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## Editorial

The current issue of *Sexuality, Health and Society – A Latin American Journal* brings a group of articles which, without abandoning the analysis of social “problems” of vital importance the region – teenage pregnancy, gender violence, AIDS, LGBT rights – has the value of addressing such “problems” in a way simultaneously creative and competent, opening up new interpretive possibilities.

They are all empirically based on qualitative research – socio anthropological and historical – confronting sexuality from different angles. Some of them, like Andréa M. Alves’ and Olívia Von der Weid’s, explore the new “architectures” (or new normativities) being designed for “heterosexual conjugalities”. Either analyzing the practice of *swing*, or the meaning attributed to love betrayal by women of different generations, the authors explore the continuities and, specially, the changes undergone by sexual morality and gender conventions in Latin American societies. What is at stake in these processes is the construction of social identities by men and women, which takes place at the crossroads between generational, sexual and gender grammars.

The emphasis on the reflection upon female identity, already present in Alves e Weid, becomes intense in Paula Aguilar and Cecilia Garibi González, who analyze the discourses of Argentine media in the case of “abandonment” of a newborn by its teenage mother, and Mexican AIDS public policy. In those more institutional contexts, continuities become more expressive, and, as the authors show, feminine identity remains largely shaped by naturalization processes, and subject to the contrasting stereotypes of “mother” and “whore,” historical bases for a subjectivity dilacerated by irreconcilable social expectations.

Figari & Gemetro and Facchini & França address identities and subjectivities from perspectives constructed by non-heterosexual “communities of desire” (an expression utilized by Figari & Gemetro). In the Argentine context, Figari & Gemetro situate their inquiry before the great divider that was the 1960’s decade, in relation to sexual morality, especially for the middle classes. In interviews with women who lived during that period, the authors explore how, under the influence of counterculture, psychoanalysis, and feminism, “*bettors*,”

“dykes,” “firemen,” “*gardelitos*,” “women in the know,” or those “who belonged,” experimented new ways of being a woman, welding a shared identity which, since the 1960, would become “lesbian.”

The vicissitudes of the process of constitution of homosexual identities as a political subject, one of whose crucial moments was precisely the emergence of lesbian identity, are also the focus of Facchini & França’s reflection on the currently called LGBT movement in Brazil. They are particularly concerned on the process of fragmentation and essentialization of the different identities that make up that movement. For the authors, that process must be understood, on the one hand, in relation to the movement’s dependence upon the mediation of spaces regulated by a market segment (bars, discos, websites, saunas, etc.), in order to have access to their “bases”; and, on the other hand, to its involvement with the State, whose public policies – especially its politics of recognition – presuppose, by and large, the existence fixed, “natural” identities.

Finally, the article by Michel Bozon closes the issue with a reflection on the social meaning of sexuality research itself. By closely following the clues left by John Gagnon, the author addresses the great surveys of sexual behavior as a sort of cultural and intellectual production, with enormous impact on the very construction of the “objects” they endeavor to know. As Bozon claims, “Surveys are at the same time a reflection of previous [social] changes, and support for further mobilizations”. Although the author turns mainly to quantitative research, the issues he raises may very well be applied to qualitative research, like the one that provides empirical support to all the rest of the articles that make up this issue. While promoting new perspectives on the values and meanings of sexuality, they contribute to their transformation.