

Social Work in History: Contributions to an Internationalist Perspective

Serviço Social na história: contribuições para uma perspectiva internacionalista

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The *Em Pauta Journal: social theory and contemporary reality*, in its issue no. 58, presents in the first section the thematic dossier *Social work in history: contributions to an internationalist perspective*, with the aim of socializing with readers reflections and investigations that address social work in the international division of labor, in the process of expansion and crisis of capital under the hegemony of finance today, in an internationalist perspective, recognizing the particularities in the socio-historical formations of countries in *Nuestra América*, Africa and Europe.

The dossier covered researchers, teachers, students with a view to highlighting social work in history, as a synthesis of the unity and diversity of the trajectory of this profession in different countries and different continents, in its different levels and forms of regulation. In this issue, we seek to expand the debate about research on history in social work in specific socio-historical contexts; the theoretical-methodological, ethical-political foundations and technical-operative dimensions of the work of social workers; their professional and academic profile; their working conditions and relations within the framework of the transformations brought about in this field by neo-liberal policies; of union forms of organization; of education in social work at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including research and corresponding public education and science and technology policies. The purpose was to strengthen the historical-critical perspective in this area, the internationalist solidarity, and the exchange of experiences in academic production, professional training, and the work of social workers, in their inseparable relationship.

EDITORIAL

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The authors' productions bring historical and contemporary reflections that illuminate the present time. They also provide analytical keys that mobilize professional debates in dialogue with the humanities and the social sciences, to reflect on the determinations of the social issue, of social struggles, of the organization of the working class, of the realization of human rights and of professional projects articulated with societal projects beyond capital, and in the fight against all forms of exploitation, domination, and oppression in processes of critical renewal of social work in Brazil, in *Nuestra América* and in Europe, in a context of full imperialist expansion of capital in crisis. In this situation of capitalist crisis, greater challenges arise, as a result of the neoliberal project and the strong militarist reactionary offensive of the right and ultra-right. Such phenomena are expressed in reality in the face of the deepening of social inequalities, the exploitation of labor, the restriction of public resources for social policies, the privatization of public companies, climate change, as well as the production of knowledge increasingly mediated by technologies of information and communication.

Inaugurating the dossier of issue 58, the article *Nuestros tempos*, by Lorena Molina, addresses, in an intriguing way, the historical expressions of the current situation that challenge the profession on the Latin American continent in the international division of labor, starting from critical reflections on the so-called artificial intelligence in a geopolitical tension between globalism and multilateralism in capitalism that involve social work in the face of numerous challenges in this civilizational crisis and the consequences of neoliberalism. The second article, *The Social Work Internationalization Process: challenges and political direction*, by Carmelita Yazbek, provides us with important insights into internationalization in Brazilian social work under the direction of Postgraduate Programs, research groups and social work courses. The author's essay reflects on internationalization as a "political process, full of contradictions and disputes, resulting from exchange, within the scope of a 'global knowledge economy'", a process with globalizing and imperialist tendencies. Deepening the reflection on the political dimension and the professional project, the third article, *The political organization of social work: paths and issues since the critical turn*, collectively authored by teachers from Brazil, celebrates the memory of the links between social struggles and the professional category, in a situation of crisis of the dictatorship, which, at that time, opened gaps for the redemocratization of the country, spreading in the critical renewal of the theoretical-methodological, ethical-political, and technical-operative foundations of the work of social workers in Brazil and in line with progressive forces in the country, highlighting the union organization at the time and the renewal of professional entities. Deepening studies on common ground in history, but in other latitudes of capitalism, other Brazilian authors, teachers, in their text *Approximations and dissonances between Brazilian and British social work in contesting the traditional perspective*, seek, through historical research, to compare professional renewal

