

# Images and discourse on bodies, families and subjectivities: stigmatizing manifestations, idealizations and inequalities in the debate arena

## Imagens e discursos sobre corpos, famílias e subjetividades: manifestações estigmatizantes, idealizações e desigualdades na arena de debate

This issue brings a Thematic Section with articles that seek to problematize the constructed discourses and images of the body and the subjectivities in contexts of multiple relations, among which are those where the family is inserted; discourses and images circulating in daily life, but also in the academic world, which inform the construction of certain models, concepts and practices related to health and food. This initiative aimed to stimulate, encourage and welcome structured analyzes based on different theoretical and methodological references on the subject, built in the light of broader perspectives, bringing together studies that highlight how stigmatizing manifestations and ways of perceiving the self-image and the image of other impact the subjectivity. These expressions - based on socially constructed images of the body, situated in contexts such as professional practices in different fields permeated by tensions and involving family relations - express, to a great extent, patterns of healthy eating and beauty that deserve the dedication from a research point of view, since they appear before our eyes in a naturalized and apparently crystalline way. From this scenario of themes present in life and daily life, instilled by the most varied representations and contemporary constraints, we find ourselves before a space of reflection on the moralities about food, health, perfect body, obesity, inequalities, consumption of lifestyles and subjectivities.

This investment results, as already indicated in previous thematic issues, in an academic collaboration between the Graduate Programs in Food, Nutrition and Health (UERJ), in Nutrition (UFRJ) and in Teaching in Bioscience and Health (Oswaldo Cruz-Fiocruz Institute), through the exchange of their teachers and the offer of common subjects. These movements are dedicated to dialogue different analyzes and understandings of human and social aspects on the theme, but also to foster and collaborate in broadening responses to the problems we face in contemporary society.

The main desire of the organizers was to join efforts to stimulate the expansion of persistent disciplinary boundaries in the academic world - despite the stimuli to ongoing interdisciplinary studies in various fields of knowledge construction - leading to fragmentation of the knowledge and

the impoverishment of the analysis of the phenomena studied. In different areas of the field of Health, for example, including a significant portion of the field of Food and Nutrition, the topics on the screen are approached predominantly from a biologicist and mechanistic point of view, pointing out their centrality in research projects within the scope of Graduate Degree. Knowing that these knowledge generated within the science inform the subjective experiences of individuals, this perspective tends to obscure and often imprison the multiple and potential approaches on the subject of body and food, making it difficult to unfold new understandings about images and discourses on the subject.

In this way, the texts presented herein, result of different - singular and collective - trajectories, deal with seemingly different issues, but that interweave bringing connections, if viewed from a more comprehensive perspective. The focus on family arrangements, in relation to clinical aspects, can be found here in the articles dealing with healthy eating, either from the perspective of individual and family subjectivity, or from the new proposals of Food and Nutrition Education that make possible a re-signification of the practices in terms of the identity construction among women and in the modeling of childhood. Likewise, in articles devoted to thinking about aspects of body image, and the senses and meanings of the body, whether in a social group linked to disciplinary institutions, in the case of imprisoned women, or training institutions, as presented in the training of nutritionists, unusual findings are evidenced, as well as the search for distance from the recurrent approach of testing and identification of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with body image in certain population groups. By investing in an analysis that goes on to propose new ways of understanding these concepts, these papers raise relevant questions, both for training and for the practice of health professionals.

This initiative was hosted by DEMETERA journal: Food, Nutrition and Health, in view of their interdisciplinary character, which encourages and instigates expanded reflections in the field of Food and Nutrition. The opportunity to publish such approaches in this vehicle reveals a relevant maturation of the journal, where research in the field of Food and Culture circulate. Finally, the purpose of this Thematic Section was to bring together papers that would provide a relevant set of discourses on the subject, which also points us to the need to advance further in the reception of different analytical perspectives (sociological, anthropological, historical, psychological, etc.) that favor a more diversified and less fragmented view of human nature, revealing the complexity of the contexts of our studies and the impossibility of approaching them only from the perspective of the biomedical sciences.

#### **Guest Editors**

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