

Vectors for a choice: History of the Present Time and students' research at the PPGH/UDESC

Abstract

This article is included in the commemorative edition celebrating 10 years of the Graduate Program in History of the Santa Catarina State University (PPGH/UDESC), created in 2007, which has been accompanied, since 2009, by the journal *Tempo & Argumento*. The text aims to: present the theoretical choices that marked out the program's proposal, with a focus on History of the Present Time; identify the temporal and geographic approaches selected; and point out the methodological choices and the theoretical foci privileged in the MA dissertations submitted within this period. This article analyzes academic research as a vehicle to disseminate studies and debates from the perspective of History of the Present Time, a field under construction within the History area that has, at the UDESC, the first specific graduate program with this thematic proposal.

Keywords: History of the Present Time. Santa Catarina State University. Graduate Program in History. Graduate Students.

How to cite this article:

ROSSATO, Luciana; CUNHA, Maria Teresa Santos. Vectors for a choice: History of the Present Time and students' research at the PPGH/UDESC. *Revista Tempo e Argumento*, Florianópolis, v. 9, n. 20, p. 468 - 490. jan./abr. 2017.

DOI: 10.5965/2175180309202017162

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5965/2175180309202017162>

Luciana Rossato

Ph.D. in History from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS). Professor at the Department of History, Graduate Program in History, and the Professional MA Course in History Teaching of the Santa Catarina State University (UDESC).
Brazil
lucianarossato1972@gmail.com

Maria Teresa Santos Cunha

Undergraduate and MA degrees in History from the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) and Ph.D. in Education/History and Philosophy from the University of São Paulo (USP). Professor at the Department of History, the Graduate Program in History, and the Graduate Program in Education of the UDESC.
CNPq Research Productivity Scholarship.
Brazil
mariatsc@gmail.com

Translated and Revised

Evandro Lisboa Freire

Translator and copy editor in English and Spanish. MA in Applied Linguistics (PUC-SP). Specialist in Translation (UNIBERO).
Brazil
elf_translation@yahoo.com.br

Vetores para uma escolha: História do Tempo Presente e as pesquisas discentes no PPGH/UDESC

Resumo

Este artigo integra a edição comemorativa dos 10 anos do Programa de Pós-Graduação em História da Universidade do Estado de Santa Catarina (PPGH/UDESC), criado em 2007, que se faz acompanhar, desde 2009, pela revista *Tempo & Argumento*. O texto tem por objetivo: apresentar as escolhas teóricas que balizaram a proposição do programa, com enfoque em História do Tempo Presente; identificar os recortes temporais e geográficos selecionados; e apontar as opções metodológicas e os enfoques teóricos privilegiados das dissertações de mestrado defendidas no decorrer desse período. Este artigo analisa as produções acadêmicas discentes como veículos de disseminação de estudos e debates sob a perspectiva da História do Tempo Presente, um campo em construção na área da História e que tem, na UDESC, o primeiro programa de pós-graduação específico com essa proposição temática.

Palavras-chave: História do Tempo Presente. Universidade do Estado de Santa Catarina. Programa de Pós-Graduação em História. Estudantes de Pós-Graduação.

History is not only the study of the past; it may also be, with a lesser setback and particular methods, the study of the present. [...] Therefore, the epistemology of history of the present consists in inquiring history in order to propose new data that increases its capacity for explanation and suggestion
(CHAUVEAU, A.; TÉTART, P., 1999, p. 15 e 36).

Initial settings

The selection of the theme History of the Present Time has been initially motivated by some choices: recognition of readings that refer to French historiography, produced during the 1970s-1980s, which emphasized history of the politics and the present

(RÉMOND, 2003) and they took form through the creation of the Institut d'Histoire du Temps Présent (IHTP)¹; digital access to Spanish networks on History of the Present², as well as the readings and discussions derived from the analyses of national historians, such as those by Marieta de Moraes Gomes Ferreira³ and Helenice Rodrigues⁴, in addition to those gathered, since 1994, at the Present Time Study Laboratory of the Institute of Philosophy and Social Sciences of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)⁵ and the discussions provided, since 2010, by *Cadernos do Tempo Presente*, edited by the Federal University of Sergipe (UFS).⁶ Another motivation for the choice is the possibility of a time approach to work out History as a field of studies that includes interpretative constructions of the processes and events that have had, or have, taken place, more specifically since the second half of the 20th century and in this early 21st century. It is also due to possibility of exploring new aspirations that allowed a fertile interlocution of history with other areas of knowledge, because it was understood that, this way, it might cease to be a mere repository of experiences to constitute a field of reflection on the uses of the past by the present, in order to overcome traditional subject boundaries by means of the possibility to dialogue with these historians. This purpose is based on Bédarida's understanding, which he formulates like this:

[...] history of the present time, more than any other, is by nature an unfinished history: a history in constant motion, reflecting the commotions that unfold before us, therefore, they are the object of an endless renewal (BÉDARIDA, 1996, p. 229).

