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Tierra quemada: violencias y culturas en América Latina

Nueva Antropología

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Abstracts

Violence: new places and / or the "Others"

Elsa Blair

In Colombia, violence studies have been biased by the political and the sociological approaches. The study of the cultural aspects have been neglected because this kind of perspectives are associated with the belief in a 'culture of violence'. This concept is said to be essentialist and inadequate to deal with the phenomena of violence present in Colombian society. This text claims to overcome the stigmatization of this concept from an anthropological perspective of conflict, in an effort to contribute to the understanding of violence.

Key words: Violence, guerrilla movements, social conflict, culture.
The text was received December 1, 2002 and it was approved August 22, 2003.

Spatial images and genealogical disputes: the re-elaboration of the State-terrorism experience in a psychiatric public hospital

Sergio Eduardo Visacovsky

This work analyses how catastrophic experiences are elaborated through the use of interpretative frames. This process is examined in a group of psychiatrists and psychologists who worked in a psychiatric institution, *el Lanús* (the most famous psychiatric service in a general public hospital in Argentina). Many of them were victims of the self-named "Process of National Reorganization" (the military regime that bloodily governed Argentina between 1976 and 1983). The author wants

to show how these elaborations adopted heterogeneous and conflicting features, being organized by means of space images developed from pre-existent everyday practices.

Key words: Military regime, psychiatric therapy, torture.
The text was received December 1, 2002 and it was approved May 26, 2003.

Religious violence and political conflict in Chiapas, México

Jaume Vallverdú

Ever since the middle of the 1970s, the main protagonists in the processes of political conflict and religious violence in Chiapas (Mexico) have been traditionalist catholics, followers of the theology of liberation, protestants or evangelicals and members of millenarian creeds. Their discourses and practices have led to a considerable reworking of the symbols and identity of indigenous communities and have decisively reshaped daily life and sociopolitical organization. The protestant and millenarian faiths in particular have been a constant source of conflicts, migrations and expulsions, not only for reasons of religious dissidence but also because they challenge traditional structures of political and economic control.

Key words: Theology of liberation, religious believes, indigenous communities.
The text was received October 10, 2002 and it was approved April, 29, 2003.

Armed forces and rural contraguerrilla in México: past and present

José Luis Piñeyro

This paper has four sections. The first is a brief outline of the international situation during the cold war of the sixties and seventies and the strategic anti-communist's point of view of the American Government. The second section analyses the organization and armament of the Mexican Armed Forces and the changing military relations with the U.S.A., both related with the explosive regional sociopolitic environment of the two decades mentioned above. In the third part of the article there is a brief strategic panorama of the post-cold war and certain changes in the Mexican Armed Forces, specially since the indian insurrection of the Zapatist Army of National Liberation in 1994. The last part deals with the various characterisitcs of the rural guerrilla from the sixties to the end of the XX century, as well as the anti-guerrilla warfare of the Mexican Government.

Key words: Armed Forces, rural guerrilla, National security, Mexico-USA military collaboration.
The text was received December 3, 2002 and it was approved January 27, 2003.

Towards a theory of cultural repression: trauma and violence in the Port of Veracruz

Juan Antonio Flores Martos

This text intends to provide elements of the ethnography of the practices and speeches that form the cultural incarnation of violence in the urban culture of the Port of Veracruz, a post-colonial and peripheral scene that shares elements of the cultural map of the Caribbean societies. The author intends to provide descriptions of the presence of rape practices, the incorporation of mistreat and institutionalized formulas of domestic violence. The female body, is revealed as a mutilated and paralyzed territory that expresses trauma and the experience of pain in chronic, paralyzing or degenerative illness. Meanwhile there is an omnipresent libertine-masculine imaginary with an aggressive character in the reality and tales of the people of Veracruz.

Key words: Sexual violence, gender, domestic mistreat, masculine oppression.
The text was received December 1, 2002 and it was approved June 4, 2003.

Violence associated to the undocumented crossing of the Mexico-USA border

Guillermo Alonso Meneses

In the Mexico-U.S.A. border region, since 1993 there has been an increased number of detentions and deaths of immigrants who enter ilegally into the U.S.A. One of the factors that caused these problems has been the aggressive control of that country's southwestern border. Another factor is the persistence of the Mexican and Latin American immigrants in going to work to the U.S.A., no matter that they must enter by dangerous areas and risk their own lives crossing the border. From the perspective of socio-cultural anthropology, this work analyzes statistical data and ethnographic information to give a general view of the problems faced by immigrants and to select evidences that allow us to distinguish the different types of violence and the actors engaged in such situations. This may help to explain why more than three thousand undocumented migrants have died in the Mexico-USA border region, in the period between 1993 and 2003.

Key words: border, undocumented, migration, border patrol, violence.
The text was received December 17, 2002 and it was approved September 10, 2003.

Victims, rapist, avengers and cronistas. On sexual violence and its representation in the State of Morelos.

Joan Vendrell Ferré

This text is part of the project "Body, gender and sexuality in Mexico: the management of the body and sexuality process in the State of Morelos" with the objective of presenting some significant findings on sexual violence. The text is divided in two parts: first the author presents a theoretical methodological framework, from a socio-cultural perspective. Second, an overview of the sexual violence, where the chronicles published by the daily press (taken from the section of "Justice" of the newspaper *Union of Morelos)* are analyzed and in contrast with the testimonies provided by informants. Due to the absence of a precise Penal Code the press decides the definition of "crimes against the freedom and the normal psico-sexual development" most of the times with a rhetorical, sensationalist presentation of the news. The lack of rigor, information and precision in the treatment of the different cases expresses the social indifference with which this type of crimes are seen in the socio-cultural context with a discourse of good and evil, guilt and victims and "avenging" civil employees. Meanwhile, the profound socio-cultural causes of the sexual violence remain unseen for government officials as much as for the public.

Key words: sexual violence, cultural theory, law, domestic servant.
The text was received November 1, 2003 and was approved September 10, 2004.

The custom to kill. The proliferation of violence in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico

Patricia Ravelo Blancas

In Ciudad Juárez, the violence is part of its history, its culture, its economy and its political system. That's why the custom to kill springs from a context where nothing is safe nor minimaly stable. The life in the border and its proximity with death produces a diversity of feelings, emotions and sensations, because the danger is permanent. The deaths are violent and they take place in a scene dominated by fear, where the law is enforced by the mafias, through the hidden control of the

political and economic system. Many sectors of the population are in the service of "the picaderos", hundreds of young people operate from the gangs and, obviously women constitute one of booties of these mafias. The women illegal traffic, is the more complex problem because it is surrounded by many social and cultural aspects that this article tries to show.

Key words: sexual violence, borders, drug trafficking.
The text was received November 1, 2003 and it was approved November 11, 2004.