

Publishing Brazilian Anthropology for the Global Environment: Vibrant over the last eight years

Publicando a Antropologia Brasileira no Ambiente Global:
Vibrant ao longo dos últimos oito anos

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In our Editors' Note for issue 21 (2024) we present the contents of this edition and simultaneously provide a summary of the last eight years of *Vibrant*, a period during which Antonio Carlos de Souza Lima and Andréa Lobo have been the chief editors, a position from which they will now step down.

The years from 2017 to the present have been intense and hard work, involving diverse transformations to the journal, very often induced by SciELO, but implemented in line with *Vibrant*'s editorial mission. Since 2017, the journal has followed a four-monthly publication schedule and the release of scientific articles under the continuous publication (rolling pass) model. In 2019, we transitioned to a yearly single-issue publication system, combining the number of articles equivalent to three issues into a single volume. This shift enabled better management of the volume publication and structuring within the scope of our limited operational capacity, which is only partially supported financially by the Brazilian Anthropological Association and primarily sustained by our efforts to secure resources through the national science and technology funding system. These conditions have fluctuated from 2015 to the present with funding interruptions having an especially pronounced impact in 2019 and 2020. The journal had to rely on international solidarity,

thanks to the mediation of Peter Fry, to ensure its continued existence. Here we express our gratitude to *Critique of Anthropology*, which provided invaluable support. We needed to be creative, seeking assistance from colleagues who organized special issues funded by research projects, whether through ABA itself, via its project financed at the time by the Ford Foundation (which enabled the publication of the dossier *Mining, Violence and Resistance* on the “Samarco disaster” in Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo: Zhouri, Oliveira, Zucarelli & Vasconcelos, 2017), or through personal initiatives, such as the funding that enabled publication of the dossier *Fighting for Indigenous Lands in Modern Brazil: The Reframing of Cultures and Identities*: Pacheco de Oliveira, 2018).

Along with these innovations, *Vibrant* has also adopted open science protocols, including the possibility of publishing preprints, among other enhancements, remaining up to date with its ethical commitments to the best editorial practices. One of the advances made during our administration was the journal’s inclusion in the Scopus database, a challenge we set for ourselves and successfully achieved. Following changes in the editorial landscape, we discontinued our participation in OpenEdition, since this French platform would have demanded tripling our efforts in text preparation and listed the journal in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) via SciELO.

Above all, we have pursued *Vibrant*’s mission to promote Brazilian anthropology globally in more contemporary terms, recognizing that any idea of internationalization is compelled to acknowledge the profound changes experienced by the anthropology produced in Brazil, including how Brazilian anthropologists are increasingly embedded in international networks and conduct research across multiple continents. Amplifying these networks of dialogue and collaboration led us to create and consolidate the *Global Anthropological Dialogues* section, which addresses the reality of the discipline’s internationalization in Brazil, recognizing the presence of the anthropology we produce within the Latin American context (Valladares & Igreja, 2021) and beyond, enabling a broader perspective regarding contemporary anthropological practice (Dominguez & Rial, 2022). Pursuing this aim, we have fostered increased dialogue with anthropologists situated in other parts of the world and working closely with Brazilian colleagues, multiplying the voices published in *Vibrant*. Dossiers such as *Caribbean Routes: Ethnographic Experiences, Theoretical Challenges and the Production of Knowledge* (Goyatá, Bulamah & Ramassote, 2021) and *Flows, Circulations and their Opposites: Ethnographic Perspectives and Theoretical-Methodological Challenges* (Lobo & Machado, 2020) demonstrate these connections with contexts beyond national borders, as well as the ethnographic commitment and methodological curiosity typical of the discipline, reinvigorating the field with new themes and questions. Alongside these international exchanges, *Vibrant* has embraced interdisciplinarity in dossiers that combine anthropological dialogues with other areas of knowledge and national contexts (Baynes & Miller, 2021). Over our eight years of editorship, the internationalization of dialogues has also reflected an increasing diversity of themes and directions, focusing on the excellence of the anthropology produced in the Global South, while maintaining strong connections with countries in the Global North (Villalón & Cabanillas, 2018; Caje & Arisi, 2023).

