

Editorial

This issue of *Sociologies in Dialogue* addresses themes of political sociology mostly related to action of the State in societies of the Global South. The first article, 'Social policy in Emerging Welfare States', points out that there is a process of Welfare State building at a global scale in the XXI century, highlighting that there are countries where institutional structure is currently similar to the ones found in mature Welfare States. The article shows also that there is a regional pattern in social policies in the Global South, describing the main characteristics of the social protection systems in East Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. The second work, 'Soy's King and Wheat's Queen: State intervention and the meaning of leading monocultures in Brazilian and Russian agrarian histories', combines historical comparative analysis with institutional theory in order to understand how soy and wheat have become so crucial for Brazilian and Russian economies, as well as what was the role of the State in this process. It stresses that these monocultures are associated to the different political strategies: the Brazilian, more subordinated-liberal, and the Russian, autonomous-protectionist. The following article, 'How the State acts on public health systems: the case of the Brazilian Unified Health System', deals with the inequalities in public policies. It analyses the action of the State in the Brazilian public health system from a social and spatial perspective. Using a quantitative approach, it concludes that the capacity and the autonomy to achieve the objectives of the State concerning health are contradictory and heterogeneous across the country. The article

that closes this issue, 'The opposition to LGBT rights in the Brazilian national congress (1986-2018): actors, dynamics of action and recent developments', examines the main arguments used by opponents to LGBT rights and their strategies to block the passing of bills aimed to expand or reinforce these rights in National Congress, as well as the social profile and political trajectories of parliamentarians opposed to LGBT rights.

This set of research papers show that *Sociologies in Dialogue* remains faithful to its proffered mission to understand societies in the Global South. However, in order to do so, it is necessary to focus not only on societal actors and structures, or on cultural imperatives. State remains, even if less powerful than it used to be, among the most important actors inside nations and in the international scenario. The articles here presented, when examine the relationship between State and Society, can help to foster the comprehension of how States act to change societies.

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