

ABSTRACTS

G rard Althabe. *Anthropology of the contemporary world and fieldwork*

This article deals with the conditions and possibilities of anthropological research within the present context of contemporary society, considering a series of studies carried out in the School of Higher Studies in Social Sciences of Paris. This article starts out by defining—in the first place—the difference between knowledge produced by anthropology in regards to other social sciences. Secondly, the specific characteristics of fieldwork within the context of contemporary societies is recognized, emphasizing the impossibility of a holistic understanding of socio-cultural reality, which is fragmented in areas of different and separate experience (labor areas, residence, leisure). Finally, the situation on research in contemporary contexts as a specific situation—with its own logic that requires particular concepts—is demonstrated in different fieldwork cases.

KEY WORDS: methods, urban anthropology, fieldwork, ethnography.

Amalia Signorelli, *The historian ethnographer. Ernesto de Martino within the field of investigation*

This article carefully reconstructs and analyzes the forms of fieldwork used by De Martino in his studies using materials of ethnographic research on ritual possession in Apulia (Italy) kept in the personal archives, which are the foundation of his book *La terra del rimorso* that represents his most mature and complex fieldwork. This article compares and completes those materials to those in the author's collection, participating in the study with three collaborators from different disciplines. The methodological method of De Martino is demonstrated as well as his vision of interdisciplinary cooperation concerning different approaches that resolve a historical cultural problem.

KEY WORDS: ethnography, religion, curing, disease.

Carlos Garma Navarro. *Ethical problems in anthropology of religion*

This paper looks into the ethical issues that arise on the relationship between the researcher and the religious associations. The article focuses on three special contexts

where ethical aspects become important. First of all, when the researcher pretends to become a convert in order to obtain information. Then, when the researcher appears as an expert in the presence of the mass media and gives opinions on his research subjects. Finally, when the research discovers human rights abuses on the groups he or she studies.

KEY WORDS: ethics and anthropology, religious ministries, human rights, ethical codes in social sciences.

Esteban Krotz. *The multiverse cultural as a laboratory of happy life*

The text reveals the Hobbesian myth of “natural state” of humanity as a dangerous mental mold for understanding non-Western ways of life in general and Latin-American indigenous cultures in particular. As an alternative, it proposes a conception based on the best of the anthropological tradition. According to this tradition, past and present cultural diversity show themselves as a gigantic laboratory in search of a truly good way of life for all human beings and groups. Therefore, anthropology before the fourth globalization will encounter its meaning in the diagnosis of utopian tendencies contained in all human cultures that point toward the creation of social conditions that propitiate full and dignified lives for all people.

KEY WORDS: natural state, cultural diversity, globalization, inter-culturality, utopia.

Michael Kearney. *Borders and boundaries of State and Self at the end of empire*

People in border areas live in an ambiguous situation because they, in the one hand, participate in both nations and in the other, they do not participate in either one. This article analyzes how the border—as a power to establish difference—between the United States and Mexico is being affected by transnational developments that are problematic to the nation-states. Since anthropology is a discipline that is centered on the distinction between the Self and the other (which it claims to represent the deterioration of the limits and borders of the nation-state), it has severe implications for its epistemology and legitimacy as well as the form of representation of transnational communities and of

general differences. While national distinctions decline, ethnicity emerges as the consciousness of difference.

KEY WORDS: borders, transnational, communities, ethnicity, nation-state, migration.

Adelina Miranda. *Cultural borders within domestic environment. Foreign workers and Italian employers within the urban area of Naples*

This article analyzes the present visibility of women who are in constant mobility due to the transformations of the Western world. The relations that occur when local elements meet global factors are considered. The first part of the text examines the presence of Italian female immigration within the major configurations of population movements related to those of the past. The second part presents a case study in the city of Naples where an active cultural dynamic between migrants and non-migrants is reconstructed from the point of view of foreign women who work as domestic servants by the hour or full time.

KEY WORDS: migration, domestic work, gender, reproduction.

Francisco Cruces, Ángel Díaz de Rada, Honorio Velasco, Roberto Fernández, Celeste Jiménez de Madariaga, Raúl Sánchez Molina. *¿Trust, cosmetics or suspicion? A multi-sited ethnography of the relationships between institutions and users in six expert systems in Spain*

This contribution is based on a multi-sited ethnographic study carried out in six institutional contexts, mostly located at the Comunidad de Madrid (Spain), which discusses the relationships between institutions and their users in late modernity through an analysis of the multiple senses of trust experienced by experts and laymen. Ethnographies focus on key points of exchange and cultural negotiation in access to the expert system, and they reveal a complex plot where the following linking patterns are contradictorily overlapped: mere familiarity, deep and interpersonal trust, reliability or plain faith in the system, rhetorical re-personalization, and what it has been termed an attitude of 'cooperative suspicion'. Behind these linking patterns, our study manifests a double structure of legitimacy representing the tension between the formal-rational Weberian model and the allegedly re-enchanting model of institutional publicity and image creating strategies.

KEY WORDS: trust, risk, expert systems, ethnography of organizations, users, citizenship.

Rosío Córdova Plaza. *The dangers of the body or the exercise of feminine sexuality as a survival strategy*

This text was orally presented during the author's defense of her doctoral dissertation. Under a constructivist perspective of sexuality and the body, it analyses cultural features, dichotomized gender roles and historic circumstances allowing rural women of central Veracruz to manage their sexual diversification as a reproductive strategy for domestic households. It also examines feminine sexual empowerment and control over their own reproductive and erotic capacities.

KEY WORDS: gender, feminine sexuality, households.

Luis Reygadas and Manuel Adrián Hernández. *Cultural dimensions of worker's unruly practices. "Hidden compensations" and "pillage" among Mexican unionists*

This article analyzes workers' unruly practices. Breaking or avoiding norms in companies and unions, the workers take some kind of advantage. Those actions are diverse; they have different origins, orientations and purposes. This paper attempts to uncover the hidden cultural logic of unruly practices. It departs from workers' narratives and explanations. The article analyzes two cases: an American *maquiladora* at the border region in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, and an electric station close to Mexico City.

KEY WORDS: Daily resistance, unions, illegal practices, labour culture, corporativism, corruption, Mexico, *maquiladora*.

César Ceriani Cernadas. *Converting Lamanitas: inquiries concerning Toba Mormonism*

This work examines the history and action of the Mormon Church in an indigenous community of the Argentine Chaco (Formosa province). It focuses on the "Indian theme" in Mormon history and mythology, the past and present social relations between Mormons and the Toba people of Colonia La Primavera (Formosa), the ecclesiastical organization and the kind of religious practices developed in this community and ultimately the "native's point of view" in regards to the new religious ascription. Also, this study deals with other central questions concerning Mormon ideology and hegemony. However, it also examines how the Sacred Scriptures (in this case the Book of Mormon) opens up a dialectical space for the indigenous critical imagination.

KEY WORDS: religious change, Mormonism, critical imagination, hegemony, Toba, Gran Chaco, Argentina.



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