¹ Founded in 1978 and inaugurated in 1980 as Laboratory of the National Center for Scientific Research of France (CNRS), the IHTP was under the direction of François Bédarida until 1990. It was then coordinated by Robert Franck and Henry Rousso. See: MEDEIROS, Sabrina Evangelista. *Da Historiografia Francesa ao Tempo Presente*. Available from: http://www.hcomparada.historia.ufrj.br/revistahc/artigos/volume001_Num002_artigo001.pdf. Accessed on: 25 Apr. 2017.

² Namely: Asociación de Historia Actual (AHA) (www.historia-actual.com); Asociación de Historiadores del Presente (www.historiadelpresente.com); Historia a Debate (<http://h-debate.com/>), all of them cited by SILVA, Cristiani Bereta da. *Escrever Histórias do Tempo Presente: algumas questões e possibilidades. Tempos Históricos*. M. C. Rondon, v. 9, p. 257-276, 2. sem. 2006.

³ FERREIRA, Marieta de Moraes. *História, Tempo Presente e História Oral. Topoi*, Rio de Janeiro, n. 5, v. 3, p. 314-332, jul./dez. 2002. Available from: http://www.revistatopoi.org/numeros_anteriores/topoi05/topoi5a13.pdf Accessed on: 1 May 2017.

⁴ RODRIGUES, Helenice. "História do Tempo Presente: Problemática das Fontes" (2001). Available from: <http://www.poshistoria.ufpr.br/fonteshist/Helenice.pdf> Accessed on: 29 Apr. 2017.

⁵ http://www.dhi.uem.br/labtempo/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49&Itemid=57

⁶ Linked to the Present Time Study Group (GET) of the Department of History of the Federal University of Sergipe (UFS) and active since 2010. Volume 26 was published in 2017. Available from: <https://seer.ufs.br/index.php/tempo/issue/view/534>.

This was what led us to choose as central vectors for putting this proposal into practice, among other phenomena, the political cultures and sociabilities woven in its course, besides the languages and identities - in the form of readings and translations of the contemporary times -, configured in order to give intelligibility to the material and symbolic resources that support and provide the various representations of experience and life, and assign visibility to them. The choice for this thematic link aims at discussing conceptual issues related to the present time, such as: constitutive field, multiple temporalities, thematic diversity, documentary plurality, and research procedures, where social processes and regimes of historicity, memories and experiences, individual or collective ones, are combined as essential processes for constructing historical knowledge. To do this, it was sought to cover studies that drove, among other phenomena, interlocutions on the relation memory, forgetfulness, regimes of historicity, in addition to making intelligible the material and symbolic resources supporting and making visible the various representations of the experience and life within the research field of history⁷.

It is noteworthy that, at this early moment of the Graduate Program in History of the Santa Catarina State University (PPGH/UDESC)⁸, two research axes were outlined, materialized in two lines of research⁹ that were marked out by the professors' themes and interests. The line Cultures Policies and Sociabilities is derived from the articulation

⁷ It is worth noticing that in the first selection process for the PPGH/UDESC, in 2006, the following books were indicated as compulsory readings: BURKE, Peter. **História e teoria social**. São Paulo: Editora da UNESP, 2002; CERTEAU, Michel de. **A invenção do cotidiano: artes de fazer**. Petrópolis/RJ: Vozes, 1994; CHAUVEAU, Agnès; TÉTART, Philippe (Orgs.). **Questões para a história do presente**. Bauru/SP: EDUSC, 1999; FOUCAULT, Michel. **Microfísica do Poder**. Rio de Janeiro: Graal, 1986; HOBBSAWM, Eric. **Sobre História**. São Paulo: Companhia das Letras, 1998.

⁸ In 2007, the the initial faculty of the PPGH consisted of professors Cristiani Bereta da Silva, Emerson César de Campos, Gláucia de Oliveira Assis, Luiz Felipe Falcão, Mara Rúbia Sant'Anna, Márcia Ramos de Oliveira, Maria Teresa Santos Cunha, Maurício Aurélio dos Santos, Marlene de Fáveri, Norberto Dallabrida, Paulino de Jesus Francisco Cardoso, Reinaldo Lindolfo Lohn, Sérgio Schmitz, and Sílvia Maria Fávero Arend (coordinator).

⁹ Line of Research Political Cultures and Sociabilities and Line of Research Languages and Identities. During the year 2016, a commission, formed by professors Janice Gonçalves, Cristiani Bereta da Silva (coordinator), Reinaldo Lindolfo Lohn, and Maria Teresa Santos Cunha, discussed a new curriculum design for the PPGH/UDESC and agreed to maintain these two early lines, but they created a third line of research, entitled Memory Policies and Historical Narratives, whose implementation process is underway.

between culture, politics, and sociabilities, addressed as intersecting spheres. Various spheres constitute their field of expression, such as state actions, public policies, ethnic, gender, and generation issues, those related to the family sphere, the social movements, the institutions (mainly school-based ones), the contemporary urban cultures, and the social and workers' movements.

On the other hand, the current emergence of themes such as memory/forgetfulness, heritage, media, appearance, music, reading practices, and written culture, among other contemporary phenomena that extend their spaces of action through formalizations that derive, above all, from the symbolics field, began to constitute the line of research Languages and Identities.

These two lines are integrated by involving various languages and sociabilities as tools that, at the present time, propose questions/issues whose interpretation possibilities may be constructed on an alterity, on something that happened to the other, on experiences read, lived, felt, heard, and through which a group, a social class, a population recognizes itself and is recognized in its historicity.

