


# Social Service in History: Dialogues between European Countries and Nuestra América

*Serviço Social na história: diálogos entre países europeus e de Nuestra América*

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*Em Pauta: social theory and contemporary reality* is pleased to open its 59th issue by resuming the theme of *social work in History*, in the dialogue between European countries and *Nuestra América* regarding social work. This issue contributes to expanding the knowledge of social work on the global stage, in the wake of the internationalist movement in the world of work, enriching the debate with previously unpublished partial results of different research studies. The aim is to give visibility to international social work as a unit of historically-given differences, which allows us to highlight both the universality of this specialization of work and simultaneously the particular features it assumes in the countries considered, according to their historical formations.

The globalization of capital under the control of finance has been accompanied by periodic crises. These crises are inseparable from disputes over economic and military power – with wars and strategies of subjugation/destruction of territories and segments of the population residing there, and visceral aggression against human rights – and in the struggle for political hegemony between central countries and those on the periphery of the centers of power, deepening relations of dependence through the expansion of forms of exploitation, domination and oppression of workers who create wealth, fueling the accumulation of capital in central countries. The construction of multilateralism in the confrontation of global power, through the articulation of blocs of countries, has been shaping this scenario.

## EDITORIAL

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In the multifaceted process of internationalization, Brazilian social work, through democratic and emancipatory guidelines collectively constructed over the last six decades, has sought to strengthen itself through the articulation of research and scientific production, the expansion of academic exchanges for professors and students supported by partner universities and official development organizations, and forms of associativism. Congresses and symposia have enriched the debate and the improvement of academic-professional training at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The dossier in this issue publishes partial results of the international research network, *social work in History*, guided by the historicity of this work specialization and the reconstruction of the social memory of its trajectory in the participating countries. In its first stage, it focused on the movement to reconceptualize social work in Latin America: historical determinants, international dialogues and memory (1960-1980). Since its inception, this research project has been based in the Postgraduate Program in social work at UERJ, under the coordination of Marilda V. Iamamoto (Uerj) and Cláudia Mônica dos Santos (UFJF), bringing together eight Brazilian implementing universities and 11 foreign collaborating universities, from Europe (Spain, Portugal, and the United Kingdom), Africa (Angola) and South America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Colombia).

At its current stage, under the direction of an inter-institutional collegiate coordination (UERJ, UNIFESP, UFES, UFJF, UFRGS, and Universidad de Caldas in Colombia), the project is consolidating and expanding, currently bringing together 80 researchers from Europe (Spain, Portugal, and the United Kingdom), Africa (Angola) and South America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay). Subprojects gathered in a network have been exploring documentary sources and oral testimonies, with unprecedented results. They have also made it possible to gather data collections that can feed publicly-accessible documentation and memory centers, to be made available to researchers and interested parties. Many have made it possible to give visibility to the initiatives of workers, subjects made invisible by oblivion. By reconstructing the memory of the social work profession, we seek to bring to light the subjects with whom we work in their daily lives, in their movements, forms of organization and social projects that are nourished by the hope of freeing themselves from alienation – their burdens and sufferings, in favor of emancipatory horizons.

This issue of *Em Pauta* opens with a debate on social work in Portugal, covering the professional training of social workers today, in the post-Bologna Process period. It presents a socio-historical contextualization of Portugal's insertion into the European Union as a path to joining the “Bologna Process”, and analyzes its repercussions on higher education and also limitations to critical professional training. In Spain, the theme is social policy and social work, present in social work congresses in the 1980s. Based on a socio-historical approach, the text problematizes intervention and professional training

in a process of modernization of both the country and the profession. In Colombia, it highlights two decades of the construction of the critical social work collective in that country, both a historical approach to this process and a partial assessment of this movement, highlighting challenges for a critical renewal of the profession. In Brazil, three articles address different themes. The first deals with the struggles of the working class and their relationship with union organization in social work in the reality of São Paulo in the 1970s and the first half of the 1980s, starting from a reflection on the union movement, social movements, and class struggles. It analyzes the socio-political-historical determinations for the professional *shift* in the emergence of a new emancipatory professional project. The second text addresses the ethnic-racial issue in social work curricula, proposing a reflection on the relationship between the foundations of the profession and the ethnic-racial issue in an approach to its incorporation in the Pedagogical Projects of social work courses in the Eastern region of the Brazilian Association of Teaching and Research in Social Work (Abepss), indicating trends and challenges. The third text deals with the foundations of social work based on Marx's social theory, approaching categories such as the social individual, collective work, social relations, and the conception of history, accompanied by notes on the insertion of the profession in these processes.

