Abstract

**Metamorphosis of the New World**, by *Octavio Ianni*

The New World can be seen as an enigma that resurfaces periodically, challenging people and indicating a number of configurations and movements in world history. Along with other just as important enigmas, the New World may seem clear, defined and codified, but only in appearance. At the end of the 20th century and approaching the 21st century, the New World continued to occupy the minds and lives of everybody around the world as well as its own inhabitants.

**Keywords**
Colonialism, slavery, nationalism, imperialism, globalization, Nation-State.

**Rural education and cultures: a discussion on alternative pedagogies**, by *Alberto Merler, Erineu Foerste, Gerda Margit Schütz-Foerste*

The paper addresses the issue of rural education in the context of collective struggles for quality public education for all citizens as a social right and state duty. The study focuses on educational practices in rural contexts as alternative pedagogies that work with the cultures of traditional peasant populations. Education is seen as an emancipatory process, as actual historic experiences of people/social groups in their struggles and resistance, as excluded subjects in cities and countryside, in the correlation of forces of social classes.

**Keywords**
Rural education, alternative pedagogies, cultures, partnership.

**Poverty, sociability and types of social networks in São Paulo and Salvador**, by *Eduardo Marques*

The author presents the results of his research on social networks and sociability in situations of urban poverty in the cities of São Paulo and Salvador, following a previous survey of 209 networks in the city of São Paulo. The comparison between the previous results and those related to 153 networks in the Bahian capital – of quite a different metropolitan, social and economical context – reinforces the significance of the obtained models and specify the various elements to be focused on. The results indicate the presence of a solid type of networks and sociability in the majority of cases studied.

**Keywords**
Urban poverty, social networks, sociability, Brazil.
Sociological analysis of Cuban multiculturalism between ajíaco and diversity. The historical approach to the problems of recognition and race, by Tristano Volpato

The author discusses some colonial cuban dynamics describing the socio-political trajectory of the island, the slave trade of the 16th- to the 19th-century, the development of the sugar trade, and the dynamics of recognition-rejection of cultural diversity. By presenting the reasons behind discrimination, miscegenation and syncretism, the author offers a tentative theoretical trajectory aimed at interpreting the Cuban model through a multicultural perspective.

**Keywords**
Homogeneity, diversity, race, identity.

Youth banditry and the security market in a barrio in Guatemala City, by Paolo Grassi

It is commonly argued that in Guatemala, after the peace accords and the dismantling of the military apparatus, the state no longer has the monopoly in the management of public security. New economic opportunities within the security market opened up; opportunities that were soon grabbed by illegal armed actors such as drug dealers and juvenile gangs. The author analyzes the process that led – from the second half of the 1980s – to the birth of the first maras (juvenile gangs) and the creation of some civil night patrols in a slum of Guatemala City.

**Key words**
Guatemala, mara, pandillia, security market.

The Caracol State Park through the profile of its visitors, by Paula Carina Mayer da Silva, Eurico de Oliveira Santos, Silvio Luiz Gonçalves Vianna

The present study has as its overall objective the description of the profile of visitors to the Caracol State Park. The survey employed the descriptive statistical method, using a questionnaire with open and closed questions for data collection. It was filled out by two hundred visitors in April 2011. The Caracol State Park was established in 1973 on an area of 100 hectares and its main attraction is the Caracol Waterfall.

**Keywords**
Tourism, environment, environmental preservation, conservation units, Caracol State Park.