Therefore, the research field in which the program is grounded addresses the constitution of signifiers that, producing senses, construct a history of the present time leading its researchers to wonder why their objects, by producing images and representations of the contemporary times, do not offer acceptable truths, tried explanations, but successive approximations to living and its instigating aesthetic, linguistic, and consequently history-related operations.

1. Lines of research: the construction of an epistemological legitimacy

Every historical act is carried out having experience and players' expectation as a basis. Both categories are adequate to deal with historical time, because the past and the future intertwine in the presence of experience and expectation (KOSELLECK, 2014, p. 307).

The need to situate events (facts), to date decisions, to construct legitimacies to approach time and research in time, often going back to other times, led to the adoption of Hartog's notion of historicity regimes, and the author states:

Formulated by means of our contemporaneity, the relations that a society establishes with time characterize a historicity regime [...] and the historian, by dealing with several times, instituting a swing between the respective relations of the present, the past, and the future operationalizes the possibility of constructing histories (HARTOG, 2013, p. 37-39).

A major concept in the papers, as it contains the factor time as a target for studies and debates, the historicities' regime has been driven in dialogue with the works by Paul Ricoeur¹⁰. Thus, we may think that the studies carried out in these lines of research signal to studies whose fields of knowledge interpenetrate each other and provide vectors to grasp the past/present/future. The two lines support, so far, the PPGH/UDESC and, herein, they are explained through the text prepared by the professors who proposed the program and submitted it to the Coordination for Improvement Higher Education Personnel (CAPES)¹¹.

1.1 Line of research: Political Cultures and Sociabilities

The constitution of this line of research is based on the set of contributions around history of the present time that point out the so-called return of the politics as a major inflection in the historical analysis, aimed at the imponderability of contemporary social processes, which require a broader and more consistent investigation field. In other words, the transformations and events that marked the 20th century, or the early 21st

¹⁰ Particularly, the works **Tempo e Narrativa**, v. 3 (2010) and **A memória, a história, o esquecimento** (2007).

¹¹ The description of the lines of research that constitute the process for creating the course submitted to the CAPES was approved through the Legal Letter no. 718-11/2006/CTC/CAPES. The PPGH of the UDESC was approved as a MA course by the CAPES in July 2006. In the beginning of the subsequent year, on January 17, 2007, it was recognized by the Ministry of Education (Portaria no. 73). The grant of approval by the Brazilian National Education Council and recognition by the State Education Council occurred in 2008, in September and October, respectively. Between the years 2007 and 2013, the program maintained only the MA course. The Ph.D. course in History was officially created through the Resolution of the University Council no. 031/2013, on July 4th. In September 2013, the CAPES informed the proposal approval, with grade 4. On April 8, 2014, through the Resolution no. 139, the Santa Catarina State Education Council recognized the Ph.D. course.

century, such as the spread of Nazi-Fascism, the end of the Cold War, and the U.S. hegemony, or the emergence of new behavior patterns or family configurations have turned approaches capable of constituting the issue of power and public life on other bases into a must.

This line lies its focus on a tension space marked by sociabilities that provide new meanings to the political field. Recent studies, in Social Sciences, have highlighted a set of new flexible and disengaged social relations, resulting from processes of productive restructuring and changes in the occupational world caused by the volatility of capital accumulation modes that might result in a depoliticized withdrawal of individuals and groups in search of safety, avoiding public spaces, conflicts, and heterogeneities.

As far as the category 'power' is concerned, however, we must consider that the 'politics' has undergone major displacements, above all by change in the analytical perspective, no longer exclusively focused on the State and its apparatus of repression, domination, and legitimation. Thus, there is a broadening of politics, involving discursive fields, representations, and experiences designed in social interactions, i.e. in networks and spaces of sociability, through plots that evidence the problematic articulation between culture and politics as intersecting spheres, whose historicity is manifested in various domains, such as State actions, public policies, and ethnic, generation, and gender issues, those related to the family sphere, contemporary urban cultures, and social and workers' movements. The so-called 'politicization of life,' a decisive event of modernity, gains new contours and points out other ways of distinguishing the contemporary individual and collective actions.

Then, it is understood there is a composite of political cultures understood through the fabric of social relations, from which the return of a political history does not necessarily derive, but the emphasis on a history of the political field and a political dimension of sociocultural phenomena, increasing the analyses on objects as different as popular groups, Afro-descendant populations, elites, women, homosexuals, workers, or even urban or rural groups, incorporating in these analyses notions such as honor, and personal and contractual relationships. The use of the idea of political culture is an effort

made by researchers who work with this line of research to assign meanings to dispersed sociabilities and expectation horizons of various social groups.

Faced with this situation, the intent to historically associate political cultures and sociabilities presupposes, in theoretical-methodological terms, that the political field is not reduced to a mere instance or delimited domain, nor to a superstructure. On the contrary, it is understood as a domain that situates social relations and their representations in a given historicity, so as to capture the complexity of the present time and to give prominence to unequal relations of forces existing in it, which comprise social practices that play with the systems instituted through simulations, or reciprocities, which may suggest automatic submission and legitimation, but they are rather daily maneuvers and devices to survive and create spaces for autonomy.