The thematic dossier is supplemented by other investigations carried out in the country related to the ethnic-racial issue, focusing on black men and women and indigenous peoples, and public policies, with emphasis on the debate in social work. The articles include: resistance of quilombolas; class, race, and gender in the Psychiatric Reform; reference centers for social assistance and mental health; and the incidence of COVID-19 in the tragedy of the Yanomami people. These are combined with the problematization of marijuana in the face of the scourge of prohibitionism, and the (lack of) protection of women who use psychoactive substances in Brazil.

Opening the free themes section we have the article entitled *Quilombola R-existence in Brazil: coloniality of power, racism and environmental issues*. The study focuses on the experiences of the quilombola communities of Baía Formosa and Caveira, located in the municipalities of Armação dos Búzios and São Pedro da Aldeia, whose emphasis covers the macrostructural conditions as well as the struggles of resistance and social organization of the quilombolas in response to socio-environmental and territorial challenges. Following this ethical-racial path, we have the study *The Yanomami tragedy, COVID-19, and the social determination of health*. It highlights the neglect of the public authorities in the epidemic towards the Yanomami segment based on the concepts of culture and racism, dialoguing with Jaime Breilh's conception of the "dialectic of the social determination of health" and decolonial thinking. The article *Social Assistance Reference Centers in Brazil: notes on their spatial distribution and workforce* presents preliminary results of an interinstitutional and interdisciplinary study by researchers from federal universities

(UFOP, UFFF, UFRJ) and technical and managerial professionals from the Unified Social Assistance System (Suas), which demonstrate the current reconfigurations of social assistance policy in Brazil. The following article, entitled *Class, race, and gender in the Psychiatric Reform: particularities of Brazilian social formation*, presents a study on the production of knowledge limited to the theme of class, race, and gender relations based on Brazilian social formation and its consequences in the Psychiatric Reform in the country. From another angle, the article *Marijuana in the face of the scourge of prohibitionism* problematizes, through a bibliographic and documentary review, the historicity of marijuana prohibition in Brazilian legislation and the emergence of biomedical, legal, economic, public administration interests, and anti-prohibitionist movements that have been driving a new level of legislation. Closing the free themes section, the study *The (un)protection of women users of psychoactive substances in Brazil* analyzes state social protection by problematizing the place of women users of psychoactive substances, in the Brazilian context, between 2016 and 2022.

The issue 59 of Em Pauta is strengthened with the sections Interview, Reviews, Life Tribute, and Photo Exhibition, as detailed below. In our Interview section, Dr. Lúcia Garcia, a reference in conducting research in international cooperation, shares her experience of international partnerships, bringing reflections on the processes and policies of internationalization in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Brazil, especially in postgraduate programs in social work.

Inaugurating an innovation, the journal presents a review of the documentary *Social Security: 100 years of struggles*, whose analysis is an invitation to readers to appreciate a robust research promoted by the undergraduate course in social work and the Postgraduate Program in Social Work at PUC-SP, supported by resources from the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel / Academic Excellence Program (Capes/Proex) and co-sponsored by the Unions of Federal Workers in Health, Labor, and Social Security in Rio Grande do Sul (SINDPREV-RS) and the Union of Workers in Health and Social Security in the State of São Paulo (SINSPREV-SP). The documentary was directed by Bruno Rico and executive produced by Dr. Maria do Socorro Reis Cabral, social worker and a professor at PUC-SP. The documentary provides viewers with moving images of the history of class struggles in the process of establishing and developing Social Security in Brazil.

The review entitled *The past that was, but is not gone: a reflection on the slave legacy and racial inequality in Brazil*, discusses the book *Land, capital, and labor in the slave mode of production: the agrarian bases of Brazilian racism*, written by José Amilton de Almeida, published in 2025 by Dialética Editora. The book is the product of the doctoral thesis in social work at UERJ, also enhanced by the author's political activism, with an important contribution to thinking about Brazilian social formation.

The *Tribute to Leila Lima Santos* is accompanied by the celebratory echoes of the 60th birthday of the Reconceptualization Movement and the centenary of the first school of social work in Latin America and the Caribbean, established in Chile in 1925. The text emphasizes the fruitful contributions of Lelia Lima Santos that were born in the Reconceptualization Movement, but surpassed it, leaving the mark of her legacy in the history of Latin American social work to the present day.

The Photographic Exhibition by Igor Freitas Lima, photojournalist/documentary photographer, *From Baixada to Buenos Aires: a political look at the territories I inhabit*, presents photographs taken in Duque de Caxias, in the state of Rio de Janeiro, and in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. He intends to share themes such as territorialization, discussion of spaces, popular agenda, culture, and politics, and reconstruct memory through photography.