

## PRESENTATION<sup>1</sup>

### *APRESENTAÇÃO*

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**Denis Cotta\***  
**Jonathan Félix de Souza\*\***

The INTERAÇÕES journal, a scientific journal edited by the Graduate Program in Religious Studies, of the Department of Religious Studies at PUC Minas, as an instrument of interdisciplinary debate in the field of religious studies, has consistently contributed to the publication of articles, debates, communications, and reviews.

In the previous editorial edition, we have discussed what would be the Sciences of Religion. In this issue, Professor Flavio Senra and Professor Tatiana Almeida give us an important reflection on interdisciplinarity and disciplinarity in Religious Studies. We invite readers to read the text with the question: what is our starting point in Religious Studies?

INTERAÇÕES begins, in the articles section, with the article *THE MYSTIC OF STUDIES IN SIMONE WEIL*, in which Marcel Delfino Carvalho de Souza and Ceci Maria Costa Baptista Mariani clarify that, according to Weil's thought, the activity of studying, when embedded in deep and critical attention, can establish in the person a knowledge that goes *beyond-intellectual*, providing, in this way, a mystical attentive glance, which is characterized by the existential improvement of the self.

The second paper, *SPIRITUALITY AND ART: man's search for meaning*, by Thiago Antonio Avellar de Aquino, emphasizes the importance of art as an instrument for the expression of spirituality. For this purpose, the author applies the concepts and experiences

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<sup>1</sup> Translation made by Brasil Fernandes de Barros, Doctoral student, and Master of Religious Studies (2018), from the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais, CAPES scholarship holder, as part of the teaching practice activities under the supervision of Prof. Flávio Senra Managing Editor of Interações. ORCID: 0000-0002-5285-4871. E-mail: brasil@netinfor.com.br.

\* Doctoral student and Master of Religious Studies, from the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais, CAPES scholarship holder. Brasil. ORCID: 0000-0003-4413-8047. E-mail: cottadenis@gmail.com

\*\* Doctoral student and Master of Religious Studies, from the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais, CAPES scholarship holder. Brasil. ORCID: 0000-0002-6459-0543. E-mail: jonathanfelixadm@gmail.com

of the logotherapy founder, Viktor Frankl, during his stay in a Nazi concentration camp and, thus, he points out that art can constitute a transtherapeutic element, by empowering the individual in his search for the meaning of life.

Under the title *SPIRITUALITY AND OLD AGE: perspectives in scientific production*, is the third paper, written by the authors Deiglis Alves Moreira, Marilene Rodrigues Portella, and Vicente Paulo Alves presents to the readers a bibliographic review on the spirituality and old age themes from 2010 to 2019. The article brings analyses from three categories: (1) tools and validation of instruments to assess spirituality; (2) spirituality, old age, and suffering, (3) spiritual well-being and self-transcendence. Among the results pointed out by the authors, they highlight the lack of scientific studies on the theme of spirituality in health that includes the elderly.

José Reinaldo Felipe Martins Filho and Marcelo Gabriel de Freitas Veloso, are the authors of the fourth paper, which theme is *RELIGION AS A SOURCE OF MEANING IN THE POETRY OF SEU FREITAS*. The article aims at analyzing fragments of a book of poetry by a Brazilian popular culture author known as Seu Freitas. It presents elements that help in the understanding of symbolic aspects, offering elements for the comprehension of religion as a provider of meaning.

The fifth paper, by Flávio Lages Rodrigues, *THE LANGUAGE, AESTHETICS AND IDEOLOGY IN ROCK MUSIC BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CAVE COMMUNITY OF ADULLAM IN BELO HORIZONTE*, elucidates the formation of the social, musical, and aesthetic link among young people in this evangelical community. The author performs a sociological analysis of religion, with emphasis on Michel Maffesoli's worldview, aiming to highlight the various elements that integrate rock music and foster the spirituality of young people during the services performed in the abovementioned evangelical community.

With the title *TOWARDS A CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO AFRICA TRADITIONAL RELIGION: the Challenge of Interreligious Dialogue*, the sixth paper has been written by Nadi Maria de Almeida. The text examines the theological challenges in contemporary times for inter-religious dialogue, giving a focus on traditional African religions. It highlights that for an approach to the diverse cultures and religions through a Christian perspective, it is necessary to take off one's shoes with an attitude of respect and the opportunity to connect with the life of the people.

The seventh paper, by Carlos Alberto Motta Cunha, is entitled *THEOLOGY AND DECOLONIAL THOUGHT: in search of new places to enunciate the Christian faith*. The author presents challenges and possibilities for the dialogue between theology and

decolonial thought, and how this encounter can afford new places for the experience and proclamation of the Christian faith. Divided into two moments, the first presents this encounter as a public task aware of the groups that are marginalized in the society. Immediately after, he provokes the readers to build a fruitful dialogical path between decoloniality and theological practice.

The eighth article, entitled *BRAZILIAN CATHOLICISM SEEN FROM THE VIEWS OF THE PLURALIST PRINCIPLE*, by Claudio de Oliveira Ribeiro, points to the diversity of discourses and praxis present in the Catholic Church, by analyzing the theological nuances of some branches of this tradition. The author also highlights the plurality of identities and belonging styles of the Catholic person, addressing issues related to gender, sexuality, among other forms of existential expression of the religious subject, issues that, in certain contexts, tend to be silenced.

Eliathan Carvalho Leite, signs the ninth article with the title *RUTE: the concept of culture and its implications*, which, based on a literature review and document analysis, deepens the relationship between culture, theology and Christian mission in contemporary times, based on the biblical book of Ruth. The author seeks to bring elements to the debate around the following questions: what is culture indeed? How should Christians behave when dealing with this subject? How does the biblical text approach the subject?

The tenth and last article, entitled *JESUS AND ZACCHEUS: an encounter based on the places of rhetorical argumentation*, by Max Silva da Rocha, presents an analysis of the biblical encounter between the speaker Jesus Christ and the publican Zacchaeus. The construction of the text underlies the rhetorical resources - which the author names places of argument - used by Jesus to persuade the publican, directly contributing to the studies of rhetorical analysis of the theological discourse.

The debates and communications session is composed of two interviews with distinct and enriching themes. In the first one, the author Márcen Cardoso Miranda Hott brings us the *INTERFACE BETWEEN MENTAL HEALTH AND OBSESSION IN THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL DOCTRINE: an interview with Eugênio Eustáquio dos Santos*, in which he presents the Christian-Spiritist perspective for the spiritual treatment of the evils of obsession. Finally, in the second communication, the author André S. Musskopf gives a contextualization of the religious advances and challenges faced by the queer community in *QUEER THEOLOGY AND LGBTQIA+ CHRISTIAN GROUPS IN LATIN AMERICA: an interview with André S. Musskopf*.

We wish to the readers of INTERAÇÕES that these publications may instigate good analyses, and thus stimulate the advancement of academic research in the area of Religious Studies and Theology. Have a good reading!