At the same time, we have successfully ensured the journal’s primary objective of making the anthropology produced in Brazil accessible to new audiences – an achievement visible in the fact that half of the article citations in the H5 index have been made by anthropologists in publications abroad. We also strengthened our editorial policy for scientific popularization, disseminating our articles on social media, ensuring the regularity of volume publications and receiving a steady influx of dossier proposals. We are currently developing a new website for the journal, along with an updated visual identity and cover style, to mark our twenty years of existence. Looking forward, we hope that the new era will enable even greater integration of the journal into the global landscape of anthropological publications and a flourishing South-South cooperation.

In thematic terms, the wide range of topics explored by Brazilian anthropology has, much to our satisfaction, been reflected in dossiers and continuous-flow articles. These include indigenous issues and thematics like ritual (Castro & Gonçalves, 2017), the notion of personhood (Duarte & Aisengart, 2017;

Rezende, 2017) or questions examined through a variety of approaches from land claims to problems like the violence perpetuated by the justice system, gender and sexuality (Santos & Yssa, 2017; Pilão, 2021, among many others). These have been complemented by different perspectives concerning the impacts of race and racism in Brazil and beyond (Restrepo, 2017; Pinheiro, 2018), as well as diverse approaches to urban anthropology (Cunha, Freire & Silva, 2017), studies of legal and moral sensibilities and their epistemological implications (Cardoso de Oliveira, 2020), intangible heritage (Arantes, 2019), violence and the relationship between humans and non-humans (Oliveira, 2020, among many others) and innovative approaches such as technique-based analyses (Mura & Sautchuk, 2019).

These were just some of the many themes and topics explored in the issues we had the pleasure of editing, accompanied by the remarkable partnership and competence of Roberta Ceva and Tarcísio Ferreira, supported by an extensive network of reviewers and a growing number of dossier proponents and contributors. From analyses of social processes surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic to texts examining the history of our discipline, thematic plurality has been a hallmark of our editorial work. One distinctive feature of the volumes published in recent years has been the connection of authors with pressing national and international political issues and in response to challenging scenarios, including authoritarian governments (Machado, 2020; Souza Lima & Gonçalves Dias, 2020; O'Dwyer & Silva, 2020), the role of the “digital world” in the contemporary context (Ramos, 2019; Gomes, Alves, Throstensen & Soares, 2019), violence perpetrated against indigenous populations (Aларcon, 2018; Ferreira, 2018; Díaz & Freire, 2023) and pandemics (Sordi, Segatta & Lewgoy, 2022).

We should mention the close and supportive guidance provided by the SciELO team over these years, as well as the collaborative and creative involvement of our International Editors and, in particular, the *Vibrant* Editorial Board (especially, though not only, at some of the more difficult moments), as well as the International Board. Above all, none of our work would have been possible without the solid foundation established over Peter Fry's long tenure as general editor, supported by Carmen Rial.

Demonstrating a strong continuity with this brief history, issue 21 (2024) of *Vibrant* is composed of the sections *Articles*, *Audiovisuals* and *Déjà Lu* and three dossiers: *Neoextractivism, Climate Crisis, and Disasters: Perspectives from Argentina, Brazil, and Chile*; *Anthropologies of Management: Forms and Formulas of Government in Our Latitudes*; and *Towards the Expansion of Horizons of Anthropological Understanding: Ethnographies with “Uncomfortable Alterities.”*

In the articles – as well as the dossiers – the relations between Brazilian society and the state loom large. The thematic diversity of this section includes discussions of the “Bancada do Boi” or agribusiness lobby, affirmative action, public policies for people with substance dependencies, and therapeutic experiments aimed at curing HIV and human trafficking, along with more general reflections on the field of anthropology.

