

## Presentation

Behold, *Textos e Debates* are doing in this year 2015, twenty years.

In 1995, thanks to the will and commitment of a group of teachers of the Social Sciences and History courses, grouped then in the *Centro de Ciências Sociais e Geociências* (Centre of Social Sciences and Geosciences) - CCSG –, today known as *Centro de Ciências Humanas* (Centre of Human Sciences) - CCH - the magazine has contributed to disseminate research and knowledge production both at Federal University of Roraima and at other academic units of the country and outside Brazil.

Thus, we realize that throughout these twenty years the magazine *Textos & Debates* has grown, strengthened and taken a dimension beyond national borders. Today we have 28 published figures, with more than 200 articles, covering various themes in the area of Human Sciences.

With a new team in the Editorial Committee, starting from the Journal number seven, the Edition will be published every six months, with a serious commitment to ensure the regularity and frequency in addition to the effort to provide the *Textos e Debates* a more national and less regional characteristic, while, however, reflecting the Amazon as an important issue. Thus, the expansion of the dissemination of the magazine all around the country yielded valuable contributions in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences, in addition to the already listed contributions from researchers from other countries.

A new change happened after the publication of the edition number eighteen, when the magazine became electronic, with some numbers guaranteed also in a printed version. We follow thus a trend that has been confirmed and consolidated, which is the publication of periodicals in electronic means.

Finally, the linking of the magazine with the Post-Graduate Programme on Society and Frontier brings up a new perspective: to work as a vehicle in research involving the political, cultural and social dynamics and border regions, particularly in the triple border Brazil, Venezuela and Republic of Guyana, whose understanding requires dialogue with various fields of knowledge. Therefore, the Journal grows and also strengthens the field of interdisciplinary research, reflecting thus the complexity of life in border regions.

We can say that today the Journal has more quality and constitutes an important area of socialization of knowledge, key tool to expand the production of scientific and philosophical knowledge. Thus, it constitutes also a tool to think and build a more humanistic and fair society.

This special edition, bilingual, brings to readers some articles published in the Journal over these twenty years selected by depicting the issues of the Amazonian region, covering more broadly the various areas of knowledge. Therefore, this is an issue that, as well as celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the magazine, it acclaims also the Amazon Region and researchers from various regions of the country and abroad, who have devoted their attention to study and help us understand more and better this reality.

Thus, eight articles have been chosen from over these twenty years, which present a reflection on different issues related to the Amazonian region and its borders. The first article, originally published in 2005, deals with a very important subject for the journal and for the Amazon region, indigenous issues. In this article, *From the hut to the civilization: the Indians in the colonization process of Roraima in the XX century*, Raimundo Nonato Gomes dos Santos presents an approach about the construction of the indigenous non-place that had to rely on the effective participation of indigenous peoples. These people who, throughout that century, have different kinds of participation in this process that the author calls the modernization of Roraima's space, or the construction of this non-place that, to be built, needed the "death" of another.

Although these people have been constantly "pushed to the edges", their presence in the urban context is not "a recent phenomenon." That's what Luciana Marinho de Melo will address in her article *The sociocultural formation of Boa Vista – Roraima and the Macushi and Wapichana people in the city: Historic process and sense of belonging*. The author says that the presence of the Macushi and Wapichana people in the space that is today set as the capital of Roraima dates back to ancient times, although it is sometimes presented as a "new occupation territory". After presenting a historical overview of these people in that space, the author concludes that: "We have thus a municipal political-administrative structure that shows difficulties in contemplating the indigenous population layer of the urban area". However, and despite this, "the Macushi and Boa Vista Wapichana have been making a narrative of belonging that interrelates social and cultural aspects that were swallowed by the official history and, later, by the government."

Still on indigenous issues, Maria Auxiliadora Lima de Carvalho presents in *The Yanomami sociopolitical dynamics in the context of the Hutukara creation: The pata thëpë and the emergency of Young political leaderships*, a discussion on the participation of traditional leaders and youth leaders in the Yanomami form a political space. From the interethnic contact and training courses, such as teachers and health workers, new possibilities – including "representation" – will be given to these young Indian peo-

ple, who by the time they are able to master, for example, the Portuguese language, will be required as interpreters together with the traditional leaders and eventually acquiring another status in the tribe. About the presence of these young leaders, the author also states that "it is not about a rupture, or generation gaps between young and old, but of distinct ways for constructing references by means of which they construct the force of their speech."

About the colonization process of the Rio Branco valley, Jaci Guilherme Vieira and Gregório Ferreira Gomes Filho, says in their article called *Saint Joaquin's Forte: From the milestone of the Portuguese occupation on the Rio Branco valley to the battles of memory – XVIII to XX centuries*. In this article, the authors work on two issues: the construction of the Fort as a Portuguese landmark occupation in the region and the arising consequences of this decision and, not least, the appropriate memory by the sectors of Roraima society, for whom the Fort is considered as an "milestone" of the occupation of this space and hence the need for this reference for legitimizing their "social location" and the constant disputes to grab some lands.

Bearing in mind that the colonization process is expanding both space and themes that run through this process, Nélvio Paulo Dutra Santos in *Society, environment and frontier in the Amazon: Some historical and political topics*, writes about the formation of the Amazon region with emphasis on the social, political and environmental aspects. Presents the geopolitical concerns of the nation state and the resulting projects for the Amazon that were excluded by the "old people" in the same way that "the environment was also seen as an obstacle to development, because everything was under the aegis of security, not the Darwinian one, but that of political regime and development". This leads the author to conclude that "the Amazon continues to be a place to worry about and to pay attention to."

These questions about the development, from another point of view, are presented by Peter Stevie in his article *Demographic growth and social exclusion in the "Peripheral capitals" of the Amazon*, in which he discusses the growth of cities in the "peripheral states of the Amazon": Amapá, Acre, Rondônia and Roraima. Based on population censuses, GDP and the HDI data, socio-economic indicators of the capitals of these states are presented, with emphasis on social exclusion and inequality, in order to relate these issues to the demographic growth of these cities. So for the author there is a direct correlation between population growth and the indexes presented in the article, leading to the need for "further observation over these municipalities and on the relationship between these data and the population growth that has been experienced."

Mariana Cunha Pereira, explains in her article *The memory of Brazilian and Guyanese people about the Rupununi uprising in the frontier Brazil – Guyana*, an ethnography about this episode that happened on the frontier between these two countries in the 1960s. After a contextualization of Guyana and the Rupununi region, with historical contributions resuming its colonization, the author comes to that country's independence process and the time of "political event" that was the Uprising. Based on speeches of the "black Guyanese, Macushi and Wapishana and regional Brazilian indigenous," the author "reworks these narratives" stating that "the local memory of the inhabitants of the frontier about the conflict period that enhances visibility on the Guyanese national scene to region Nine and to the city of Lethem is very confusing." However, such an event was "like a milestone of the construction of these two nation-states, of the inter-relation that involves them and of the consequences to the ethnic groups, inhabitants of the frontier, and of the way of perceiving and narrating the conjuncture conflicts of each reality".

With this bilingual edition we underline our commitment to consolidate *Textos and Debates* as a space to debate and spread knowledge, thus expanding the possibilities for readers in collaborating with the Journal.

*Professor Dr. Ana Lucia de Sousa*  
*Professor Dr. Maria Luiza Fernandes*  
*Publishers*