The interface with sociabilities, understood as networks of interactions that promote exchanges under certain historical conditions and cultural patterns, is what defines the specificity of this line of research, given the difficulties of living in a world saturated by differences. Thus, thematic issues such as the so-called globalization and its cultural implications, the new time/space relations, the disembodiedness of work and deterritorialized power relations, the reduction of democracy to electoral dispute, the affirmation of new control and surveillance practices, and the new social hierarchies. From this perspective, this line, dedicated to political cultures and sociabilities, interacts with the other, which has been incorporated into the program due to the conviction that the readings and translations of the contemporary time are also producing codes that give access to the collective and individual forms of existence.

1.2 Line of research: Languages and Identities

Among the various implications of the present time there is the possibility of producing readings and translations through it - materialized in languages and identities -, in order to understand how it integrates into sensory repertoires and cognitive systems that try to provide it with some meanings, even if transient ones. The procedures aimed to prepare these readings and translations represent both a willingness to develop

unusual aesthetic experiences and a willingness to unceasingly decode and recode the myriad of signs through which men and women have made contacts. In other words, hence, languages and identities are a part of the broad stock of answers in face of evidence of the complexity of this world and they are configured as plots, compositions, ingenious architectures, which aim at deciphering the events and historical processes in which they are inscribed.

These are languages, especially in a society with a high supply of visual information, which may not be reduced to the exercise of looking through a rough or finished landscape and providing this with meaning as if it were a written text thanks to learning a language. In fact, they always resort to sensitivity to capture, filter, and include signals in a relatively coherent set (memory, imaginary, or intellection), organizing them, making available generic or topical reactions associated with them, and this conforms dimensions that are not restricted to figuration, nor to assimilation of the written text, giving rise to mobile and unexpected semantic combinations, such as the kaleidoscope scenarios.

Identities break with the unique identities and allow us to think of various articulations to express many representations of the world and different problematizations of subjectivities linked to the contemporary time.

Accordingly, this line of research seeks to foster and support studies at the graduate level and by means of a close and always renewed dialogue with other disciplinary fields (such as Anthropology, Semiology, or Literary Theory), which can contribute to grasp the intricate historical events that occurred during the last century or those unfolding in the beginning of this new century. To do so, it brings together professors whose research interests are spread by various themes, but integrated by different languages that seek to read and translate cities, cultural identities, immigration, memory, media, fashion, music, reading practices, and written culture, among other contemporary phenomena. Consequently, this line has a series of intersections with the other part of the program, entitled Political Culture and Sociabilities, not only due to the conformity of some research objects (such as city and memory, to take only two of them) and the convergence of some approaches or methodological approaches, but particularly

because readings and translations of the contemporary time play a role in the construction of sociabilities and they are intended to encompass the political dimension inherent to any and all historical process, to any and all socio-cultural works by men and women during their uncomfortable experience.

2. MA dissertations submitted and the perspectives of approaching the present time

Between 2008 (year of the first submission) and 2016, 121 dissertations were submitted. Out of these, 47 were developed in the line of research Political Cultures and Sociabilities and 74, in the line of research Languages and Identities¹².

The temporal approach privileged by dissertations, as it could not be different, mainly focuses on temporality of the present time evidenced by the proposal. Thus, most of these works have as their temporal approach themes from the 1970s onwards. Some of them, although representing a minority (5), have as their temporal approach the first half of the 20th century, even though they are concerned with quantifying time, covering aspects of the present until the second half of the 20th century. As the approaches, due to the diversity of themes and issues addressed, are the most varied, we can establish the following great temporal approaches: those addressing the period of Brazilian military dictatorship (18 dissertations), those covering the 1980s (15 dissertations), and finally those whose approach is restricted to the 21st century (17 dissertations). It is worth noticing there is a set of studies (a total of 18 dissertations) whose temporal approach begins in the 1980s and extends to the first decade of the 21st century.

Regard the geographic approach, we have the following characteristics: 62 dissertations focus on the state of Santa Catarina, while only 7 dissertations refer to other states, with a prevalence of studies on the state of Paraná. When crossing these data with the state where MA students in the program achieved their undergraduate degree,

¹² Search conducted on the program's website related to the MA dissertation submissions from 2008 to 2016. Available from: <http://www.faed.udesc.br/?id=28> Accessed on: 31 Mar. 2017. Collaborated in data collection the students Karla Simone Willemann Schutz (PPGH/Ph.D.), Nathália J. Hermann, Gabriel Dalapria, Julia Paredes, and Isadora Muniz Vieira (scientific initiation scholarship holders from the History course/FAED/UDESC).

it is verified that most of them either were born in the state of Santa Catarina or are living in it, something which allows a rather causal explanation on the geographic approach chosen. Among the municipalities in Santa Catarina focused in the studies there are Florianópolis, Joinville, Criciúma, and the region known as Vale do Itajaí.

A set of dissertations may be classified by its international approach (8 dissertations), and this is explained by the studies referring to migrations. In addition, there is also a set of 21 dissertations with a wider geographic approach, since they are based on sources whose circulation occurred all over Brazil, such as those related to the study of printed works, such as weekly magazines, and audiovisual works.

