

Editorial

We have good reasons to celebrate the public recognition for the perspective we have adopted throughout these years of publication, since the period when the journal *Saúde e Sociedade* was created until the moment we met the requisites for indexing it in the Scielo database. Through this system, the number of accesses to this journal jumped from 300 thousand (end of 2008) to more than 1 million (end of 2009).

Among the diverse types of reasons that lead us to collect the good results of the increase in the number of our readers, facilitated by this dissemination channel, we highlight the relational perspective that characterizes us and is present in the journal's name. And it is obviously present in this issue too, both in its theoretical-intellectual implications and in the reported experiences.

We begin with the interdisciplinarity proposal that practically founded the relationship between the social sciences and the health sciences, approached by authors from both fields in other publications, and analyzed here by Leila Jeolás from the angle of the practical implications of *risk* from the viewpoint of anthropology. Jeolás supports her suggestions of prevention practices by proposing a theoretical dialog between anthropology and the field of health.

Anthropology is also present in the theoretical reference to the classic triad nature-culture-disease, studied in a community of Manaus (state of Amazonas) by Ana Cláudia F. Nogueira and Evelyne M. T. Mainbourg, and in the recent archeological research that provides biomolecular evidence of malaria in the Mediterranean since Ancient Times, evidence that contributes to the very development of anthropology, according to the paper by Sabbatini et al. And it is also present in the ethnographic approach presented by Eliane Vargas about the uses of the Internet by infertile couples in the conformation of social conducts which, in an amplified way, reflect the individualization process of modern western culture.

The environmental question can be considered an indication of the necessary reformulations produced by the interdisciplinarity of the public health field, a question of utmost importance that is present in Brazil and in the world. Here, the idea of nature loses any "natural" and bucolic connotation and is no longer an external factor to human relations. By unveiling perverse features of these relations through social determinants, the environment reveals itself as a constitutive factor of the health-disease process, and even a visible face of degradation in all sociability levels. Demonstrating these processes requires the judicious creation of indicators that enable, for example, to formulate laws concerning the relations that produce them.

Helena Ribeiro and Thomas A. Ficarelli present, in the form of a dilemma, a contradiction of the health-environment relationship in the context of the survival of sugarcane workers of a municipality of São Paulo. Attached to their work, even though they are aware of the damages of sugarcane burning to which they are exposed, they face the mechanization of their activity in a double dimension: at the same time it reduces the effort required in hand harvesting, it constitutes a serious unemployment threat.

André Sobral and Carlos M. de Freitas, in turn, indicate the need to operationalize indicators and propose an organization model based on methodologies that allow integrated analyses to explain the inequities pointed by the socio-environmental health determinants.

This set of papers can subsidize future surveys and support the reading of the results of the study about the incidence and monthly distribution of meningitis in one municipality of Paraná, presented by Carolyn Stocco et al., in the perspective of the repercussions of climatic variables on health.

Radicalizing the need to re-signify concepts in social contexts and in interdisciplinary studies, the research carried out by Chiara Pussetti, about emotions and mental health of immigrants in Por-

tugal, starts with a criticism against pathologizing approaches to the migratory experience, which can serve as a mirror to us. We know well enough that it is not only in that country that the (im)migrant is stereotyped, depending on his origin, as “weak” and responsible for the dissemination of diseases.

Still in the realm of comparisons with experiences from other countries, Daniele P. Sacardo et al. present the new management perspectives in Spain, based on a documental analysis of the trajectory of the health system, which enabled to highlight the historical determinants of the Spanish reforms in the sanitary sector. That country also debates issues related to immigration, to the advanced process of demographic transition, to the increasing demand for improvements in the quality of care and of technological incorporation.

Age groups or life cycles are present in this issue of the journal in three papers in which the care practices are the focus. Policies against infant-juvenile sexual violence and care practices (or their absence) targeted at hearing impairment in adults are approached from the point of view of the attention given to these problems and their social implications. In the same perspective, but proposing a reference author to promote changes in adolescent protection practices, Sandro da R. Vieira and Corné-

lio P. Rosenberg view integrality as the paradigm to public health.

From the point of view of professional practices, Nádia Z. Narchi presents the survey through which she identified personal and institutional barriers to the acquisition of competencies by non-physicians from public services to act in maternity care in a region of the city of São Paulo. Ana Caroline Alves e Silva et al., in turn, focus on the motivation and qualification of physicians to work in the Family Health Strategy, in two rural and one urban district of Duque de Caxias, in Rio de Janeiro. Still within this standpoint, but in the perspective of professional qualification, Heitor M. Pasquim systematizes conceptions of physical education teachers from the University of São Paulo (USP) and from Campinas State University (Unicamp) regarding the teaching of public health in undergraduate courses, to show the curricular difficulties in the “development of public health itself”.

Together with the presented experience reports, we thank our readers and invite them to celebrate with us the launch of one more issue of *Saúde e Sociedade*.

Mara H. de Andréa Gomes

On behalf of the Editorial Board