ABSTRACTS

1. Councils and conferences in the Brazilian Universal System of Health: building the road for user participation

Soraya Maria Vargas Cortes

This article debates the work of authors who assert that creating channels of participation in developing countries in general, and in Latin America in particular, is too difficult a task. The weakness of both the political institutions and the civil society in those countries would be to blame for the matter. In the field of health, the initiatives to promote users´ participation would have supposedly resulted in failure. However, the Brazilian experience with health councils and health conferences does not quite subscribe such statements. The article also examines the historical origins, the creation of these forums and the politico-institutional role they play in the context of the Brazilian health system´s reform. Finally, the article analyzes the factors which determine the success of a participation- inclusive process in health councils and conferences.

Keywords: participation, health councils, health conferences.

2. Rural Social Welfare and gender

Anita Brumer

The work analyzes the main transformations in the rural Social Welfare in Brazil. The outcome of these transformations has been the inclusion of rural hard-working women in the welfare system as of the legislation approved by the National Congress in 1988. Rural-work women in Brazil have become entitled to the benefits of paid maternity leave and retirement accordant to a legal age limit. Concurrently, the article examines the role played by the State and the civil society in the unfolding of the legislation related to rural Social Welfare, in an attempt of exposing its character

of either a "donation" given by the State or the workers´ own "conquest". Finally, the author queries the impact of rural Social Welfare implementation in the South of Brazil, emphasizing its achievements in the decrease of rural poverty and unequal income distribution, as well as its material and symbolic importance in the gender relationship shift in rural areas.

Keywords: gender, rural woman, rural social welfare.

3. The patient´s voice in the Health System: health commissioners

Luiza Helena Pereira

This article presents the results of the research on a new managerial practice in the health´s field: the creation, in hospitals, of Health Commissions designed to interact with the systems´ users, especially listening what they have to say. In the City of Porto Alegre two public hospitals are leading the carrying out of this service. The essay places the occurrence of the commissions or committees in the context of Brazilian society, focusing especially in health and hospitals. The next topic is the significance, for the hospitals, of setting up commissions. I analyze Health Commissions as devices which enable the redefinition of institutional relationships, implying participation and discipline for patients and health-workers. Concluding, I assert that the main institutional and social consequences of the Health Commissions acts are: a) the advertisement of liberal and reformist projects for Brazil´s Health System changes, and b) the redefinition of some of the present institutional relationships; the commissions are, however, bearers of a high potential of democratization of those relationships.

Keywords: health, public policies, hospital health commission, institutional relationships.

4. Setting health guidelines: analysis of basic concepts

Janice Dornelles de Castro

As a result of the 1988 Federal Constitution changes in public health polici-es, *e.g.* the guarantee to the whole society to universal and integral access to health care, the duties of the State concerning those specific matters have increased considerably. Moreover, the effective policy of decentralisation of resolutions in health matters for states and over all for municipalities urged a new discussion to take place on the subjects of responsibilities and duties for individuals, different levels of the Government, citizens, the state and the public and private spheres. Finally, public policies which support "the withdrawal of the State´s intervention in economy affairs" also bring up this polemic subject. We aimed to discuss in this article, in the context suggested above, the health demand and the reasons why the market is inefficient to optimising the allocation of recourses.

Keywords: health economy, public health, health demand.

5. Older adult living arrangements in the United States

Janet Wilmoth

This article reviews the current literature regarding living arrangements among older adults in the United States. The reasons for studying living arrangements are outlined and the aggregate trends are summarized. Then, the two commonly used conceptual models in this area of research are presented. These models identify the individual level characteristics that influence living arrangements in later life. It is argued that a more dynamic perspective is needed to explain the living arrangement transition process. This perspective builds on Lawton's person-environment theory and relies on longitudinal data analysis. Finally, directions for future research are discussed.

Keywords: living arrangements, household composition, housing transitions.

