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From the editors #36

## Race, sexuality and health. New perspectives and renewed approaches

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## Race, sexuality and health. New perspectives and renewed approaches

Through renewed theoretical-political approaches, *Sexualidad, Salud y Sociedad – Revista Latinoamericana* (number 36) brings together a set of contributions that focuses on classical issues intertwining themes related to gender, sexuality, race, class and health. The different perspectives developed in the articles bring crucial elements for the interdisciplinary reflection on structural aspects of persistent social inequalities in access to health and justice.

Mara Viveros Vigoya's article *Los Colores del Antirracismo (en América Ladina)* opens the number and presents a refined thinking on the ways anti-racist struggles have taken on in Latin America in recent decades. From a perspective that emphasizes the dimension of "situated knowledge", Viveros explores her extensive experience of activism and anthropological research in the region. Her objective is to talk about the changes she perceives in Latin-American intellectual/activist field in direction of paying greater attention to issues involving racism and of challenging the "racialized distribution of power". As a "Colombian woman and Afro-Latin American feminist", Viveros incorporates Brazilian anthropologist and activist Lélia Gonzalez's proposal of an "América Ladina" as a social and political space that displays very particular historical traits of production of otherness and inequalities. From this positionality, the author exposes some of the inflections of the "anti-racist turn" currently observed in the public sphere. The article was originally produced as a dialogue with French sociologist Eric Fassin and it was presented in the form of a conference at the 32nd meeting of the Brazilian Association of Anthropology. The publication of Fassin's text is scheduled for number 37 of *Sexualidad, Salud y Sociedad*, to be issued in the first quarter of 2021.

In the following article, *Género y juventudes Argentinas: ¿de qué estamos hablando cuando hablamos de "el problema del embarazo adolescente"?*, Adriana Durán and María Muro problematize the frozen and naturalized approach to youth pregnancy as a "problem". Through the review of academic literature, and journalistic and legislative material related to the Argentinian context, the authors draw attention to the socio-historical character of production of the categories and concepts involved in the issue. They also point to the importance of considering the variety of possible ways of experiencing youth and to the multiple demands and social cleavages implicated in this process. Thus, with attention to the social, political and moral dimensions that forge central aspects related to sexuality and reproduction, Durán and Muro argue in favor of a systematic critic of decontextualized and biased approaches and interpretations on the subject. Among other

aspects, emphasis is placed on the absence of the “youth” point of view in a critical debate about the “problem of teenage pregnancy” and the stigmatizing contours that often arise in such discussions.

The article by Francisco Chong Villarreal – *El VIH y la opresión de los hombres seropositivos con identidades no heteronormativas en Chiapas, Mexico* – explores the changes and continuities in gender expressions and sexual practices after seropositive diagnosis. The study was conducted with men “with non-heteronormative identities” and seeks to understand how research participants handle social resources and create strategies to deal with the structural constraints that fall on those who do not correspond to normative gender and sexuality social conventions. The argument carefully situates the trajectories and experiences in the context in which the research was conducted, and points to the greater difficulty to “socially disadvantaged groups” of accessing health resources, such as antiretroviral treatment, and of mobilizing social networks of care and emotional and material support.

The article *Forms of (dis)engagement. Abortion among adult men in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*, by Cristiane Cabral, Elaine Brandão, Rogério Azize and Maria Luiza Heilborn closes the regularly submitted articles section. The authors address sociological aspects of abortion decision-making processes from the perspective of the men involved in “unwanted pregnancies”. The work is part of a broad research project on contraception and abortion carried out in different Brazilian states through the analysis of sexual-affective, reproductive and contraceptive trajectories of different subjects. Throughout the argumentation, the emphasis on the relational dimension of gender and class positions in male choices and perceptions related to abortion stands out, as well as the particularities and contrasts when considering the experiences of men of different generations. In this sense, the article raises aspects that are still little explored and that are of great relevance for the reflection on the male role in scenarios involving abortion decision-making process.

In addition to the regular articles, the number 36 of *Sexualidad, Salud y Sociedad* also brings the dossier Mothers and State Practices [*Mães e Processos de Estado*], organized by Brazilian anthropologists Juliana Farias, Natalia Bouças do Lago and Roberto Efrem Filho. Composed of eight articles, it brings together investigations on the struggle for justice and social recognition managed by mothers (and other relatives) of victims of State related in different Brazilian ethnographic contexts. One important discussion developed in all the articles is about the collective and relational dimension of an activism that comes from (or is organized around) mothers mourning and suffering. The other discussion turns around the political-academic productions on the subject and the theoretical-methodological

frameworks that interweaves gender, violence and State formation processes. These frameworks provoke and incite new interpretative arrangements and are fundamental for understanding contexts of violence, incarceration and criminalization, deeply embedded in unequal relations of sexuality, gender, race, class, generation and territory, as highlighted by the organizers in the presentation of the dossier.

Finally, we still publish in this number two book reviews. Related to the theme of the dossier, Evandro Cruz Silva's review invitingly presents us the book "Governo de mortes. Uma etnografia da gestão de populações de favelas no Rio de Janeiro", by Juliana Farias (2020). In the other review, Beatriz Klimeck Gouvêa Gama invites us to approach the emergent debate fostered in the book "Fat", by Deborah Lupton (2018).

With this issue the journal completes its 12th year of existence. And it does so in a year of increasing challenges for the maintenance of academic publications in terms of their regularity and also their quality. In a year marked by the de-financing and devaluation of science in many countries, and marked also by so many sorrows and griefs related to personal and collective losses due to Covid-19 pandemic, it is essential to thank immensely all authors, reviewers, editors, designers, staff, readers and friends, whose direct and indirect support was crucial for the uninterrupted continuity of Sexualidad, Salud y Sociedad – Revista Latinoamericana during all these years.

Good readings!