The line of research Political Cultures and Sociabilities began with 8 professors¹³. In the course of these 10 years of activities, it has incorporated more professionals; currently, it has 10 professors in the MA course¹⁴, 7 of them also work in the Ph.D. course, approved by the CAPES in 2013, and the first class of students began in 2014. The distribution of students advised is balanced between professors, ranging from 6 to 9 submissions carried out by the initial professors in the program. Two of them left the program. Out of those who entered later, 1 advised 5 submissions; another, 1, and 2 still did not carry out any submission. There is also the specific case of a professor who, although belonging to the initial group in the program, had 2 submissions carried out due to his temporary absence from the program. It is worth noticing that some professors also work in the Graduate Program in Education and in the Professional MA Course in History Teaching - i.e. PROFHISTÓRIA em Rede Nacional -, also offered by the UDESC. This aspect helps understanding a set of dissertations whose theme consists in school institutions, schooling processes (between 2007 and 2010), and history teaching.

As far as the sources are concerned, it is emphasized that one feature of the present time is the diversity and amount of traces of the past available to the historian. In the most varied media, from paper to the internet, from text to moving images, a

¹³ Initial professors: Cristiani Bereta da Silva, Maurício Aurélio dos Santos, Marlene de Fáveri, Norberto Dallabrida, Paulino de Jesus Francisco Cardoso, Reinaldo Lindolfo Lohn, Sílvia Maria Fávero Arend, and Sérgio Schmitz.

¹⁴ The accredited professors were Luciana Rossato, Mariana Rangel Joffily, Rogério Rosa Rodrigues, and Claudia Mortari. Sérgio Schmitz and Maurício Aurélio dos Santos retired.

historian of the present time runs the risk of being buried by traces if she/he does not properly delimit her/his research problem. This exponential expansion of the traces, the marks of the human being's passage, made possible the amplification of approaches to the past in the historiographic studies. This is due not only to material works and the preservation of these works because of temporal proximity, but also to the extended notion of historical document that occurred along with changes in the conception of history through the discussions carried out by the Annales School, and those that followed it. In the end of the 20th century, new changes, among them advances in technology, brought new challenges and possibilities to the historian's work. Technology made it possible to access documents without having to move to the physical space where they are kept. The possibility of research through new methodologies, such as quantitative and serial studies, has given rise to new languages, in addition to providing new uses. With the advent of the internet, there were also new documents that did not exist until then, such as blogs, websites, social media, as well as the new forms of work relations and sociability (JANOTTI, 2005).

In the 47 dissertations submitted in the line of research Political Cultures and Sociabilities¹⁵, a predominant feature is the varied source typology used. In 27 of them, it was stated in the abstract that the research had as its documentary corpus 3 or more document types. In 20, the press (newspapers and magazines) has been cited as the preponderant documentation. In 10, the oral history methodology was used.

It is also worth mentioning the studies that chose to use documents produced by the State institutions (9 dissertations) and to use sources from the Judiciary power (4 dissertations). In the case of printed sources, it is noteworthy that 10 dissertations submitted had as their research problem the narratives produced by press agencies, including local daily newspapers in Santa Catarina, such as *O Estado*, and national and weekly magazines, such as *Veja* and *IstoÉ*. According to Tania de Luca (2005, p. 118), since the 1970s the press statute has undergone a crucial shift: "Along with History of the press and through the press, the newspaper itself has become the object of historical

¹⁵ The analysis of dissertations was done by reading the abstracts and keywords available on the Sucupira platform and by reading the summary of dissertations available on the program's website: <http://www.faed.udesc.br/?id=2229>.

research.” This set of studies (submitted between 2012 and 2016) is linked to a collective research conducted by 5 professors from the line that has been granted approval, by the CNPq, to the research projects: *A printed country: between political cultures and sociabilities: weekly magazines, social projects, and historical memory in Brazil (1964-1990)*¹⁶ and *A printed country: weekly magazines, democracy, politics and culture in Brazil (1970-1990)*¹⁷.

The first project aimed to investigate:

[...] the construction of social representations related to the adhesion of broad layers of the Brazilian population to forms of political power, collective and individual practices, imaginaries, and symbolism. It is assumed that such social representations, which conformed images and discourses, are crucial for the historical understanding of the media's role in the production of truth effects and diffusion of force relations through images and discourses (AREND, 2011, p. 1).

For conducting the research, 5 weekly and monthly magazines of national circulation were selected as documentary corpus: *Veja*, *IstoÉ*, *Visão*, *Manchete*, and *Realidade*. This project resulted in a collective book published in 2014¹⁸.

The second project, as a continuation of the first one, aimed to discuss:

[...] representations and memories in dispute about Brazilian society between 1970 and 1990, because it has been understood that the construction of what would become the Brazilian democratic regime involved individual and collective experiences through permanence, disruption, and tensions, but also combined the elaboration of a narrative on the country and on Brazilian society as a whole, in its alleged sociocultural features and recognized historical milestones, with affirmation of what its traits might be in terms of political, gender, ethnic relations, and in terms of social stratification (LOHN, 2013, p. 1-2).

