

# Editorial

Two intentions were kept in mind while proposing the dossier of the journal *História: Debates e Tendências* the first one was to emphasise a field of studies in History, the rural world, which has a broad scope; the second intent was to stress that Environmental History has, in modern research, strong, important connections with Rural History. We conceive the rural world as a vast field of historiographic studies that comprehends human interactions with the environment, agricultural production and cattle-raising, extractivism, social-environmental changes, the use of water, discourses and representations about nature, socio-cultural relations, politics and power relations, construction of landscapes, access and land ownership, agrarian legislation, agrarian conflicts, work relations in the field, agricultural frontiers, rural social movements and others.

Clearly, Social History, Economic History and, particularly, Agrarian History, have been addressing some of these studies for a while. The emergence of Environmental History as an academic space in the second half of the 20th century enabled scholars to review such themes, see them from the frontier of different areas of knowledge and move away, as much as possible, from the nature-culture dichotomy. The interconnection of areas and the dialogue of knowledge have opened another path to also understand and explain the complex rural world, with its changes and continuity. The environment, nature, some would write, comes to be seen as an acting part, an agent of the history experienced by human societies. However, not all texts in this dossier are grounded on theoretical and methodological references of Environmental History and we have never wished them to be so. Research on Political History and the power relations involving the agro is another important side of studies concerning the rural world. It is also evident that we do not foster a country-city duality; neither do we propose studying one without acknowledging the other and their interactions. We do believe, indeed, that there are particularities of the rural that deserve attention from researchers.

The texts in this dossier are representative of the amplitude of themes related to the rural world: two articles address power and political relations in the Argentinean agrarian universe; a study on the conflicts involving the demarcation of indigenous lands in areas of colonization, in northern Rio Grande do Sul; two articles discuss the history of cattle-raising, being one about southern Brazil and the other about southern Chile; a number of articles address agriculture in southern Brazil, though from different views; a study on the advertisement of condominiums on the edge of a dam in Paraná; and, with more methodological

features, an article that evaluates the contributions from cartography to the Environmental History in Argentina.

They all share views onto the changing rural world. Some articles have wider temporal range, as they move further backwards in time. Most of them, however, focus on the 19<sup>th</sup> and/or 20<sup>th</sup> century, making interpretative and explanatory efforts available to those readers who want to know the path that has brought us to contemporary society.

We are grateful to those who have submitted their articles and we wish a fruitful reading to those who are interested in the history of the rural world.

Ironita P. Machado PPGH UPF  
Eunice Sueli Nodari PPGH UFSC  
Marcos Gerhardt PPGH UPF  
Organizers