

Review

- Ideas about nation, progress, modernity, in relationship to ideas of citizenship
- In Brazil: the Tropicalistas were concerned with how to expand the role of medicine in society
 - Was part of effort to show that their science was equivalent to that practiced in American, Europe, etc.
 - Science became a status tool, and the extent of its widespread adoption signs of progress, or ‘modernity’

Brazil

- Concerns about hygiene in Brazil: notions of tropical hygiene correlated with ideas of whether or not people in a certain region were capable of industrializing
- Tropicalistas targeted the family as sites of power to exert authority through the practice of medicine. In particular, they focused on lower class Brazilian families
- This was written about the historical period between the 1860s-1890s
- Brazil at that time was moving away from colonialism, but still retained strong hierarchies and social systems from colonial era
- Gradually changing from slave population to citizenship state
- Tropicalistas dealt with the problem of how to integrate and categorize the populations with the rest of the social hierarchy

Tropicalistas

- They focused on families in particular
- Their ideas closely reflected changing social values in Brazil, but also were strongly influenced by trends in Western nations
 - Ex. Intermarriage within families was considered and condemned as degenerate
 - Focus on nuclear family, much like in Western systems, rather than any extended or other system
- Extensive application of biomedicine could control the desire for more social mobility: social order could be maintained through exertion of authority
- Tropicalistas used science to show that Brazilians and Europeans were equal
 - However, did not develop a separate medicine for slaves like Americans (Samuel Cartwright)
- Polygenism: blacks were human, but a separate branch
- ***To what extent is the woman's body a matter of national identity***
 - Tropicalistas sought to co-opt domain of birth, which was previously the realm of midwives
 - Childbirth and reproduction are medicalized, serving as a new way for the state to control its people
 - The traditional midwife was demonized, discredited by the state: this was a method of social control, a way to practice social hygiene

- Example of medicine in Brazil demonstrates how there are different ways to work with or around medicine that can help solve certain problems specific to each culture
- Ex. The hygienic family: Brazilians concerned with how to best support idea of ‘fit’ family through scientific techniques
- Another main concern for Tropicalistas is how could Brazil enter the first world? How to demonstrate that it was fully qualified as much as other Western nations.
- As part of campaign to ‘modernize’ Brazil, midwives came under attack: interesting how they depicted cases
 - Midwives perceived as backward, irrational, dangerous whereas science seen as symbols of reason, scientific method, modernity.
 - This campaign limited extent to which women were allowed into medicine, reflecting on how application of science and knowledge reflect notions of capacity (ie different capacities of men vs. women)
- A Colonial Lexicon: gender, sexuality, health, and reproduction
 - Dealt with resolving questions of representation, symbols. Discusses how limited domain of reproduction was co-opted by Belgian travelers, doctors, and they made knowledge about these aspects and women’s bodies (also goes into how these were men making knowledge about women’s bodies)

Issues to consider:

- How hygiene, reproduction, etc works to create a more sizeable population of laborers
- How nurses wrote about birth: how they depicted this domain
- Missionary zeal, but almost an idea of colonizing minds

Gender Policies

- Tropicalistas promoted health and hygiene practices in reaction to perception that tropical medicine should be concerned with issues of insalubrity in tropical areas
- Earlier on much more negotiation of meaning, not set in stone
- Allowed more of a sense of body within traditional sense rather than strictly biomedical
- Women were traditionally perceived as a source of pollution or danger
 - Female blood and female fluids were sources of danger or power: concern with stage of life
 - Woman’s body was vulnerable to outside influences, esp. after childbirth
 - Family policy became a matter of the state; promoting monogamous marriages, controlling reproduction

Congo was viewed like this in Fabian book: realm of adventure, realm of men (Belgian and Congolese)

Concerns for racial hygiene, eugenics. Idea that you can improve race through breeding

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