author and carrier of the xenophobic discourse. This work considers that social forms –such as this discourse– originate and are structured from the reality of cohabitation of subjects with different national or ethnic origins within the frame of contemporary urban society. This article concentrates on the process of the production of the other as foreigner that tends to exclude –from everyday sociality– those subjects considered as alien and stigmatizing them as those responsible for the discomfort which is originated in the internal reality of French society.

**KEY WORDS:** foreigner, immigration, xenophobia, racism.

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César O. González Pérez, *Visibility and non-heterosexual diversity among people from Guadalajara*

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This paper explores how sexual diversity activists organized themselves in the metropolitan area of Guadalajara City. It describes different processes such as the emergence of the notion of “homosexual pride” and its fragmentation and recomposition from more critical formulations. This has happened in an area where different sexual identities coexist and struggle for legitimacy separately but sharing spaces in the public sphere. These dynamics have not emerged in isolation; the evidence suggests that such activism is tensed by the stigmas it tries to be detached from and by internal conflicts that show us that social movements are not calm. This has encouraged sexual diversity to have visibility in the political scene as well as with the creation of spaces.

**KEY WORDS:** homosexuality, gay, Guadalajara, citizenship.

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