6. Social support and health among seniors

Marília P. Ramos

The present article focuses in the bibliographical review of the liaison between social relationships and seniors' health, as well as in the interpretation and understanding of this problem under the light of two theoretical approaches: a macro, centered in Emile Durkheim's Theory of Social Integration and other micro, centered in Peter Blau´s Theory of Changes, with an emphasis in the Theory of Equity. The social integration (incidence of contacts) may have negative effects in a senior´s health; however this has to be measured by the quality of the contacts. Some of the presented conclusions indicate that social relationships have an effect in health, in the sense that people, in the modern societies, expect reciprocity. When this is not possible, especially during the aging process, people feel dependent, and this can affect health in different ways. On the other hand, when people have health problems they experience a lack of balanced social relationships due to their incapacity to exchange in equal bases. Therefore, the author concludes that the link between social relationships and health in the senior population can be a reciprocal association.

Keywords: social changes, health, seniors.

7. Types and myths of the Brazilian thought

Octávio Ianni

In this essay the author works out the premise of Brazil as a nation in search of concept, a nebula moving in the course of modern history seeking out articulation and direction. There are several lines of reasoning or "families of ideas" which try to explain Brazil. These lines or "families" evolve, recreate themselves or just reiterate

previously established directions. However, they are by now present and evident in many studies and narratives.

On the analysis of myths of the Brazilian thought and culture, the author concludes they are not innocent: they rather reveal much about the configuration and movements of Brazilian society, from different perspectives and moments. The myths of the Brazilian thought can be seen as collections of figures and figurations, sometimes families or lineages of interpretation, with which a cartography of Brazil is drawn and put into motion, and in such a way that Brazil is perceived as it had been located, organized, understood, explained and celebrated.

Keywords: Brazilian thought, myths, lines of reasoning thought.

8. The police of the poor: the violence of police against urban popular classes

Eduardo PAes Machado and Ceci Vilar Noronha

The article discusses the violence perpetrated by police from the point of view of the social segments it hits harder: labourers, Black or Mulatto people and the residents of Novos Alagados, one of the City of Salvador's impoverished areas. Through direct observation techniques and thirty-one extensive interviews, the author tried to reconstitute the kinds of violence types and the roles of residents, criminals and police officers in it. In a context of crisis of the informal mechanisms of social control, poverty and unemployment, the action of police staff generates ambivalent reactions. These express the difficulty of the population to take a position when faced to a force, which is perceived as violent and, at the same time, protecting. The residents end up legitimating the brutality of the institutional police behaviour as, while condemning police officers abuse against them, but aligning by police side against individuals seen as outsiders or criminals.

Keywords: social control, poverty, police, violence.

9. Homosexuality, human rights and citizenship

Gabriele dos Anjos

The text presents the results of an investigation on how an organization seeks to delineate homosexuality's criteria of perception, endeavouring to make it socially legitimate. This redefinition starts from the generalization of homosexuality notion as a "human right". Next, it brings the homosexual to the level of "citizen" and therefore entails a rupture with the usual concepts of homosexuality. The organization looks forward to participate in the political space with this shift in the homosexuality's criteria of perception. The author argues that the understanding of homosexuality definition and activity charged by the organization requires the inclusion, in the investigation, of homosexuals' social resources and characteristics. The connection between homosexuality and "human rights/citizenship" relates to homosexuals' high education. This factor allows a rupture with the dominant criteria of definition of homosexuality, and ensures homosexual participation in discussions which main agenda is the defence of "human rights" and "citizenship." Moreover, it is linked to the engagement of homosexual individuals in other spaces of participation; which supplied the outlines of perception of the "subject homosexual" as well as the means and resources needed for publicizing these outlines.

Keywords: homosexuality, social identity, political representation, stigma, social conditions of engagement.

10. In the trail of the tacky: Monteiro Lobato's Jeca Tatu, the readers and the shaping of Brazil's literary field

Enio Passiani

Based on the study of Monteiro Lobato's creative project I discuss his importance in the national literary field's foundation as a writer and an editor. Lobato's literary project renewed literary writing, both in the approached themes and the use of language techniques. It also modified the bases for book's production and distribution in the country, promoting in a unique way at his time, the reader's formation in Brazil.

Keywords: Monteiro Lobato, literary field, literary project, readers, book.