

Editorial

Building a dossier aiming at the History of the Rural World and Social Movements means offering a space for reflection, discussion and disclosing of problems of past and present history. This dossier concentrates the investigation into three themes: the rural world, the property of land and social movements. They allow discussing the themes, methodologies and theories of studies and research through relations with agrarian history, the history of agriculture, occupation and appropriation of land, land conflicts, social movements, agrarian and political frontiers, socio-cultural relations and rural social groups. The perspective that approximates and connects these studies is that of the rural world and social movements in Latin America and Brazil, while interacting with other territories. An interface with history, anthropology, geography, rural sociology and law is sought, trying to discuss the several rural realities, from the perspective of the regional in its multiple facets.

Presently, there is a growing academic debate on the “rural world” and “social movements”, reflecting the state-of-the-art of research in different areas of knowledge. Partly, this growth is motivated by changes in the scenario, i.e., what had been accepted and recognised as rural and urban space, nature and culture, social organisations and social processes, demographic mobility and territorialisation, space and region, productive processes and systems, agricultural and environmental frontiers, labour and labourer. Such changes are the fruit of the dynamics of the historical process that brings along permanence, rupture and resistance, produced with the participation of innumerable movements and organisations fighting for a society that unveils, reflectively, those values and practices that constitute the core of capitalism as an economic system and civilising force.

This dossier brings together articles about the rural world and social movements that, in general, have Social History as a guideline. Thus, they are connected and encompass themes of research such as: settlement, indigenous populations, social movements and violence, colonisation and economic cycles, land ownership and agrarian legislation, agribusiness, occupation of space, work worlds, among others. The dossier reveals the advance of historiographic debate and helps resignify the social dimension of History, trying to look on, grounded on new approaches, new concepts, methods and techniques of research, diverse interpretative possibilities of the dynamics of social processes in which groups interact, dispute, design and change the social organisation.

The article by Antonio Escobar Ohmstede discusses violence as an act that can be questioned, therefore, investigated not only in social movements, in terms of practical action of open conflicts, but also in documents expressing manifestos from rebels in everyday life.

From this viewpoint, but investigating structural issues that had some impact in the process of creation and distribution of wealth, and in a number of situations leading to social movements and conflicts, Juan Luis Martiren draws a comparative study on the evolutions of cycles of accumulation and distribution of wealth in agricultural colonies in Brazil and Argentina.

The issue of land possession and ownership, in the contemporaneity of those debates and land reform policies that did not consider succession, i.e., the generational process, is studied by Ana Luísa Micaelo. By drawing an ethnographic analysis of houses in a rural settlement in the Zona da Mata in Pernambuco, the researcher tries to understand how the settlements coped with the situation.

Márcia Motta and Marina Machado discuss the present issue of land ownership, but do it considering one of its past matrixes. The study addresses the theoretical and juridical debate around the controversial concept of emphyteusis (or leasing), as well as the conceptions of wealth as linked to land ownership, between the late 18th century and the first two decades of the 19th century.

Still referring to the 19th century, Marcio Antônio Both da Silva addresses the agrarian facet of the Federalist Revolution in the jungles of Rio Grande do Sul (1893-1895). The researcher analyses sources produced by participants of the revolution, trying to discuss the different significances that expressed the social conditions and situations then experienced by rural populations that lived in the region.

Following a similar temporal and spatial framework than that of the previous study, Guinter Tlajja Leipnitz shows how, in the municipality of Uruguaiana, the long-lasting process of control over cattle ownership was marked by normatization and regulation, by means of Rural Postures, detention, production and commerce of herds, particularly cattle.

Finishing the dossier, Arlene Renk and Silvana Winckler discuss the social and historical context that gave rise to the main conflicts in the west of Santa Catarina, as a means of building the biography of small properties and the role they play in agrarian conflicts, in that space.

It is worth mentioning that, more and more, as territorial, agrarian and socioeconomic frontiers become weaker, so does the knowledge about them. Following that same path are the other articles that make up this issue and address confrontations motivated by economical reasons, occupation of space and the transformation of the territory, policies promoting alternative biofuels, work processes, political relations and their agents.

One example is *Utilisation du foncier agricole à des fins de culture de Jatropha dans le Bassin arachidier sénégalais: une démarche controversée et des gains pas à la hauteur des attendus du programme*, an article that centres the debate around the productive chain of Jatropha,

Senegal, with an emphasis on the strategies applied and their effects in the productive space, the living conditions of farmers and the risks of reducing traditional cultures.

In *When friendship and solidarity bonds are broken: questions of dispute and mediation of land and possession of animals* analyses some everyday confrontations and conflicts brought about by economical issues involving Germans, their descendants and Brazilians in São Leopoldo, from 1846 to 1871.

In *The occupation of space and the transformation of the territory: a study on the possession of land in Sant'Ana de Paranaíba (MT) in the 19th century* an analysis is made of the possession of land from *post-mortem* inventories and sales contracts.

We are grateful to those who have sent their articles and we wish this issue of *History: Debates and Tendencies* may meet our readers' expectations and that the articles published here may foster fruitful discussions and be the starting point for further investigation on the themes addressed here.

We wish all those interested in the history of the rural world and social movements can benefit from the reading!

Ironita A. Policarpo Machado
João Carlos Tedesco
University of Passo Fundo, Brazil
Márcia Maria Menendes Motta
Fluminense Federal University, Brazil
Organizers