

PRESENTATION

APRESENTAÇÃO

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Brasil Fernandes de Barros*

We are pleased to present to our readers the *INTERAÇÕES* special issue with the *dossier Spiritism in Perspectives*, which presents academic papers and book reviews by researchers from the field of religious studies on spiritism, its history, its trajectory of consolidation and its perspectives for development in Brazilian society.

This special *dossier* has been proposed by the Núcleo de Estudos de História do Espiritismo (NUESHE) under the coordination of Professor Adriana Gomes (PPGH-UNIVERSO) jointly with Rodrigo Farias de Sousa (UFRJ) and the Grupo de Pesquisa Políticas, Ideologias e Religiões coordinated as well by Adriana Gomes and by Angélica A. Silva de Almeida (IF-Sudeste de Minas), both registered at CNPq, who together with Marcelo Gulão Pimentel (COLÉGIO NAVAL) sign the editorial. The researchers seek to situate, in the editorial, the main events that marked the trajectory of this new religion, starting in France up to Brazil, where they highlight: the raising of the turning tables phenomena yet in the United States and its migration to Europe; the studies carried out by Allan Kardec from his interaction with these phenomena; the organization and publication of this material that gave origin to its doctrinal framework; the conflicts experienced in several social segments; its arrival in Brazil yet in the XIX century; its organization, development and the reactions in society

INTERAÇÕES journal begins the dossier with the article *THE PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF NIHILISM AND SPIRITISM EXPLAINED ACCORDING TO THE CONFLICT BETWEEN SCIENCE AND RELIGION*, proposed by Humberto Schubert Coelho, which discusses the well-known conflict between science and religion in post-

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Enlightenment culture, the typical polarization of conflicts that allowed the emergence of diametrically disparate alternatives at the extremes of the spectrum, although both perfectly aware of the nature's problem, where nihilism and spiritualism are two classic examples of the dramatic outcome of the crisis of European consciousness, and which had strong repercussions on the Latin America illustrated classes.

The second article, with the title *SPIRITISM AND THE CENTURY OF THE LIGHTS: the influence of the Enlightenment and 19th century science on Allan Kardec's*, written by Brasil Fernandes de Barros, who also signs this presentation, seeks to show the influence of the French Enlightenment context and 19th century science on the life and work of French pedagogue Hippolyte Léon Denizard Rivail better known by the nom de plume Allan Kardec.

After that, Marcos Moreira Marques brings us the article *THE SPIRITIST SCIENCE: from France to its arrival in the imperial Rio de Janeiro*, which aims to present the approximation process between mesmerism, homeopathy and spiritism in France in the 19th century. In addition, it discusses the propitious environment found for spiritism in Brazil, based on healing practices from black and indigenous cultures.

In the paper *VIEWS ON SPIRITISM: approaches between the writings of Cesare Lombroso and João do Rio*, the researchers Vanda Fortuna Serafim and Gabriela Harumi Araki analyze two intellectuals, the Italian Cesare Lombroso (1835-1909) and the Brazilian João do Rio (1881-1921), who, at the beginning of the 20th century, produced discourses on the presence of spiritism in the cities of Milan, Italy and Rio de Janeiro, respectively, that would lead to the publication of two reference books on the research into mediumistic religions taken as historical sources: *Hipnotismo e Mediunidade*, de 1909, e *As religiões no Rio*, de 1904.

The paper *THE SERTÃO IN THE DOCTRINAL NOVELS OF BEZERRA DE MENEZES (1880-1900)* by Flávio Lemos and André Seal aims to identify the representations of landscapes, subjects, and practices of the backlands of northern Brazil, read by Bezerra de Menezes' novelistic pen. These are the doctrinal leaflets *A Casa Assombrada*, *A Pérola Negra* and *Evangelho do Futuro*, all published in the spiritist journal *Reformador* between January 1888 and December 1911 (with a publication break between 1891 and 1901).