¹⁶ CNPq – Edital 14/2011 – Universal. Project coordinated by Ph.D. Prof. Sílvia Fávero Arend. Members: Ph.D. Cristiani Bereta da Silva; Ph.D. Luciana Rossato; Ph.D. Marlene de Fáveri; Ph.D. Paulino de Jesus Francisco Cardoso; and Ph.D. Reinaldo Lindolfo Lohn. In addition to the professors, undergraduate and MA students also participated in the research team.

¹⁷ CNPq - Edital 43/2013 - Ciências Humanas, Sociais e Aplicadas. Project coordinated by Ph.D. Prof. Reinaldo Lindolfo Lohn. Members: Ph.D. Cristiani Bereta da Silva; Ph.D. Luciana Rossato; Ph.D. Marlene de Fáveri; Ph.D. Paulino de Jesus Francisco Cardoso, and Ph.D. Sílvia Fávero Arend. In addition to the professors, undergraduate and MA students also participated in the research team.

¹⁸ AREND, Sílvia M. Fávero (org.). *Um país impresso: História do Tempo Presente e revistas semanais no Brasil - 1960-1980*. Curitiba: Editora CRV, 2014. 231p.

This project also resulted in a collective book, published in 2016¹⁹.

Through the analysis of dissertations' abstracts, we identify the most recurrent themes, as well as the most applied concepts to support the research conducted in this line of research. Among the themes, we identified 7 major groups. This classification is arbitrary and it concerns the authors' choice in face of the documentary corpus of this research, crossing with the academic career of the professors who joined this line.

A first theme, as already mentioned, refers to studies related to the press, which total 10 dissertations²⁰. Unlike the other themes, which can be linked to 1 or 2 advisors, this set of dissertations was advised by at least 5 professors, and this shows the collective nature of these studies, as a result of the projects carried out through CNPq funding.

Another group consists in the studies dealing with themes such as family, childhood, youth, and public policies, which total 8 dissertations. Studies addressing political projects and power disputes, which took place in the state during the 20th century, total 7 dissertations. With the same number of studies submitted, there are studies related to the Afro-descendants' history, their lives, forms of organization and struggle, especially in Santa Catarina. Another significant set of research, with 5 dissertations, may be grouped as gender studies. In this case, analyses by means of theoretical references from this category are also used in other dissertations, although in a tangential form, some of them carried out in the line of research Languages and Identities. Two other themes could be identified, despite their reduced production (4 dissertations each); they refer to research on History of Education, school institutions and history teaching, and urban history and modernization.

The line of research on Languages and Identities began with 6 professors²¹. In the course of these 10 years of activities, it has incorporated more professionals; currently, it

¹⁹ LOHN, Reinaldo Lindolfo. *História nas bancas de revistas: um país impresso entre representações sociais e culturas políticas*. Ponta Grossa: Todapalavra, 2016. 354p.

²⁰ Only the studies that have the press as object and source are considered here, and not those using the press exclusively as a source.

²¹ Initial professors: Luiz Felipe Falcão; Marcia de Oliveira Ramos; Maria Teresa Santos Cunha; Emerson Cesar de Campos; Mara Rúbia Sant'Anna Muller; and Gláucia de Oliveira Assis.

has 9 professors in the MA course²², 8 out of them also work in the Ph.D. course, established in 2013, still with no submissions concluded. So far, 74 dissertations²³ have been submitted in this line. The distribution of students advised is balanced, ranging from 7 to 9 submissions carried out by professors in the line, except by a professor who carried out the submission of 13 studies advised, and a newly incorporated professor, who concluded three submissions.

Just like the line Political Cultures and Sociabilities, the line Languages and Identities is marked by a diversity of typologies of sources used. Out of the total of 74 dissertations, 18 evidenced in their abstracts that the research had been conducted by means of 3 or more document types. In 20, the oral history methodology has been reported; for 9, it was the preponderant documentation in the study preparation. In this line of research, we identify a more significant expansion in the type of traces from the past used to write history.

There are documents that have been used more systematically by historians only since the last decades of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century: audiovisual works (such as movies, documentary films, music videos, TV programs, radio programs), artistic works, websites, comics, personal collections, egodocuments, among others. Dealing with such a large set of sources obliges historians to broaden their scope of research, seek dialogues with other study areas, but also to discuss the very historiography making, which leads to issues such as the author's subjectivity and the form of constituting her/his narrative.

The dissertations developed are also marked by a diversity of themes, which makes it difficult to categorize them. Even taking the risk that every classification entails, we can identify some themes among the many that were advised in the dissertations in these 10 years of the program.

²² Three new professors were accredited: Janice Gonçalves, Rafael Rosa Hagemeyer, and Viviane Trindade Borges.

²³ Search conducted on the program's website; it refers to submissions from 2008 to 2016. Available from: <http://www.faed.udesc.br/?id=28> Accessed on: 31 Mar. 2017.

A significant number of these studies (12 dissertations) deals with issues related to the theme of city history and urbanization. Most of them consist in studies on urban transformations or occupation of public spaces in municipalities in the state of Santa Catarina, mostly in its capital city, Florianópolis. Another theme explored in depth by the program refers to patrimonialization policies and cultural heritage (9 dissertations). Research on migration, especially those on international transit, also constitute a major group, addressing issues such as the migration of Brazilians abroad, mainly to the USA and Japan, and also on the reverse movement, i.e. return of these migrants after years living abroad.

