

*A BRIEF SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH TO THE PRODUCTION CONCERNING
RELIGION AT THE ANTHROPOLOGY POST-GRADUATION AT THE FEDERAL
UNIVERSITY OF PERNAMBUCO-UFPE*

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Abstract: In a general way, Anthropology in Pernambuco developed itself from the scientific interest of Psychiatry for the African-Brazilian religions and its articulation with the regulative activities of the *New State* (Estado Novo), which established the

so-called "scientific control". In Pernambuco, during the last century thirties and forties, some psychiatrists of the Mental Health Service (MHS) like Ulysses Pernambucano de Mello, Albino Gonçalves Fernandes and René Ribeiro were among those who were engaged to make the fathers and mothers of saints along with their house of cults more socially acceptable and also, free of the New State repression. Moreover, it is remarkable the influence of the publishing of Masters and Slave (*Casa Grande & Senzala* in 1933), and the intellectual alliance between Gilberto Freyre and Melville Herskovits. Founded in 1977, under the coordination of Roberto Motta, the Anthropology Post-Graduation Program had its first ensemble of master dissertations concerning religion in the eighties, between 1983 and 1988, with a defense each year. The production of dissertations in the Anthropology Post-Graduation Program at the UFPE has, since the Program foundation displayed an expressive opening to the most different religions, a diversity also shown when concerning the regions of the country and the theoretical approaches used, both sociological and anthropological.

Keywords: history of anthropology, religion and society, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco.

