



latin american
center for
sexuality and
human rights



The Latin American Center for Sexuality and Human Rights

The Latin American Center for Sexuality and Human Rights (CLAM) was created in November 2002 as part of an international initiative – **Global Dialogue on Sexual Health and Well-being** – that is implanting congeneric projects in Asia, Africa and USA, with **Ford Foundation** support.

Until January 2004 the CLAM headquarters were located in Lima, Peru, with a Brazilian branch in the Rio de Janeiro State University. From January 2004 on, for operational reasons, the headquarters were moved to the Rio de Janeiro branch, which now coordinates all regional activities comprising Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Colombia.

The project is being carried out within the Studies and Research Project on Gender, Sexuality and Health of the Institute of Social Medicine, in the Rio de Janeiro State University.

Regionalizing

Establishing dialogue among the academia, public policymakers and the social movement has been the focus of action of the Latin American Center for Sexuality and Human Rights (CLAM).

Our aim is to produce and disseminate scientific knowledge on sexuality from a human rights perspective, contributing to reduce gender inequalities and to fight discrimination against sexual minorities in Latin America. In order to do so, CLAM has invested in several action fronts: training, regional and international partnerships, publications, fostering research and organizing a specialized library.

To achieve these aims, CLAM has sought to establish partnerships and develop joint investigations, academic exchange, networking with social movements as well as sharing experiences in order to draw up public policies in the area of sexuality and human rights.



promoting reflection

Brazilian Seminars

Since the beginning of its activities CLAM has been holding seminars as a way of networking with the academia, social movement and civil society. Through partnerships with institutions linked to research and activism, several forums have been held on the theme of sexuality in Brazil from a human rights perspective.

2003

Social Movements, Education and Sexualities

Organized with the **Nucleus for Gender and Subjectivities (NIGS) of the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC)**, the II International Seminar addressed – Intercultural Education, Gender and Social Movements, Identity, Differences and Mediations, in Florianópolis, Santa Catarina. The following themes were discussed during this seminar: masculinities, sexuality and art, gender and education, homosexuality and religion, sexuality and human rights.

Sexuality and knowledge: conventions and boundaries

A joint activity with the **Nucleus for Gender Studies (PAGU) of the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP)**, was held in Campinas (São Paulo). The seminar investigated conventions that are present in normative sciences, taking into consideration how they pass on theoretical reflection, medical and juridical practices and, inclusively, research on sexuality in Brazil.

Sexuality, Violence and Justice

This seminar was held in Rio de Janeiro and focused on the links between sexuality, violence, justice and citizenship. This partnership with the **Center of Studies on Security and Citizenship (CESEC) of Cândido Mendes University**

promoting reflection

(UCAM), also received support from the **Brazilian Anthropological Association (ABA)**. Researchers and activists from the women's movement, the black movement and the homosexual movement, in addition to young people and the leadership of community culture and arts projects located in slum areas participated in this event. The achievement of this seminar was to open up dialogue with community representatives.

Religion and Sexuality: Convictions and Responsibilities

The meeting was organized in partnership with the **Institute for Studies on Religion (ISER)**, it took place in Rio de Janeiro, and gathered representatives of religious institutions that have different stances on sexuality, particularly on homosexuality. Among the different religions represented were Protestantism, Anglicanism, Catholicism, Spiritualism and Afro-Brazilian Religions. The high spot of this meeting was the raising of awareness regarding the responsibility of religions concerning human rights and the urgency required to consider the social and political impact of their convictions.

New legalities and democratization of social life: family, sexuality and abortion

The **SOS CORPO – Feminist Institute for Democracy and the Nucleus of Studies on Family, Gender and Health (FAGES) of the Federal University of Pernambuco** were the partners chosen for this seminar held in Recife, whose discussion points were abortion and civil union of people of the same sex, key issues in the fight for freedom and sexual equality. The debate counted on the presence of community leadership, gay and lesbian movement representatives, feminist movement and academics, and pointed out the need that the various movements should network to claim for their rights to be included in human rights.

Sexuality and Human Rights in Brazil

This roundtable meeting took place in Rio de Janeiro, on 10th December – the anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. It marked the occasion of the official opening of CLAM in Brazil, and debated the theme of sexual rights.

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2004

I Forum on Education and Transversalities – the role of basic education teachers in the social construction of the subject

Linking school education to the discussion concerning human rights, the seminar approached the so-called transversal themes of education: sexuality and undue use of drugs. CLAM hosted the meeting in partnership with **ERA 2000 – Education, Reintegration and Support**. The forum achieved its aim of promoting citizenship through critical reflection on the role of education professionals in sexual orientation of children and adolescents. A noteworthy discussion was on the challenges faced by teachers in classrooms, both in preventing as well as tackling drug addiction of their students. The venue was held in August, in Rio de Janeiro.

Freedom of Sexual Orientation and Legalizing Abortion

This seminar was held in partnership with the **Articulation of Brazilian Women Organization (AMB) and the Nucleus for Interdisciplinary Studies on Women (Federal University of Bahia)**, in Salvador, Bahia. It sought to disseminate arguments for popular leaderships on unsafe abortion and maternal mortality and freedom of sexual orientation. The discussion highlighted the right to decide on one's own body and on affection as one of the struggles on the feminist agenda.

Sexuality, Violence and Justice in Popular Spaces

The venue that was organized in partnership with **CESeC (UCAM) and the Maré Center of Solidarity Actions and Studies /Observatory of Favelas**, took place in October, in Rio de Janeiro. Love in wartime was the title of the roundtable that followed the opening conference. The discussion was on territoriality and racial discrimination. Other themes that were discussed were cultural manifestations and narco-culture, in addition to showing the film “Mina de Fé” – a slang that means “A Girl you can count on” –, workshops and dance performances.

