



FOREWORD

We are pleased to present another issue of **INTERthesis**. As announced, its main theme is the debate on the **Human Condition in Modernity**. We begin our dossier with the article written by the well known Italian geneticist Edoardo Boncinelli, who has been discussing, for many years, the relationship between the biological and cultural aspects in human existence. In this article, the focus is on what is called human conscience. Next, the professor of the UERJ history department, Carlos Alvarez Maia, discusses the human condition in a historical perspective, alleging that the human being is constituted in a symbolic instance of the language, in its interactive practice between nature and society. In the third article, Ângela Miranda, PhD in Philosophy examines the possibility of founding an ethics in the era of technological civilization, focusing on the contribution of Martin Heidegger and Hans Jonas, two of the greatest technology thinkers in the 20th century. Closing our dossier, the PhD in Biological Sciences, Javier I. Vernal, presents us a contribution of another major contemporary thinker, Arnold Gehlen, whose writings are still not very well known to us. Gehlen contends that the human being is biologically deficient and that, seeking to meet these deficiencies, qualifies as a different being before the other natural beings.

Starting up a series of articles, Sérgio Luiz Boeira and A. Koslowski, professors at UNIVALI (SC) and UNIFEBE (SC) respectively, present and compare two ways of understanding what a paradigm is. Following, Fabiana Luci de Oliveira, PhD in Social Sciences discusses what Richard Souza, one of the most important researchers of the Brazilian national reality, understands as 'Brazilian dilemma'. Gloria Sadala, Professor and researcher at PUC (RJ) and Veiga de Almeida University, discusses, in a psychoanalytic perspective, the benefits and the perplexities raised by the information overload we have been drowning in. Nilda Stecanela and Peter Moura Ferreira, Professors at the University of Caxias do Sul (RS) and researcher of the Social Science Institute at the University of Lisbon, respectively, show aspects of a research developed in the south of Brazil on the

violence suffered by women, focusing also on the difficulty of making this problem public.

Then Cíntia Uller-Gomez, PhD in Human Sciences, Luiz Fernando Scheibe, PhD in Geosciences and professor at the Interdisciplinary Doctoral studies in Human Sciences, and Maria José Reis, PhD in Social Sciences and Professor at the UNIVALI (SC) analyze the social representations that family farmers (settlers) in the city of Botuverá, Santa Catarina, have regarding the use of margins of watercourses and the plantation of exotic forestry species in rural establishments. And finally, Aline dos Santos Lima, professor linked to the Secretary of Education of the state of Bahia, offers elements so that we can understand the social and family changes brought by the implementation of the program for the eradication of child labor (PETI).

Continuing, INTERthesis brings two interesting essays. In the first one, Irene Vaquinhas, Professor at the Faculty of Languages from the University of Lisbon and member of the History Center of Society and Culture of the University of Coimbra, as well as author of several books, provides us with an assessment of the main thematic lines of the Portuguese historiography production in the area of women's studies and gender in the 19th and 20th centuries. In the second, Vera Cíntia Alvarez, Minister of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and founder of the Interchange General Coordination and Sportive Cooperation of this Ministry, aiming at promoting sports as an instrument of development and diplomacy, introduces us to the discussion on the definition and on the treatment of cultural assets, taking into account the existing opposition between the followers of the “cultural exception” and those of the “free trade”.

After still submitting three reviews – one by Leandro Oltramari (UNISUL and UNIVALI – SC), another by Paul José Krischke (UFSC) and the last one by Mario Viana Martins UFSC), this issue comes to an end, returning to its main theme, the Human Condition, the discussion on the relations between nature and history. So, last but not least, we present the translation of an article by the American psychologist Kenneth Gergen, Professor of the Psychology Department at Swarthmore College (Pennsylvania, USA) and chief formulator of what is now called “social constructionism”. With this translation, we hope to have contributed to the

initial discussion presented in the dossier and, at the same time, let Brazilian people know a little bit more about this author's theoretical and psychological perspective.

Enjoy your reading!

Selvino J. Assmann and Silmara Cimbalista
Editors

