Editorial

Over the course of 15 years of existence World Tensions, Journal of the Observatory of Nationalities, establishes itself as an open space to welcome the systematic production of knowledge, train young researchers, promote debates, disseminate studies on the construction of nations. Many scholars have reflected and written about the nation, an entity that structures social life and relations between peoples. Some see it as a community of feelings, others as a zone of conflict. There is no consensus among those who dedicate themselves to this theme of international relations and challenge the dominant paradigms of Eurocentric bias and other excluding views on the phenomenon of the imagined community, as Benedict Anderson pointed out. Provoking issues do not stop at our dear Ben’s assertion that national demonstrations begin in the New World and not in the old continent. The articles in this collection are a sample of the challenges we face in understanding the idea of nation.

This edition begins with the thought-provoking reflection of Otavio Velho, member of the Advisory Council and once again present in our journal, which observes the links between reason and imagination, presented as prophecies, omens and dreams, based on the careful reading of Espinosa’s work. From philosophical, anthropological, and political considerations, the author of “Antinomies do Real” discusses, innovatively and without fading current, issues such as fake news, denial, the relationship between democracy and science. Among the numerous gems of the text, a placement seems to challenge the proposed “criteria of truth”: the humanities must recognize themselves as sciences of nature, which implies overcoming the dichotomy society x nature. This is a field to be explored and favorable to the development of the social imaginary.

The exploratory study of a young researcher called Loren Berbert invites us to think critically about the paradigms of reason
and its consequences in terms of the ecological crisis. This crisis will not be solved in the landmarks of the dominant paradigm in the social imaginary of Western modernity, which permeates both the sciences of nature and the social sciences. In hegemonic discourses, society and nature are ontologically separate elements, not sharing the same status, which characterizes a strongly hierarchical relationship. Berbert maintains that “the environmental problem” presents itself as a privileged place to develop plural rationalities and build inter- and supradisciplinary dialogues within the academic field.

Following, the reader will find a rich discussion on one of the main expressions of Latin American social thought and the theory of dependence: Pablo Gonzáles Casanova. Known to the Brazilian public, especially by the concept of internal colonialism, his vast work testifies to the relevant intellectual contribution to the field of sociology, by giving it an ethical and political role in the perspective of human emancipation. The thought of this classic of the social sciences is scrutinized in the text of Edilmara Fernandes and Lia Pinheiro, which go through ideas, methods and themes, in order to reveal to us the face of the social scientist who produces and acts with popular movements, because knowledge is not exclusive to academia.

The adventure continues in the company of two researchers from the University of International Integration of Afro-Brazilian Lusophony (UNILAB), Ricardino Teixeira and Tricia Baticam, whose article is entitled “African social movement of Guinea’s fidjus dibideras in university spaces”. A nation that emerges from anticolonial struggles and civil wars in the mid-twentieth century, contemporary Guinea-Bissau experiences profound transformations that are reflected in intellectual and literary production, both in the local and in the context of the diaspora. In Guinean society, the movement of fidjus dibideras (children of women who work in the informal market since the time before colonization) has an innovative role in the artistic-cultural field by raising an analytical look and a critical knowledge on the bonds of individual and collective sociability, woven nationally and in the diasporas.

In Brazil, the educational changes caused by the state reform in the 1990s have greatly affected working students aged 18 years or
older who attend the night shift of high school. This is one of the results of the quantitative-qualitative analysis of educational public policies implemented in schools in Ceará, the result of documentary research undertaken by Márcio Kleber and João Bosco Feitosa. The authors’ text has as its guiding line the notion of accountability, and approximation and distancing strains of the educational policies of Ceará are drawn from other neoliberal policies.

Finally, we present an interview given to the FM University radio discussion program on the Brazilian diplomatic crisis, which was attended by the editors of World Tensions, Gustavo Guerreiro and Mônica Martins, as well as the professor of international law Débora Santana. We discuss the consequences of Brazil’s current foreign policy, highlighting the clashes with our neighbors in Latin America – Argentina, Colombia, and Chile – with the Arab League and European countries such as France, Norway, Denmark, and Germany. We argue in the studies of the Nationality Observatory, that the values and standards prevailing in international relations throughout the twentieth century have never ceased to suffer disputes, but these days its validity seems strongly worn out. The reconfiguration of the world system is a growing demand, whether from countries rich in prolonged crises, emerging economies that demand recognition in decision-making bodies or populations massacred by poverty.

We wish you a pleasant reading!

The editors