The first dossier in the issue, *Anthropologies of Management: Forms and Formulas of Government in Our Latitudes*, forms part of the third edition of the *Global Anthropological Dialogues* section. Coordinated by María Gabriela Lugones, María Cecilia Díaz and María Lucía Tamagnini (2024), the dossier continues the intellectual and analytical trajectory proposed by Teixeira, Crewe and Bernardes (2023) in Volume 20 (2023) of *Vibrant*. In *Anthropologies of Management*, the authors centre on the ways in which populations are managed and how institutions operate in the everyday lives of people in Latin America. The dossier includes articles discussing various aspects of childhood in Argentina, the role of architecture in the formation of the Brazilian state, intracontinental migratory flows and the relationship between migrants and different spheres of the state, as well as the workings of diverse police and cultural institutions in Latin America.

Neoextractivism, Climate Crisis, and Disasters: Perspectives from Argentina, Brazil, and Chile is the second dossier. Its first articles are published now in the current volume with new texts due to appear in *Vibrant*'s next edition. Organized by Andréa Zhouri (2024), president of the Brazilian Anthropological Association (2023–2024),

the dossier also proposes taking Latin America as its primary locus of analysis, its contributions focused on exploring how climate change is, above all, a consequence of so-called “environmental disasters.” These, in turn, have deep institutional, economic and political roots, producing violence of diverse kinds (Zhou, 2017).

Towards the Expansion of Horizons of Anthropological Understanding: Ethnographies with “Uncomfortable Alterities” is the final dossier in Volume 21 (2024). Coordinated by Marco Julián Martínez Moreno and Ana María Forero Angel (2024), the dossier robustly examines the process of expanding the objects and subjects of anthropological inquiry to include groups less commonly considered within the more classical forums of our disciplinary field. The analytical exercises in this dossier highlight the nuances of the new – and not so new – moments through which we are living (Souza Lima & Facina, 2019; Feltran, 2020; Neiburg & Thomaz, 2020). Additionally, the proposal recalls debates presented by Machado and Motta (2019) in this same journal five years ago, when the challenges faced by anthropology in response to the conservative wave were already capturing the attention of our peers – a convergence that points to anthropology as a fertile ground for reflecting on the questions posed by the authors.

In the section *Déjà Lu*, a regular feature of *Vibrant*, we present texts by Gustavo Lins Ribeiro (2024), Felipe Berocan Veiga (2024) and Nitzan Shoshan (2024) which, published previously, have undergone revisions for the current edition and address fundamental issues within our disciplinary field. Finally, in the section Audiovisuals, we present two photographic essays in dialog with the dossier *Utopias of Recycling and Circularity* published in our last issue.

With over than forty texts, the current volume of *Vibrant* highlights, above all, the continuity of the dialogues initiated over the past eight years of the journal, not only strengthening its history and consolidating our editorial vision, but also enhancing the anthropological reflections on the themes in question through the longevity of the debates to which the journal has played host.

As this brief overview shows, much has happened in recent years, and much more is yet to come. Beyond the aforementioned changes to our website and *Vibrant*’s visual identity, multiplying the different voices present in our journal remains a key objective for the future. On this point, we have secured funding for the publication and translation of articles by young black and indigenous anthropologists with resources from the Wenner-Gren Foundation. These dossiers will be featured in the next volume. This project, largely enabled by the arrival of Vinícius Venancio, a young black anthropologist who is now part of our editorial team, sets out to meet the challenge of internationalizing the work of emerging black and indigenous scholars in Brazilian anthropology. With funding for the translation of selected articles, the project, supported by the WG Foundation, will allow us to publish the work of a section of our anthropological community that has found it difficult to access financial resources at national level. In so doing, we take another step towards achieving *Vibrant*’s mission.

While the articles making up this volume frequently discuss the conservative aspects of the social changes we currently face, it is also important to celebrate the positive transformations – both in *Vibrant* and in anthropology more generally – that allow us to expand our horizons in diverse ways.

These have been years of intense work – an endeavour that could only ever be realized collectively. In signing off, therefore, we extend our gratitude to each of the authors and reviewers who together enabled the publication of nearly three hundred articles over the past eight years, as well as to the various funding agencies and ABA for making the journal’s existence possible. Long live *Vibrant* and a warm welcome to the new editors who will take over from 2025 onwards.

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