



DOSSIER POLITICAL HISTORY AND MEDIA: MULTIPLE DEBATES

The current issue of the *Journal History: Trends and Debates* of the Postgraduate Program in History (PPGH) of the University of Passo Fundo (UPF) is composed of articles from the **Dossier History Politics and Media: multiple debates** and free articles, a permanently open section.

The **Dossier Political History and Media: multiple debates** was proposed by Dr. Leticia Sabina Wermeier Krilow, a professor in the Graduate Program at the Federal University of Pelotas (UFPel) and a professor in the Municipal Education Network of Guaíba, and by Dr. Luis Carlos dos Passos Martins, of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS). Based on the perspective that politics and media have historically been intertwined, we understand that when René Rémond (2003) points to the direction of a so-called “renewed” Political History, he is indicating the possibility of an opening, that is, the possibility of interconnecting Political History with other fields of historiographical production and with other disciplines. From this perspective, beyond politics, “the political” begins to gain prominence, seen both as the locus of governance of societies and as an important variable in understanding historical development.

Thus, the **Dossier Political History and Media: multiple debates** seeks to provide a knowledge-sharing platform for researchers who consider political history and media central to their research. The project seeks to establish a fruitful dialogue between various themes of political history, such as the use of the press for political propaganda at the national and international levels, the press as a space for political opposition, the press as a locus for

conceptual discussions, and many other topics that permeate the complex relationship between media and politics.

The first article in the Dossier is authored by **Filipe Queiroz de Campos** and is titled *“Looms on the horizon”: the unofficial use of the foreign Press by Getúlio Vargas and Oswaldo Aranha on the eve of the Second World War*. Based on the vast body of research on the role and use of the propaganda machine within Brazil, the author proposes a new perspective on the use of the press. He focuses his analysis on the "backstage of diplomacy," encompassing what he characterized as "unofficial" use of the foreign press by the Vargas administration for various political projects. To this end, Campos investigates Oswaldo Aranha's involvement with Getúlio Vargas while Aranha was Ambassador to the United States (1934-1938). Concluding that Aranha's actions were aimed at bringing the United States closer and defending Brazil's foreign policy traditions, which involved geopolitical power projects rather than a technical and disinterested approach on the part of the then ambassador. This reveals new dynamics in the process of formulating Brazilian foreign policy, dynamics linked to the use of the press for political and geopolitical interests.

The next text in the Dossier, *Opposition press and municipal party: the political activity of the Regenerative Republican Party (Macaé, state of Rio de Janeiro, 1909-1911)*, is by **Sandro Aramis Richter Gomes**. The author analyzes the founding, development, and dissolution of the Regenerating Republican Party (PRR), which operated in the city of Macaé, on the northern coast of Rio de Janeiro State, from 1909 to 1911. Gomes emphasizes that the PRR was created to oppose Alfredo Backer, then president of the state of Rio de Janeiro, demonstrating that initiatives to form opposition parties were also underway in inland municipalities. In the case of the PRR, the founding of the newspaper "O Regenerador" was crucial to this opposition. In this sense, the PRR's main activity was to maintain a newspaper in circulation to criticize Backer, while simultaneously defending the electoral ambitions of President Nilo Peçanha's allies. Thus, with the rise of an ally of Peçanha to the Government of Rio de Janeiro, the PRR was extinguished and its members migrated to the situationist order.

The Dossier concludes with the article by **Miguel Vitor de Araújo Vieira and Julia Calvo**, *The 1999 Minas Gerais moratorium: institutional and symbolic expression of tensions in federative pactuation*. The text analyzes the unilateral suspension of debt payments by the State of Minas Gerais to the Federal Government, decreed by then-Governor Itamar Franco in January 1999. According to the authors, the moratorium can be understood as a form of institutional and symbolic confrontation between the state government and the central government. In a broader sense, this political gesture can be understood as a critique of the

model of federalism that emerged in Brazil in the 1990s, marked by the concentration of fiscal and budgetary decisions in the Federal Government and the weakening of the states' deliberative capacity. To conduct their research, they used texts published in newspapers such as *Estado de Minas* and *Folha de S. Paulo* as primary sources. Concluding that the moratorium, more than a default, exposed the federative asymmetry and repositioned Itamar as an opposition leader. Although defeated in practical terms, the measure remained a symbolic milestone in federative disputes in Brazil.

