

## ABSTRACTS

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Rodríguez Nicholls, Mariángela. *The political rituals are much more than just a pure pleasure principle: May 5th at Peñon de los Baños.*

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Assuming that the question of the civic and political rituals are used to remember outstanding facts and to create a major historical conscience, the author describes the way that at El Peñón de los Baños is developed the festivity of the "Batalla de Puebla" (The Battle of Puebla), when the mexicans were defeated by the French invaders on the 5th of May of 1862. The performance of the Battle of Puebla permits to set the model of how the civic-popular parties gather the most decisive facts and founders of the history of a determined place and how, eventhough they pretend to exert a pedagogic action, the different participant sectors and spectators have different perceptions, far from the historic "true". However, the civic-political rituals serve as an introductory instrument to the knowledge of a society and its different chapters that must be remembered and, even more, elaborated by those who consume them.

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Garma Navarro, Carlos. *Rural and urban Pentecostalism in México, differences and similarities.*

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Retaking the investigation outline about religious minorities, Garma Navarro compares the effects of the religious conversion in notably differentiate contexts. He centers his attention in the Pentecostal churches, because they represent the protestant branch with a higher number of followers in Latin America. He chooses for his analysis the town of Ixtepec, located in the North Mountain Range of Puebla, where most of the population is native (totonaca); and the town of Iztapalapa, an ancient settlement of nahuatl origin that was absorbed by the constant growing of México City, but it still has strong traditions of popular catholic religiousness, and at the same time, it counts whit the higher concentration of protestant chapels all over the metropolitan area. Therefore, the author compares the urban and rural environments: a) the economical impact and the behavioural patterns of the protestants; b) the meaning of the religious conversion over the family unity and relationships; c) the internal organization and the political effect over leadership among the Pentecostals and, d) the similarities observed in the city and in the country in the beliefs and the pentecostal ritual cosmogony, that makes this religion an useful bridge between the rural life and the urban one.

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Varela, Roberto. *Decentralization of power processes in the Mexican Government since 1982.*

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This paper seeks to document and evaluate the shrinkage of the government income due to the fall of the international oil prices (1982), and the effects on the decentralization of the power in the Federal Government at two levels: the election processes of July, 1988 and the split of the semi-official enterprises from de Central Government. Varela sustains that as a consequence of the drastic fall of public expenses applied to the social benefit programmes, the Partido Revolucionario Institucional suffered a considerable loss of votes during the last presidential election. In the same way, the lack of liquidity of the Federal Government to cover at the very least expenses of the social benefit programmes, forced it to sell the semi-official enterprises, and thanks to that, it obtained enough funds to face "the basic social urgent needs" (through the activation of the National Programme of Solidarity, PRONASOL, by its abbreviation in Spanish) and be able to mantain the stability of the country or, at least, of the PRI political hegemony.

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Nieto Calleja, Raúl. *The urban condition of the working class in México City.*

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This document proposes that the tendencies pointing towards the social homogenization do not exclude the cultural heterogeneity and it gives as a result the social heterogeneity that the life in the city tends to hide in an apparent urban homogeneity. To this effect, the fact is that different forms of life of the working class from the northern part of México City is brought, and gives place to a differentiated urban condition (situation which is ignored when generalizations are made about social groups o entire societies, and that have to be rethought). Nieto Calleja sets three questions: Are there ways or forms of life, views of the world or properly named urban cultures and industrial ones?; Which is the weight of modernity and tradition on them?; and, What results from this encounter? To answer these questions, Nieto Calleja analyses traditional proletary suburbs and habitation complexes with a high concentration of working class population (all of them in the Azcapotzalco Jurisdiction), where he observes that different urban niches (at the same city) mark the working class with a particular condition and that their cultural and urban practices are not homogeneous; on the



contrary, they depend upon the age group, the kind of settlement they live in, the gender and the experience of urban life in the last generation.

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Reyes Domínguez, Guadalupe. *Street commerce and urban space*

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The research done by Reyes focuses its interest in the analysis of the effects that the everyday work practices of the pedlars at Historic Downtown of México City has in their perception of space, and how through out this perception, the space affects the deffense strategies of the commercial use of the street ,along with the shaping of identity among the pedlars themselves. In order to do so, the author makes, in first place, a characterization of the study subjects and their distribution in the central space of the City and, subsequently, she comments the way how the practices and the space perception of the pedlars *filtrates* the politic-economical conditions of a macro-structural character, and *moulds* their strategies to preserve the commercial use of the streets. Reyes considers -just as José Luis Lezama does- that "the space, more than a pasive entity where man creates his history and where the facts of life pass, is a maker of reality".

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Safa, Patricia. *Urban life, cultural heterogenelty and social inequalities: the study of the popular urban sectors in Mexico*

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Facing the influence of the explanations about the popular culture (that is to say, the practices and beliefs that belong to *the people*) and of the theoretical incapability to understand the change processes which characterize our society as well as its complexity, Safa proposes in this article to formulate new questions and points of view that can explain the cultural phenomena in big cities, analysing the processes which lead the people to solve their needs, according with certain objective conditions that the city offers. In this way, she points his attention in two fundamental aspects: the fissures of the paradigmes and the search of new roads from the homogeneous to the diversity of the practices; and the analysis of urban life for the study of cities of multiple history, accesas and uses. For the author, these subjects are the main challenges that the antropological research faces in big cities like Mexico City.

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Rosas Mantecón, Ana. *Everyday life and history: the appropriation of the Mexica heritage inside and outside the Major Temple Museum (Museo del Templo Mayor)*

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Starting from the position of the context from the Major Temple Museum (MTM by its initials in Spanish) emerges, and of the agents who participated in its definition and in the objectives, contents and means used in it, Ana Rosas inquires into the appropriation of the Aztec heritage inside an institutional space (the MTM) and into another irregular space (given at the plaza in front of the archeological zone which offers an alternative cultural offer). Besides, she describes the public that attends this museum, with the purpose of contrasting their general characteristics with the ones of the average inhabitant of this city (establishing their differences) to, finally, undertake the matter of the identification of the visitors and non visitors, with the mexican world. This paper proposes that the museums are privileged forms where a nation heritage is dramatized, but this appropriation is mediated by many factors among those are the ones at educational and income levels. Nevertheless it finds its deeper roots in everyday life of the public.

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Shadow, Robert D. y Rodríguez-Shadow, María J.. *The Cholula brickworks: demographic characteristics and socio-economic organization*

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Starting from the regard of the doubtless changes that can be observed in the rural life, and having in account that the handcraft production has always been a distintive feature of the peasant duties (until now contemplated as a complementary activity to the farm tasks), the authors observe a phenomenon where the traditional relations of induction and incorporation of the rural sector with the city are being expanded and redefined: we now deal with nexus, merchandise flow and value transferences that take forms that go further than the food supply and limited amounts of handcraft (the study case is the one of production of raw material for the construction industry in Cholula, Puebla). Everything that implies changes in the use of the local resources, the demographic profile, the working force exploitation, the social organization and the class structure in the productive communities.