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From the editors

The set articles assembled for this first 2015 issue of *Sexuality, Health and Society* explore different aspects of the relationship between gender and sexuality, both from an empirical, and a theoretical point of view.

Based on research conducted in two different South American countries (Argentina and Brazil), the articles by Meccia and by Oliveira & Nascimento explore the universe of male homosexuality, and show their heterogeneity and complexity. Meccia's original reflection establishes sociological parameters to address the historicity of the homosexual experience. The recent process of transformation undergone by homosexuality is so deep that it has required to coin a new category—*gayity*—in order to capture its singular configuration. Meccia's analytical operation concentrates on the narratives about that transformation, woven as a fabric where different forces interact, identified by the author and his interlocutors as characters or entities, as in the case of divine (in)justice, LGBTI organizations, or the "capitalist market."

Based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted between 2012 and 2014 in João Pessoa, a city in Northeastern Brazil, the article by Oliveira & Nascimento maps the circuit of erotic and sexual exchanges between men who do not necessarily identify as gay. By exploring the local notion of "*pegação*," they address the fluidity of certain experiences that place identity models in suspension and reinvent urban spaces. Although clandestine, they do not totally escape procedures of social control. Each one in its own way, the two articles bring fundamental contributions for the deconstruction of "homosexuality"—that apparently monolithic "object"—inherited by the social sciences from medical-psychological knowledge, under the form of a "disturbance" of sexual normality.

Debated with lesser intensity than homosexuality, one of these "objects" of reflection fenced by all sorts of stereotypes is the sexuality of "people with mental disorders," the topic of Barbosa, Giami & Freitas's research, conducted in the context of Brazilian mental health services. If researchers and readers expect to find the "peculiarity" of representations about sexuality among those subjects, findings showed, on the contrary, similarities between them and those by the general popula-

tion, particularly when it comes to representations about masculinity and femininity. The specificities found have more to do with the situation of exclusion and segregation “people mental disorders” still endure.

Also based on an empirical study, in this case with 25 to 35 year-old middle-class women in Santiago, Chile, Mora Guerrero and Contreras Despott inquire about the meanings attributed to the female body in the use of sex-toys. They also reveal the paradoxical configurations of the process of “modernization” that sexuality has undergone. Although now organized around pleasure, in the view of the women interviewed it is still legitimated by “traditional” values connected to their immediate social circle.

Besides those empirical investments, this issue also includes two theoretical reflections. Canseco’s article starts with Judith Butler’s and Axel Honneth’s discussions on recognition, to elaborate about a sexual recognition which has the power of placing subjects so recognized in situations of more exposure to risk or violence. Besides the originality of this reflection, its contribution to feminisms, as well as well as to other publics, refers to the crucial importance of the sociocultural and political operations implicated in the representation of violence.

Martinez revisits the genealogy of critical thinking culminating in Judith Butler’s formulations, which sets forth the assumptions behind the categories “body” and “identity” in relation to male domination. This itinerary remakes the complex dialog initiated by the emergence of radical lesbian feminism, articulated upon the notion of compulsory heterosexuality, coined by Adrienne Rich in the early 1980s. The article emphasizes the political dimensions of this dialog and lays out a theoretical framework that allows to reflect beyond the limitations of the binarism implicated in the very notion of gender.

In sum, the articles this issue present various explorations and offer fragments of a new kaleidoscopic image of bodies, sexualities, and identities. Each brings new possibilities to understand the complex relations constituting those elements in mutual relation, under the impact of the profound contemporary transformations they are undergoing.