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SERIES IN ANTHROPOLOGY



GENDER, SEXUALITY AND LIFE COURSE

Research and dialogues over contemporary
social transformations

Edited by
Carlos Eduardo Henning,
Guita Grin Debert,
Julio Assis Simões

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Gender, Sexuality and Life Course

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The readers have in hands a book organized by three of the most distinguished Brazilian scholars on the topics of gender, sexuality, intergenerational relationships and its intersections. Written in a way to appeal various audiences, this book deals with subjects as gerontology, aging in gay men communities; childhood and adolescence in the memories and narratives of gay men in Mexico; age and eroticism of women homo-affective relations; expansion of LGBTIQ elder organizations; old age and masculinity; narratives of childhood and adolescence in Rio de Janeiro favelas; care among transgender and travestis sex workers and the movement of Feminization in sex shops. As the authors show up, the socio-anthropological analysis of life course is not recent; but has been a significant expansion of the debate in recent years. This anthology is an eloquent proof of it. The current notions of "Gay aging" or "LGBT aging", spread light of recent strategies of political visibility in different contexts. Also points out that what used to be seen as a mere biological process, in reality, is a complex symbolic elaboration. "Gender, Sexuality and Life Course" also presents an important range of investigations on the topics of class, race, generation, ethnicity, corporality, age and other social markers of difference that have the capacity of building normativities, but also forms of discrimination and hierarchies. The result is a book that not just enrich academic and activist debates, but also helps to imagine and build public policies in this historical moment when the civil rights agenda are under serious attack. With a renovated anthropological approach, the book presents an important panorama, of recent investigations in Brazil and Spanish-speaking Latin America.

Prof. Lilia K. Moritz Schwarcz
University of São Paulo, Brazil; Princeton University

About the editors

Guita Grin Debert is Full Professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP). Debert is currently conducting research on the topics of old age, gender, and care.

Julio Assis Simões is Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the Universidade de São Paulo (USP). Currently, Simões is leading research in the areas of gender, sexuality, generation, and HIV-AIDS.

Carlos Eduardo Henning is Associate Professor in the Graduate Program of Social Anthropology at the Universidade Federal de Goiás (UFG). Henning's current areas of research are gender, sexuality, generation, old age, and LGBTIQ elders.

Summary

Based on ethnographic research carried out in diverse Latin American contexts, *Gender, Sexuality and Life Course: Research and Dialogues over Contemporary Social Transformations* offers a complex picture of the intersection of life stages and the social markers of class, gender and sexuality; a topic that has garnered much attention in Brazil, Argentina and Mexico over recent years.

This volume successfully interweaves investigations into these themes in various contexts. Concentrating on Brazil, topics include the premature aging of Brazilian women, how situations of sexual violence against adolescents are constructed and named in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, and how Brazilian gerontology deals with sexuality in old age and how patients react to this treatment. In terms of the Argentine context, chapters examine how the process of the constitution of "LGBTIQ elders" creates an idea of shared meaning in terms of aging, and the suffering experienced by Argentine heterosexual men with the marks of aging. Finally, chapters also concerned with the conditions in which Mexican men begin their sexual life, as well as social support networks that are woven by travestis of different generations and their narratives on aging.

The interdisciplinary nature of this volume results in a wide range of interest for graduate students of social and cultural studies, sexuality studies, LGBT and queer studies, gerontology, life course, and Latin American studies. It would also hold appeal for social activists of LGBTI issues, social workers, psychologists, social and cultural anthropologists, and public health professionals.

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