Another significant set of studies adopts as its discussion axis the dialogues with music and image-based works. A total of 8 dissertations have as the research theme musical groups or artists and their works. These are groups of artists that played a leading role in local culture at a particular time; artists who have had a broader history are also addressed, in geographical terms or those who have achieved international recognition. The same is true regarding research that uses images, fixed or moving, as the documentary scope. Studies using photographs and film total 9 dissertations. Besides these papers, which could be grouped from the sources, other groupings, resorting to other criteria, could be conducted. Still working through the sources criterion, some studies, a few so far, stand out because they have gone into the virtual world, not only in search of easy access to digitized documents, but in search of new sources, produced in the virtual environment and those that circulate or have circulated through it, in the case of blogs and social media, in order to investigate how new sociabilities and the consumption and writing practices constitute themselves in times of broad access to the internet.

In addition to the themes mentioned, many other papers have been produced in the same line, such as celebrations, reading practices and written culture, religiosity, narratives about the past, historiography, gender, institutions, fashion... The set of themes is quite broad, and this, to a certain extent, is due to the breadth and diversity of interests pursued by professors who are members of this line. However, we may claim that the theoretical-methodological approach of dissertations converges to addressing

the contemporaneity in which the choice of the present time vector provides thickness to the very studies on history, here embodied in two actions: 1 – a certain way of thinking History of the Present Time; and 2 - routes to materialize possibilities to consolidate the PPGH/UDESC.

2.1 “A certain way of thinking History of the Present Time”

Henry Rousso (2016, p. 28) states that his work does not intend to take a prescriptive nature about “the best way to write history” and he warns readers that it intends “to simply propose a reflection on a certain way of thinking history of the present time.” It is from this perspective that we, too, provide our text with a focus. It expresses a perception of history of the present time materialized in research carried out in the Graduate Program in History, driven by the need for a balance to articulate narratives and uses of the past with the expectations produced within the framework of social practices and representations, although admitting the impossibility of total comprehensiveness in the analysis of this academic literature.

The analysis of the student works allowed us to think, with no intent to exhaust the analysis, that the MA dissertations, produced in the two lines of research within the scope of the Graduate Program in History, highlighted significant reflections and arguments about the type of history of the present time that we want to write in a dialogue with authors who, together, have been structuring the theoretical-methodological foundation. In a dialogue with Henry Rousso, history of the present time is considered a domain of historiography and not merely a time-chronological framework. Its uniqueness “lies on the fact that it is interested in a present that is its own, in a context where the past is neither finished or closed, in which the subject of his narrative is a ‘still there’” (ROUSSO, 2016, p. 18).

Another aspect emphasized in the dissertations, especially those submitted between 2011 and 2016, have been reflections on the studies conducted by Paul Ricoeur addressing historical time. The author promotes a return to problematized narrative and postulates that human experience is affected and organized, in time, through the intrigue

shaped by the historian. According to Ricoeur (2010, p. XI), “it is the narrative that makes human time experience accessible,” and time, in turn, becomes human only through narrative. Thus, there is a confluence with the studies by Koselleck (2006), which refer to the experience space of a living generation that triggers expectations, and this tension between experience and expectation makes historical time emerge. Koselleck (2006, p. 309-310) thinks that “historical time is not only a word without content, but also a quantity that changes with history” and that “experience is the present past, the one in which events were incorporated and can be remembered.” “Expectation is materialized in the present day,” which “is a present future, aimed at the not-yet, the not-experienced, at something that can only be predicted.”

The dialogue with Ricoeur (2010, v. 1), put into practice by works from the PPGH, is also a part of the author's warning that “what history wants is actually showing that events are not consequences of chance.” The same conception is corroborated in the studies by Francois Hartog, for whom:

[...] every history, whatever its mode of expression, presupposes, refers to, translates, betrays, praises, or contradicts one or more time experiences. Thus, with the historicity regime, we touch a condition that allows history making: according to the respective relations of the present, past, and future, certain history types are possible and others are not (HARTOG, 2013, 39).

Besides him, by François Dosse, on the event, about which he claims:

To assign full importance to a trace of the event, denoted in the fluctuating evolution of its representations and interpretations, means to fully achieve the historiographical turn that includes studying the uses and practices of history in the act of writing history (DOSSE, 2013, p. 213).

Thus, we may think that investigations within history of the present time, from the perspective that became feasible through the Graduate Program in History, grasp changes in the perceptions and appropriations of historical time and aim to bring together researchers capable of contributing to a better understanding of the histories, and the events encompassed by them, mainly within the last 50 years, with an emphasis on the political and social cultures they have produced and on the languages and

identities that reverberated in various other languages and different identities. The selection of students, in this year of 2017, sought to reaffirm the lines of research from the historiographic perspective of the present time to address the key institutional dimensions²⁴.

Introduced to the present time as a field of research, these scholars have found in historiographic approaches ways to reorder the profusion of images and information, both those disseminated by the mass media (which tend to empty the sense of temporality) and those conveyed by orality and writing, as well as other modes of expression that amplify and deepen the potential of history as a form of knowledge.

