Affection, Identities and Corporealities

Rebeca Cena

Love, affectivity, collective identities and affection of the bodies make up inquiry objects from which the production and reproduction of sensibilities are problematized in certain contexts. From the point of view of Social Sciences interested in the study of bodies and emotions, the different ways in which the bodies are affected leads to an elucidation of their reproduction at social level. In other words, problematizing how subjects behave, interact among each other and shape as a consequence of and in certain social contexts.

The importance of this inquiry lies in that present capitalism has made sensibility regulation fundamental. The regime of accumulation has positioned body control as a privileged power domination and structuration site, so analyzing the ways in which subjects feel, perceive and act in the world has become essential for scientific research.

The affection and love forms of collective identities, the body-affectation structuration processes and the production and reproduction of fantasized bodies make up the axes of this current issue. Social structuration processes are incorporated in social sensibilities which allow for the production and reproduction of certain corporealities.

The articles that are part of this current issue deal with those problems from different theoretic, methodological and epistemological proposals. Chiara Piazzesi (Canada) problematizes erotic love as object of sociological research, characterizing a perspective that understands emotions as tied to the articulation of rules, values, constructs and ways of interacting with others. Joanildo Burity (Brazil) analyzes the glocalization processes of Christian religious movements in Argentina, Brazil and the United Kingdom as collective movements with an interesting religious-based political affiliation. Raoni Borges Barbosa (Brazil) proposes to discuss an ethnographic experience which problematizes the interactions, co-presence, ambiguous identities and “stigmatizing and excluding pressure” of sociability in a particular Brazilian context. Túlio Cunha Rossi (Brazil) explains in a film which are the influences upon affectivity of new information and telecommunication technologies. Here, everyday vocabulary takes virtual references as experiences incorporated as a consequence of the use of new technologies. Claudia Mercedes Jimenez Garces (Colombia), in the crossing between gender and collective action, proposes an analysis of bodies as places for politics and field of power of a group of women who are part of the “piernas cruzadas” social movement. Cirus Rinaldi (Italy) deals with a series of methodological and epistemological thoughts about non-regulated sexualities and pays special attention to the researcher’s body in interaction. Finally, Sebastian Gerardo Fuentes (Argentina), in the crossing between social classes and sports, analyzes young bodies as places for political dispute and identity construction objects of the middle classes.

Closing this issue, there are two reviews of books that were recently published by ESE-Estudios Sociológicos Editora. The first review offers a tour of the book by Brenda Araceli Bustos García entitled La construcción de marcas de reconocimiento en sociedades ocularcentristas: el caso de mujeres ciegas del Área Metropolitana de Monterrey. Here, the author explains how the text analyzes the way in which “blind women build their perceptions and assessment of their own bodies in a society in which blindness implies an unwanted destination and a negative symbolic state.” The second review presents a book directed by Adrian Scribano and entitled Los estudios sociales sobre cuerpos y emociones en Argentina: un estado del arte. The author explains that, after the identification of certain key points, “the chapters that make up this publication deal with research that from different disciplinary fields and theoretical perspectives is centered on bodies and emotions and that makes this
work a huge contribution for social researchers.”

We thank the authors and all those who have sent us their manuscripts. We would like to remind you that we are permanently receiving applications of articles for publication.

Finally, we must restate that as from the 15th issue of RELACES we are publishing up to two articles in English per issue. As we have been stating for some time, all of RELACES’ editorial team and editorial council believe it is necessary to take each one of our articles as a node that allows us to continue in the path of dialogue and scientific/academic exchange as a social and political task in order to attain a freer and more autonomous society. Therefore, we would like to thank all those who see us as a vehicle to open the aforementioned dialogue.