

Knowledge and feeding practices: a dialogue with anthropology

This special issue of the journal *DEMETRA: Alimentação, Nutrição & Saúde/Food, Nutrition & Health* focuses on the debate about knowledge and feeding practices, and its central theme is the dialogs with the Anthropology of Food. On the occasion of the 29th Brazilian Anthropology Meeting, we had the opportunity to share an in-depth discussion and the desire to expand the reflections and dialogs established therein. Thus, we are thankful to the editors for inviting us to disseminate the work presented at the event and broaden the related discussion by producing publications that promote the debate about the theme between anthropologists, sociologists, historians, psychologists and nutritionists, among other professionals.

We believe that the publication of the results of the research gathered in this issue of *DEMETRA* can be an essential step of the studies that address significant social and cultural arrangements under various human groupings, revealed from the analysis of feeding practices. It was a pleasant experience to receive more than 40 papers submitted to the journal and participate in the careful choice of the original manuscripts, which were evaluated by researchers of recognized competence, who considered the specificity of the discussions. This dialog benefits the fields as a whole and, thus, we respect the commitment from the authors from all parts of Brazil and colleagues from abroad, who have honored us with their trust by submitting their manuscripts for evaluation.

Faced with the large number of submissions and the good quality of the texts, we could not publish all the selected papers in this issue because of structural aspects of the magazine. Therefore, the editors of *DEMETRA* opened up the possibility of publishing them in subsequent issues. Thus, the journal will offer its readers new papers on the theme proposed herein.

We have put together papers that, by discussing commensality, offer new perspectives to approach the forms of sociability and individuality. These papers address the main aspects of the manner whereby societies design their ways of life and define how the social identity of their

members is revealed, while showing the mechanisms that comprise the traditions and the memory relative to the heritage of collectivity.

The texts of number 3, volume 10 of the journal show that scholars in the field of food studies have focused on phenomena that influence feeding behavior and that should be addressed with knowledge of cultural differences relative to political, economic, biological and social factors.

The 17 papers compiled in this issue illustrate the diversity of the theme and the field that underpins studies on the feeding phenomenon. In each one of papers, we can see the construction of feeding practices and knowledge in the daily life of contemporary society, from the perspective of Anthropology, which became one of the references for studies on food as a complex object. Anthropology moves within a space that allows the description and analysis of cultural and social aspects of feeding behavior, as well as the understanding of social changes by taking food as a mechanism for studies on culture. Based on the knowledge and feeding practices in social life, we recognize actions and collective representations in human life. The latter are not only integrated into the knowledge produced by research, but also in the knowledge generated in practice experienced by populations.

The review selected for this issue presents readers with a book by one of the major scholars in the field of food studies within Social Sciences and Humanities - Jean-Pierre Poulain. Through Poulain's work, one can understand feeding not only as a biological or ecological phenomenon, but more importantly, as one of the main factors structuring social organization.

We would like to take the opportunity to invite all readers of *DEMETRA* to enjoy an entertaining read that expands the wealth of dialogs between Feeding and Anthropology. Welcome!

The editors

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