processes in Brazil and the United Kingdom. The article highlights the process of intended rupture of Marxist inspiration in Brazil at the end of the 1970s and its hegemonic implementation in entities, training, and regulation of the profession in the 1990s, as well as Radical Social Work in the UK, as an important Marxist-inspired progressive and socialist professional expression in the 1970s. However, with the advent of neoliberalism, the “radical” professional project entered into crisis and the conservative sectors in Brazil have also strengthened in recent decades. Also, Carlos Hortmann and Fabrícia Maciel present the text *Historical considerations about Portuguese social formation and social work*. Following the paths of Lusitanian training, they seek to understand the genesis of the profession anchored in fascist times of the Salazarist New State, marked by corporatism, nationalism, political violence, and censorship that limited the creation of the profession in intricacies related to the Catholic Church. Closing this first block of the issue, we have the text entitled *Unidad Popular and Allende: Inspirations for the future*, by Paula Vidal. The article deals with the legacy of democratic socialism of the Salvador Allende administration and Popular Unity, recovering the experience of building a societal project in the diversity of political forces, highlighting various political, economic, social, and cultural democratic advances in this process and the consequences to date of the civil-military dictatorship with the neoliberal offensive. The author proposes that the “Chilean way to socialism”, or democratic socialism, is valid for thinking about strategies in the face of the present time of wars, poverty, socio-environmental devastation, inequalities, and oppression.

The Free Theme section is made up of four articles originating from essays and bibliographical research. The first text deals with the conception of the state in Marx, by author Kim Brochardt, covering the different Marxian works. The second text, *Human Rights and Environmental Issue: a critique in Enrique Dussel*, by César Costa, approaches the thought of the Argentine-Mexican philosopher, particularly the Philosophy of Liberation as the foundation of a Critical Theory of Human Rights at the interface with the environmental issue, with an emphasis on Latin America. The text *Engels facing materialism: science, enlightenment, and dialectics*, by Vitor Sartori, defends Engels’ thought, in relation to the recognition, criticism, and overcoming of French materialism and Feuerbach, as well as in relation to Hegel, highlighting the materialist conception of history developed by Marx and Engels. The text *The training of reflective teachers from John Dewey’s perspective*, by Antônio Muller and Eliane Kormann, presents an approach to the theory of this pragmatist philosopher, addressing the role of the reflective teacher and his training. The last two articles discuss multiple social inequalities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the text *Ageism: intersectionalities of class, gender/sexuality, and race/ethnicity*, by Glenia Rouse Costa and Solange Maria Teixeira, aims to analyze the incidence of ageism as social markers. Closing this section of the journal, the text *Diary of the soul: inequalities seen through the eyes of Carolina de Jesus*, by Pollyanna Carvalho, presents a reflection on

social inequality, racism, and gender violence in the lives of the working classes in Brazil, based on the work *Child of the Dark: The Diary of Carolina Maria de Jesus*.

Celebrating the centenary of social work in *Nuestra América*, in 2025, with the creation of the first school of social work in Chile, there is an interview carried out with the current President of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Enseñanza e Investigación en Trabajo Social (ALAEITS), Prof. Dr. Sonia Brito, a Chilean teacher.

Following are two reviews. The first, authored by María Fernanda Escurra, is entitled *Ontological criticism or alleged criticism from nowhere*. She comments on part of the work of Mario Duayer, former professor of the Postgraduate Program in Social Work and a victim of COVID-19, who is missed. The second review, *Torture in Brazilian Superincarceration: the practice of neutralizing “dangerous classes,”* by Gabrieli Carreiro, addresses the book *Torture in Brazilian Superincarceration*, by Fábio do Nascimento Simas.

In the lifetime tribute section, the journal features a text by an Emeritus Professor of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Dr. José Paulo Netto, *An honorary Brazilian*. The text presents a greeting to the Portuguese professor Alcina Maria de Castro Martins, a great reference in Brazilian social work and an invaluable collaborator in the training of countless social workers and in international exchange with Portugal.

The intriguing photographic exhibition, curated by Ziza Dourado, showcases a collection of little-known works by Bia Abramides, presented to the general public this year. The exhibitor's drawings close in style this issue no. 58 and the artist also illustrates the beautiful cover of this *Em Pauta: social theory and contemporary reality*, journal of the School of Social Work at UERJ.