Opening the free section, we have the article *The reannexation of Bessarabia and the conquest of Northern Bukovina according to official Soviet history*, by **Anderson Franciscon and Moisés Wagner Franciscon**. The authors use the Discourse Analysis methodology proposed by Dominique Maingueneau and Patrick Charaudeau, and practiced by Noam Chomsky, to analyze publications in Russian, Portuguese, and Spanish by official Soviet authors on the subject of the reannexation of Bessarabia and the conquest of Northern Bukovina in 1940. Thus, they map the construction of a Soviet version of events, present in its official history, published in the USSR, and in works intended to disseminate its motives abroad, in a climate marked by the Cold War. Concluding that, over the course of three decades, official Soviet historiography repeated or copied verbatim the same arguments for the reannexation of Bessarabia and the occupation of Northern Bukovina, originating from the first version of the *Istoria* of 1960. That is, they aimed to legitimize Soviet actions by claiming that by constructing distant borders, they were defending their population and industrial centers from enemy attack. Likewise, they sought to defeat Nazism and undo the "historical injustice" of Versailles, which removed several regions from revolutionary Russia, thus preventing the national unity of the peoples who inhabited the USSR.

The following text, *Decolonizing History to delay the end of the world? Reflections on climate and epistemological emergencies*, by **Jonathan Marcel Scholz**, discusses current climate issues. To this end, the author draws on the epistemological reflections of Ailton Krenak, reinforced by decolonial and postcolonial perspectives that establish a critique of modernity and its byproducts. By incorporating these perspectives, the author seeks to reinforce the relevance of the production of historical knowledge utilizing non-Westernizing epistemologies and thereby decolonizing history by including new actors, new worldviews, and new narratives that distinctly view humankind's relationship with nature. In this context, according to Scholz, Ailton Krenak has stood out as a recognized voice in social reflections, beyond academic and university circles, problematizing the impacts of climate change on the planet and criticizing the Western model of

society in which we live. It is no coincidence that the title of the article is inspired by Krenak's work *Ideas to Postpone the End of the World*.

Cultural synesthesia: journey from what is felt to is experienced, by **José Gregorio Aguiar López and Elsy Canelón González**, is the third article in the free section. The authors understand cultural synesthesia as a transdisciplinary phenomenon that can be theorized as a concept capable of articulating sensory perceptions and the construction of cultural meaning. Thus, the authors argue that, analogous to neurological synesthesia, cultural synesthesia refers to the evocation of associations across disparate cultural domains based on specific symbolic, narrative, or practical stimuli. Thus, cultural synesthesia represents a dynamic and multidimensional approach to the creation and experience of culture, allowing for a deeper and more complex perception and understanding of cultural elements, connecting with the senses and experience unexpectedly. Regarding what is felt and experienced, the trajectory is traced from fundamental sensory perception to the emergence of collective and structured cultural experiences, which enriches the understanding of culture.

The fourth free article features **Gizele Zanotto's** contribution, *“We stand for the freedom to know, understood as the broadest opportunity to access higher education”: the establishment of a University in Passo Fundo (1950s-1960s)*. The author draws on extensive documentary analysis to reconstruct the history of the community struggle for the establishment of a university in the southwestern region of Rio Grande do Sul that would meet the needs of continuing education and the retention of graduates in the region. She begins her analysis with documentation from the 1950s, specifically that of the Pro-University Society of Passo Fundo (SPU), founded in 1950 and which led to the creation of the SPU School of Law (FD) in 1953, inaugurating higher education in the region. A few years later, in 1956, the Catholic University Consortium (CUC) was created, on the initiative of the then-bishop of Passo Fundo. The documentation shows that since the creation of the CUC, the incorporation of the Consortium's courses into the future University of Passo Fundo was already being considered, a project that came to fruition in 1961. From then on, a broad debate encompassing several initiatives - stateization, federalization and merger - came to light, which formed an environment suitable for the creation of the Fundação Universidade de Passo Fundo (FUPF) in 1967. However, in a politically turbulent and dictatorial environment, in 1968, the University of Passo Fundo (UPF) was formalized.

Closing this issue of HDT is the important contribution of **Adelar Heinsfeld** with the article *Dalla Italia noi siamo partiti: the immigration and Italian migration to Brazil in the academic production of the Postgraduate Program in History at UPF*. The author draws

on the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Italian immigration to Brazil to systematize the academic production of the PPGH/UPF on the immigration and migration of Italians in Brazil, as well as on Italian identity. Thus, he mapped 12 master's dissertations and two doctoral theses that addressed the "Italian" question and were defended within the PPGH/UPF. The author concludes that these works contribute to regional and national historiography, as they present elements consistent with new approaches that far surpass traditional historiography. The variety of topics covered also demonstrates the richness of this subject. Thus, according to Heinsfeld, although the topic of "Italians in Brazil" has already been explored in historiography, new work with previously unpublished documentation is still possible. Reinterpretations from different perspectives and with new approaches will offer different perspectives on previously explored themes. This highlights that this field remains open for future research.

Happy reading everyone!

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