

TRAJECTORIES OF FOOD ANTHROPOLOGY IN BRAZIL

The Journal of Food and Culture of the Americas (RACA) presents in this edition a tribute to the Brazilian anthropologist Janine Leicht Helfst Collaço, who passed away on September 5, 2024, in Goiânia, Goiás, Brazil. This edition was prepared through invitations to Brazilian and foreign researchers, professors, and students, made by the RACA editors who participated in the diverse trajectory of this social anthropologist, whose academic contribution is invaluable. Janine stood out for the conception, realization, and guidance of numerous studies and research on memories, rural and urban food heritage, sovereignty, and food and nutritional security.

Affectionately called simply Janine by us, admirers of her work and scientific production, as well as by colleagues and partners from Brazilian and foreign universities, her remarkable presence in Brazilian social anthropology inspired affection, partnerships, and new generations of researchers. This edition thus expresses a loving union around her legacy. The selection process for the published papers followed the journal's editorial procedures, within a timeline that allowed for the submission and publication of manuscripts in the year that marked one year since his death.

The edition begins with a presentation of the honoree's national and international academic career, through four articles. The article “Algunas aportaciones de Janine Collaço para ‘pensar’ y ‘actuar’ una antropología de la alimentación” (Some contributions of Janine Collaço to ‘thinking’ and ‘acting’ on an anthropology of food), by Professor Emeritus of the University of Barcelona, Jesús Contreras, addresses the importance of her contributions to the articulation between the material and symbolic dimensions of practices and representations associated with issues of identity, which express social and power relations. The text proposes a reflection on notions such as traditional, authentic, and healthy, as well as on the differences observed between ethnicities, genders, and generations.

The article “Paths of GECCA: the trajectory of the Study Group created and coordinated by Janine Collaço” – the Study Group on Consumption, Culture and Food

(GECCA) –, by Carolina Cadima Fernandes Nazareth and Talita Prado Barbosa Roim, presents the various contributions that consolidated, at the Federal University of Goiás, a group of excellence and reference for training and interaction at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The text highlights GECCA's legacy as a space for dialogue on the plurality of social relations in the 21st century.

In the article “Anthropology of Food in the Brazilian Anthropology Meetings: trajectories under debate”, by Mônica Chaves Abdala and Claude Papavero, the trajectory and active participation of Janine in the process of consolidating the field of Anthropology of Food in Brazil is discussed, especially in the organization of working groups on the subject in the Brazilian Anthropology Meetings.

The paper “Between food heritage and public policies: on an unfinished study by (and with) Janine H. L. Collaço”, by F. Xavier Medina, presents her stay, between 2021 and 2022, as an international visiting researcher at the UNESCO Chair in Food, Culture and Development at the Open University of Catalonia, where she developed a comparative study on the processes of recognition of food heritage in Brazil and Spain.

Janine's contribution to the Postgraduate Program in Social Anthropology at the Federal University of Goiás (PPGAS/UFG) is portrayed in five papers, prepared from research conducted under her supervision. In “Necropolitics and the Right to Food in Brazil: a scenario between political power and the Covid-19 pandemic”, Marlon Henrique Costa de Castro conducts a critical analysis of public policies on food and nutritional sovereignty and security, based on a historical and sociological recapitulation of the period of the health crisis. The author employs an anthropological perspective based on the findings of the Network of Researchers on Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security in Brazil in 2021, and the Food for Justice research project by the Freie Universität Berlin in the same year.

The article “The imaginary of the ‘city of pit-dogs’: thinking about kitchen research”, by Gabriel Sulino Martins, explores the sociocultural context of “Pit-Dog” kitchens in Goiânia, Goiás, analyzing the meanings attributed to these establishments by workers and consumers as a space of symbolic and affective production, recognized as intangible cultural heritage and constitutive elements of the collective imaginary about “being from Goiás”.

In “Between kitchens and stalls: heritage and globalization in Pirenópolis”, Katia Karam Toralles presents the results of a master’s dissertation on the stalls in the municipality of Pirenópolis, state of Goiás, highlighting the relationships between food practices, female empowerment and transformations in the local urban dynamics.

The article “Networks and Agencies: Urban Agriculture, a Collective Action for Food Self-Sufficiency in the City of Goiânia,” by Osmar Custódio, investigates, from an anthropological perspective, the possible paths for generating healthy food in urban and peri-urban environments, exploring landscapes, imaginaries, and management practices that make up the dynamic process of urban agriculture in the macro-region of the city of Goiânia.

In “On the Tourist Uses of Food Heritage: Cultural Formation and the Merchants of Typical Food in the City of Goiás,” Filipe Augusto Couto Barbosa analyzes the appropriations of food heritage for cultural tourism purposes in the City of Goiás – the first capital of the State and whose Historic Center was recognized as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2001. The study focuses on the subjects dedicated to the production and commercialization of typical foods, such as establishment owners, cooks, and confectioners, seeking to understand how food heritage becomes emblematic of local culture and is commodified in cultural tourism relations.

This edition concludes with the obituary text, written by Dr. Ellen Fensterseifer Woortmann, from the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Brasília, which revisits the challenges faced by Janine Leicht Helfst Collaço in opening new scientific and human horizons, celebrating her life trajectory and contribution to the anthropology of food in Brazil and the Americas.

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