

ABSTRACTS

Krotz, Esteban, *The Production of Anthropology in the South: Characteristics, Perspectives, Lines of Thought*

In this article Krotz approaches the origin of anthropology as a scientific discipline which tries to understand the cultural diversity amidst a civilization which has tried to destroy this diversity. He analyses theoretical paradigms which applied during diverse historical moments, characterizes the peculiar traits of Latin American anthropology, particularly the one which refers to the fact that the phenomena it approaches is not something foreign to the scholars, but that they themselves are unavoidably part of what they are studying. From this perspective, Krotz analyzes the consequences of this Latin American trait on scientific production. He concludes that there is a need of specifically studying the great variety of anthropologies produced in this region, so as to outline a still blurry local profile based on their own antecedents.

Corrêa, Mariza, *Brief Outline of Current Brazilian Anthropology (1960-1980)*

The author presents the methodology and motivations, both theoretical/methodological as well as personal, which have encouraged her study Brazilian anthropology over a period of 20 years. In her study she enumerates the themes and approaches which have characterized the different stages of Brazilian anthropology, as well as the institutions which have developed them.

Clarac de Briceño, Jacqueline, *Statutes and Cognitive Characteristics of Anthropology in Venezuela*

The author presents a detailed analysis of the evolution of anthropology in Venezuela during this century. She identifies two great stages: one before the decade of the fifties characterized by the positivism cultivated by some scholars influenced by European thought, particularly from Germany and France; and the second one, as of the foundation of the Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Research (1952) and other anthropology and sociology schools, marked by a boasian and functionalist influence.

Clarac makes a critical revision of current anthropological work in Venezuela and suggest the need to return to field work and to "make" anthropology from the South. That is, from this region's current and historical reality.

Quirós, E. Guillermo, *Anthropology, a Discipline in an Improper Field. Perspectives from Economical Anthropology*

This work is part of a discussion between two inverse tendencies, which over the past decades affects anthropology: a) the growth of the identity problems in the discipline and b) the decrease in the use of anthropological history. Quirós maintains that anthropology has a problem of transplantation to an improper field because it has been constituted for the study of the "others", in a world divided between "us and them".

Haber, Alejandro y Scribano Adrián, *Towards an Understanding of the Scientific Construction of the Past: Science and Archaeology in North-Eastern Argentina*

The objective of this paper is to undertake a sociological exploration of archaeology in North-eastern Argentina (its theoretical and methodological approaches and the elements which constitute the current dominant paradigm). Rather than a paper from an archaeological perspective it is a work on archaeology, which is the result of a series of interviews undertaken in 1991 during the X National Archaeology Congress in Argentina and the analysis of the papers which were presented there.

Vázquez, Héctor, *The Crisis of Theoretical Paradigms in Socio-cultural Anthropology and its Derivations in the Construction of the Discipline in Countries of the Periphery*

Vázquez believes that, both between the field anthropologists as well as theoretical ones, there is consensus in the recognition of a crisis which affects the theoretical paradigms in socio-cultural anthropology. To face this situation he proposes a theoretical approach which allows more complete and fecund interpretations: the historical-critical approach (current epistemological need). In this paper the author also ratifies the need for social scientists in countries of the periphery to promote and stimulate the production of scientific theory among themselves, for it is sometimes underestimated by field anthropologists.

Stagnaro, Adriana Alejandrina, *Anthropology in the Scientific Community: Between the Origin of Man and Hunting Trophy Skulls (1870-1910)*

The objective of this work is to make a historical reconstruction of the anthropological activity at the

end of the XIX century in Argentina, focusing on the experience of the three most relevant members of the scientific community: Florentino Ameghino, Francisco P. Moreno and Estanislao S. Zeballos.

With this in mind, she studies the rising of the scientific community by analyzing the participation of the above mentioned personalities through their institutional work, their production capacity and their scientific and political actions. The paper tries to contribute to the study of the history of anthropology in Argentina by analyzing the connections between the scientific community and the social context, identifying situations where the interrelations between external and internal factors are outstanding in the shaping of scientific thought.

Medina, Andrés, *Ethnography as Study in Regards to Nation: Three Experiences*

The objective of this paper is to examine the work of three Latin American anthropologists who are outstanding for the quality of their work within the framework of national processes. In different ways, all three of them influence anthropological work in their respective countries and in their respective national culture. The study of these authors allows Andrés Medina to analyze the production process of anthropological scientific knowledge in Latin America as part of the general cultural production. He identifies common elements in these processes such as the active role played by the State in national cultures and the ethnic and linguistic diversity of ancient American cultures. These characteristics allow us to understand the common problems faced by anthropologists trying to develop their scientific work, to identify the scientific community to which they belong to and their relation to State policies.

Solano Sáez, Juan. *The Process of Development of Anthropology in the Central Sierra: Perú*

The purpose of this paper is to establish and clarify the main lines in anthropological studies undertaken in Peru's central region from the twenties to this day, as well as outlining some suggestions so as to pinpoint the most relevant research problems. The analysis is sustained on the revisions of anthropological studies which were somehow published. Solano identifies and analyzes five stages within the anthropological development in this region: the indigenistic stage; the culturalist influence; structural functionalism; the period of questioning and the boom in agrarian studies; and the post-reform period.

Crivos, Marta A.; Brunazzo, Graciela A.; García, Stella Maris y Miotti, Laura L., *A Teaching Experience of Anthropological Theory*

A pedagogical experience started in the only Anthropology Teaching Center in Argentina where this discipline is considered within the frame of Natural Sciences, is presented.

Although there are three well defined specialization areas: biological, archaeological and socio-cultural; with few articulation points among each other, students and graduates at La Plata Museum share a certain "family resemblance" which makes them different from their colleagues at other centers in the country. This may be due to strictly local features of their training as naturalist-anthropologist according to scientificity as well as theoretical-methodological patterns ruling the natural-scientific task in different stages of institutional history.

Anthropologists have been teaching and researching in this environment for decades, in close contact with colleagues of different branches of Natural Sciences. Taking into account the characteristics of this *local tradition*, which has become a relevant alternative both nationally and internationally, we aim at exploring theoretical-methodological assumptions underlying the disciplinary task in the three specialization areas and their possible interrelations. Afterwards, we intend to characterize the conceptual models which have guided the production and reproduction of anthropological knowledge at the Natural Sciences School and Museum of La Plata, identifying trends and possible ways of development.

Gómez Rivera, María Magdalena, *On the Nature of Indigenous Law: Constitutional and Legal Recognition*

This paper studies the legal aspects of relations between the State and indigenous groups. It is based on the historical revision of the main tendencies and stages which can be observed in México. The author underlines the collective nature of indigenous law and its main expressions. It particularly touches on the process of the most recent amendment to the fourth article of the Mexican Constitution, which regulates a large part of the relations between the State and the indigenous population; it also analyzes the meaning of the ratification by the Mexican government of Agreement 169 of the International Labor Organization. To conclude, the author presents an inventory of legal and political problems implicit in this regulation, which is still missing from the current legal framework, she comments on the proposals presented by different sectors, including some official ones, in regards to this regulation.