2.2 Routes to materialize possibilities to consolidate the PPGH/UDESC

As a way of marking the first decade of creation of the Graduate Program in History of the UDESC and history of the present-day studies that cover its concentration area, throughout the year 2016, faculty and student meetings were held to redefine its lines of research and, at the same time, think of its future prospects, such as the organization of events and participation in them, as well as collective and individual publications by the faculty and students.

Thus, the proposal for creating a third line of research, entitled Memory Politics and Historical Narratives²⁵, focused on the investigation of how history of the present time is crossed by formal mechanisms that seek to guide or mediate social processes to constitute memories (even establishing policies), and by various forms of production, circulation, and agency of historical narratives. Thus, the line is particularly tuned with studies on: contemporary memory disputes or struggles (also called 'competitive

²⁴ The bibliography for the 2017 student selection listed the following works: DOSSE, François. **Renascimento do acontecimento**. São Paulo: Ed. Da UNESP, 2013; HUYSSSEN, Andreas. **Culturas do passado-presente: modernismo, artes visuais, políticas da memória**. Rio de Janeiro: Contraponto, 2014; KOSELLECK, Reinhart. **Estratos do tempo: estudos sobre a História**. Rio de Janeiro: Contraponto, Ed. PUC-RJ, 2014; RÉMOND, René. **Por uma história política**. Rio de Janeiro: Ed. da FGV, 2003; ROUSSO, Henry. **A última catástrofe: a história, o presente, o contemporâneo**. Rio de Janeiro: Ed. Da FGV, 2016; FICO, Carlos; ARAUJO, Maria Paula; GRIN, Monica (Orgs.). **Violência na História: Memória, Trauma e Reparação**. Rio de Janeiro: Ponteio, 2013.

²⁵ The line is joined by professors Cláudia Mortari, Janice Gonçalves, Maria Teresa Santos Cunha, Rogério Rosa Rodrigues, and Viviane Trindade Borges.

memories’); the many ways of dealing with traumatic or ‘difficult’ memories (in order to involve, among others, the practices observed in imprisonment/kidnapping institutions, as well as their power/knowledge relations); the claims of symbolic repayment by victims of authoritarian regimes; the strategies in consecration of characters, sites (urban or rural), and collections, public or private, through heritage-building instruments, such as heritage listing, registry, cadastre, and inventory; the historical narratives conveyed in print, sound, film, or videographic records more directly associated with memory demands of social groups and historically subordinate peoples.

Regarding the organization of events, professors and students of the PPGH/UDESC held, since 2011, the International Seminar on History of the Present Time²⁶, providing the research carried out with visibility. Its third edition is scheduled for October 25 to 27, 2017. In these seminars, the program has received international researchers, who, together with national professors/researchers and students, encourage lively discussions in the area, both with lecturers, like François Dosse and Henry Rousso (French), as well as Leonor Arfuch and Pablo Pozzi (Argentine), Alexander Freund (Canadian), and Gerardo Necochea Gracia (Mexican). The thematic symposia are indicated and coordinated by the program’s faculty and aim at contributing to the proposal consolidation, as well as to make visible the studies developed on the various themes that constitute research objects.

It is also worth highlighting the investment made to consolidate the PPGH/UDESC, in the form of publishing books that disseminate history of the present time by sharing research experiences in the area through the journal *Tempo & Argumento*, edited since 2009. The books published²⁷ deepen reflections on the approaches to history of the present time in a dialogue with authors mentioned above, that join the primary bibliography worked out in the classroom and required from applicants who, since 2015, undergo the MA selection process, and, since 2014, the Ph.D. selection process.

²⁶ I International Seminar on History of the Present Time (November 7 to 9, 2011), II International Seminar (October 13 to 15, 2014).

²⁷ Two books were released: ROUSSO, Henry. **A última catástrofe. A história, o presente, o contemporâneo**. Rio de Janeiro: FGV; Florianópolis: UDESC, 2016, and the collection that gathered texts from the 2014 conferences: GONÇALVES, Janice (Org.). **História do Tempo Presente: oralidade, memória, mídia**. Itajaí (SC): Editora Casa Aberta, 2016.

Through the summary analysis of this set of dissertations, theoretical and methodological investments, and effective actions taken to consolidate the thematic area carried out within the PPGH/UDESC (international seminars, publication in various media, etc.), we may conclude that attention to the epistemological legitimacy of the area has been paid without affecting the proposal alignment and its structuring core. It is noteworthy that a historian of the present time, by investigating unfinished facts, is chased by a challenge, either in the sense of “producing the History of our own time, trying to obtain a reflection that allows a relative setback [...], or by the need to keep one’s distance from the present time itself, a hard task” (ROUSSO, 2009, p. 209).

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Luciana Rossato, Maria Teresa Santos Cunha

Received on 02/02/2017
Approved on 04/22/2017

Universidade do Estado de Santa Catarina – UDESC
Programa de Pós-Graduação em História - PPGH

Revista Tempo e Argumento
Volume 09 - Número 20 - Ano 2017
tempoeargumento@gmail.com