

## Editorial

DOI: 10.3395/reciis.v4i3.396en

We start this thematic volume, Communicational Processes, Religiosity, and Health, recalling the lyrics paraded by the Samba School Imperatriz Leopoldinense in Rio de Janeiro's 2010 Carnival: "(...) *A Imperatriz é um mar de fiéis / No altar do samba, em oração / É o Brasil de todos os deuses! / De paz, amor e união...*". (Imperatriz is a sea of faithful followers / On the altar of samba, all in prayer/It represents Brazil that belongs to all Gods! / In peace, love, and union). Its lyrics depict the *Brazilian lands'* baroque culture that binds the many religious and spiritual manifestations, including their therapeutic practices and cure promotion that exist inside the society and culture's dimension and boundaries; we believe such manifestations would not be immune to such social default.

The main goal of this issue is to gather researchers, preferably young promising people from the field of religiosity, spirituality, health and their intersections with communicational processes, using several languages and sources of expression.

Miriam Rabelo's article (Universidade Federal da Bahia - Federal University of Bahia) approaches the transformations of meaning through religious treatments, based on several authors' views, leading to new interpretation patterns. Rabelo's line of thoughts is based on three issues related to the understanding of communication processes: the concepts of comprehension, sensitivity and meaning for the construction and maintenance of the sound person's identity. Rabelo also depicts the role of objects in the construction of the intersubjective bonds in meaning transformation.

Eymard Mourão Vasconcelos (Universidade Federal da Paraíba - Federal University of Paraíba) presents some material from his research on spirituality in care and in education. He helps us understand religious practices, in different historical periods, and their relevance at the workplace and health care, and in disease prevention. Vasconcelos calls special attention to the acknowledgement from several academic institutions of such issue in quantitative studies, derived from epidemiological methods, which legitimize qualitative studies, the article's main focus.

Fernando Lefèvre and his co-writers (Universidade de São Paulo - University of São Paulo) have written an article

that results from two of their empirical researches. The main theme of one of them regards the representation of death in the hospital context. The authors' second approach regards the issue of morning-after pills being used by teenagers. The methodology used was the Discourse of the Collective Subject (DSC – Discurso do Sujeito Coletivo). The authors conclude their work questioning the possibility of having a legitimate space for institutionalized influences of religions in the modern world, or reconsidering it, especially in health-illness issues.

Rachel Aisengart Menezes, (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro - Federal University of Rio de Janeiro), reflects upon the changes of the new Code of Medical Ethics, starting in April 2010, and its repercussion concerning doctor-patient relationship and the social aspects regarding the life-death process. Menezes suggests a large debate about the researches and practices in health assistance, its public policies, the populations' several social segments' claims concerning health, and the proposition and processing of bills and laws on such issues.

The existence of a substantial amount of religious literature providing spiritual orientation about suicide is what Carlos Estellita-Lins and co-writers (Instituto de Comunicação e Informação Científica e Tecnológica em Saúde da Fundação Oswaldo Cruz – Fiocruz) have approached in their work, focusing suicide prevention. Their investigation considered such literature, which science would define as "grey literature", in Brazil's both written and the media cultural production.

The article of Maria Helena Vilas Boas Concone, from the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo – Catholic University of São Paulo), and Eliane Garcia Rezende, (Universidade Federal de Alfenas - Federal University of Alfenas, Minas Gerais), analyzes the Umbanda descriptions in Kardec's spiritist novels, concerning its historical foundation marks in Brazil. It also analyzes the supernatural phenomena connected to people's lives, trying to understand the processes of health-illness they involve, and their relation with academic literature.

The article by Ana Cristina de Souza Mandarinó and Estélio Gomberg (Universidade Federal da Bahia - Federal University

of Bahia), depicts the role of the School of Medicine of Bahia in building and maintaining stereotyped concepts of madness and crime, which were associated to Afro-Brazilian religions adepts in articles published by the journal *Gazeta Médica da Bahia* (The Medical Gazette of Bahia) – which, some years later, would turn out to be the most important scientific journal in publishing the nineteenth century European racial theories in Brazil.

Using new technological tools in contemporary times, Ricardo Oliveira de Freitas, (Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz - State University of Santa Cruz, Bahia) studies the African-based identity social and religious expressions, and the recent reconfiguration of these traditionally oral religions into hypertextual ones, besides his investigation regarding the magic-religious service providers.

Carla Moura Lima and Eduardo Stotz (Escola Nacional de Saúde Pública Sérgio Arouca - National School of Public Health Sergio Arouca - ENSP/Fiocruz), have collected two experiences in order to study, under the perspective of religious adhesion, the access to health and how communities from socially vulnerable areas elaborate dimensions of their living by using religious speeches to search for solutions for the problems that occur in the community.

Patrícia Serpa (Universidade Federal da Paraíba - Federal University of Paraíba) appreciates spirituality manifestations in the primary care dimension through the lights of popular education in health - a theme the author considers to be still lacking proper consideration from graduate university health courses, therefore suggesting that these institutions should better organize qualification in this field.

To close the articles section accordingly to a traditional saying that states that “in Brazil everything ends up in samba”, we have Silvia Maria Jardim Brügger, (Universidade Federal de São João del Rei - Federal University of São João del Rei, Minas Gerais), who analyses the meaning of religion in both the personal and the artistic life of Brazilian singer Clara Nunes, pointing out in her songs the many evocations of religious concepts which later would be considered to bring relief to the suffering of many social subjects.

This issue of *Reciis* concludes with the contributions of Betânia Maria Vilas Bôas Barreto (Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz - State University of Santa Cruz, Bahia), and Célia Regina da Silva (Universidade Metodista de São Paulo - Methodist University of São Paulo). Barreto reviews Eymard Mourão Vasconcelos’s book, “The spirituality at the health workplace”, and Silva writes about “The Blessing”, a documentary directed by Tarcísio Lara Puiati.

We are thankful for the invitation, the kindness and the persuasion of PhD Professor Maria Cristina Guimarães, from Icti/Fiocruz while organizing this thematic work, which intention was to broaden, in the several perspectives upon different fields of knowledge, the awareness of the phenomena related to information, communication, and health, as well as to turn this scientific journal into another editorial reference for discussions in this field itself.

Enjoy your reading  
*Ana Cristina de Souza Mandarino and  
Estélio Gomberg  
Salvador, 2010.*