THE PAULISTA SPIRITIST PRESS (1873-1911): societies of ideas, religion and social transformation is a paper in which the author Fausto Henrique Gomes Nogueira analyzes the self-called spiritist press, particularly in the republican's context modernization in São Paulo, between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. In this

sense, he makes an inventory of the newspapers and magazines and their different editorial projects, besides presenting the main spiritist intellectuals involved with the edition of these printed materials.

The paper by José Pedro Simões, *THE SPIRITIST ASSISTENCIALISM*, addresses the matter of assistentialism in spiritist proposals and practices. Despite the effort made by this religious group to overcome the assistentialist marks, the arguments presented reinforce its maintenance, both in the conceptions and in the activities carried out. The author tries to show the assistencialism, first theoretically, and then resorting to the documents of the Brazilian Spiritist Federation, which establish guidelines in the assistential area, and to two researches carried out in Santa Catarina.

In the final paper of the *dossier*, entitled *LEFTIST ESPIRITISTS: breaks, dissents and (re)construction of the new or (re)construction again* de Marcos Scarpioni, the author seeks to understand the emergence of a group of spiritists with a new profile, the leftist spiritists, and searches for an understanding of what would be the motivations, the influences, the factors and other assumptions that have led to this break, dissidence and/or reconstruction of Brazilian spiritism.

The *free subject* session of this issue of *INTERAÇÕES* presents four papers. The first one by Roberlei Panasiewicz, Amanda Nascimento Balestrini and Aine Nunes Gonçalves Neto - *EDUCATION AND HUMANIZATION: analysis of Raimon Panikkar's theories in view of the creation of more dialogic Pedagogical Political Projects* aims at building democratic Pedagogical Political Projects (PPPs) and promoting a humanizing school environment. Its conceptions, particularly the pluralistic attitude, the dialogical method and the notion of *orthopraxis*, that can stimulate the entire school community to adopt the participatory dynamics and build democratic Pedagogical Political Projects (PPPs).

Next, we have the paper entitled *THE POSSIBLE BASIS OF THE THIRD THOMASIC WAY AND ITS RELATION TO DIVINE ETERNITY* by Clodoaldo da Luz, which firstly seeks to reflect on the possibility of time being the basis of the third Thomistic way. Second, the author tries to investigate a possible relation of the aforementioned Thomistic proof with the divine attribute of eternity.

The author Alonso Gonçalves brings us the paper *THE POLITICAL-ESCHATOLOGICAL RESERVE OF THE CHURCH AND THE SOCIAL CRISIS*, where he deals with the contributions of Jürgen Moltmann and Giorgio Agamben to emphasize the political aspect of the church as a contribution to the current political-social context. He points out to the return of political theology as a contribution to think about the theological

aspects of politics in the public space, making it appropriate to re-examine the church as a political manifestation with indelible social impact, despite all the problems that accompany the church as an institution.

The *free subject* session ends with the article by Wanderley Dias da Silva, entitled *IS CHRISTIANITY A SIMPLIFIED FORM OF BUDDHISM? it could be ... but doesn't agápē originate where śūnyatā originates?* In this paper, the author discusses the concept of *śūnyatā* which is often misinterpreted as nothingness and/or *nihilism* seeking to shed some light on this issue by discussing and contrasting the Buddhist term with a central concept in Christianity, namely *agápē*.

In the session *Debates and Communications*, the author Rodrigo Nogueira Martins brings us the communication entitled *THE RITES OF SAKPATÁ VODUN*. Finally, in the *book reviews* session, in accordance with the dossier presented, we have the following reviews about spiritism books: *THE JUDICIALIZATION OF SPIRITISM: João Baptista Pereira's Indigenous crime and the jurisprudence of Francisco José Viveiros de Castro (1880-1900)* written by Roberto Augusto Maximiano; *SPIRITISM IN PERSPECTIVES*, written by Jader dos Reis Sampaio and *WHAT ARE WE? A STUDY OF THE INTERACTION OF SPIRIT, BODY AND ENVIRONMENT* by Michelle Vianna Goliath.

The editorial team of *INTERAÇÕES* wishes to its readers that the reflections proposed here will lead to good reflections, debates, and the advancement of academic work in the Religious Studies and Theology arena. Enjoy!