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Regional Seminars

2003

For an agenda on sexuality and human rights in Chile

The seminar was held in Santiago, Chile, in November 2003. The event aimed at contributing to make a diagnosis concerning sexual rights. Endeavoring to nurture reflection that can contribute to shaping lines of action and future studies that relate sexuality and human rights, the seminar sought to identify lines of discussions and advance in building an academic and political agenda in a Latin American sphere. The meeting was organized in partnership with the **Flora Tristan Peruvian Women's Center and with the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO-Chile)**.

2004

For an agenda on sexuality and human rights in Colombia

CLAM supported the event promoted by the **National University of Colombia**, which was held in March 2004. The goal was to identify the different discourses on sexuality through channels such as medicine, law, communication means and public policies. Aimed at pointing out the main niches of academic debate and social conflicts regarding sexuality, the seminar strove to contribute to mapping the issue in the region, and recommended networking among investigators and activists to defend sexual rights.

Sexualities, Genders and Policies – a queer perspective for Latin America

Co-organized by the **Laboratory of Public Policies of the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ)** and the **Queer Studies Area/ University of**

promoting reflection

Buenos Aires. The meeting took place in April, in Rio de Janeiro, seeking to point out trends in queer studies from a Latin American perspective.

Family Relationships: Sexuality and Religion

Linking the theme of modern family configurations to domains of sexuality and religion, the seminar sought to contribute to more thorough understanding of cultural dialectics and underlying values in the transformations the contemporary family is undergoing in Latin America. This was a joint initiative with the **Study Group on the Contemporary Family (GREFAC) of the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ)** and the **Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)** and with the **Family, Reproduction and Religious Ethos in Brazil Project (National Museum/UFRJ)**. An audience that was mainly made up of university and postgraduate students attended the event, which was held in Rio de Janeiro and complies with CLAM's proposal of training and capacity building of social agents.

Race, Sexuality and Health: Regional Perspectives

This international seminar was held in November, in Rio de Janeiro, and investigated interfaces among racial relations, the health and disease process, and the dimensions of sexuality and gender. The event achieved its goal of promoting debate and reflection committed to social development mainly through a comparative approach in different contexts: Latin America, South Africa and the United States. It was a partnership action with the **Center of Afro-Brazilian Studies (UCAM)** and the **Oswaldo Cruz Foundation**.

training and capacity building

The CLAM action front includes a *Fellowships Program*, which is aimed at capacity building of social actors in different thematic and profession areas. The objective is to encourage research from a human rights perspective, striving to contribute to the qualification of graduate level students, professionals from the areas of humanities, health and education, as well as activists and militants.

Another part of training efforts is the organization of *internal courses*, promoted in the sphere of the Program of Graduate Studies in Collective Health of the Institute of Social Medicine/State University of Rio de Janeiro. Courses comprise elective disciplines given by researchers from CLAM and professors from IMS, and are aimed at offering instrumental theoretical-methodology, as well as promoting a discussion arena for projects in pertinent thematic areas.

Organizing and participating in courses held with other institutional partnerships, such as the 11th Course on Research Methodology in Gender, Sexuality and Reproductive Health, that took place in Rio de Janeiro, are also part of the same goal and was supported by CLAM this year.

Fellowship Program (Brazil)

2003/2004

ANPOCS-CLAM-Ford Competition: Sexuality and Social Sciences

The aim of this partnership with the Brazilian Association of Post-Graduate Research and Training in Social Sciences/ANPOCS, is to foster research projects that address sexuality from social sciences and human rights perspectives. Master's and doctoral degree students participate, and 2 projects in the master's category and 2 projects in the doctoral category are selected for awards. Part of the awards is given

training and capacity building

to the institutions the students come from, which are given funds to purchase publications in the thematic areas. The competition also includes the holding of a seminar in 2005, in addition to publishing a book with research findings. The thematic areas that are given awards were: *sexuality and religion, sexuality and social movements, sexuality, stigma and human rights and public policies.*

Competition to select projects on Sexuality, Violence and Justice in Popular Neighborhoods in Rio de Janeiro: Problems and Alternatives

As a result of the Seminar Sexuality, Violence and Justice, this partnership with CESeC, Maré Center of Solidarity Actions and Studies (CEASM) and the Observatory of Favelas, sought to encourage academic and artistic production concerning popular spaces in Rio de Janeiro (favelas, buildings lots on the outskirts of Rio, popular housing estates etc.) The competition was organized in two different categories: research projects and literary production. Four graduate level students were selected in the first category and received grants to foster research. In the second category, three students were awarded grants. Target public was students from popular origin and/or activists in popular movements.

International Program for Training and Capacity Building in Women's Human Rights

The NGO Citizenship, Studies, Research, Information and Action (CEPIA) organized the event, in 2003, in Rio de Janeiro, and included a module on sexuality that was given by CLAM researchers and professors. The project aims at meeting the demand for capacity building of social movement leadership and NGOs, as well as professionals that work in the areas of education, law, health and communication. In 2004, a new partnership with CLAM enabled the participation and financing of 5 students in the Andean Region and South Cone.

training and capacity building

Regional Training

Regional Course on Research Methodology in Gender, Sexuality and Reproductive Health

Targeting professionals with interdisciplinary backgrounds – law, social sciences, psychology, education, health and others – the course is a joint project of the **Program on Gender Sexuality and Health (Institute of Social Medicine/UERJ)**, of the **Institute of Collective Health** (Federal University of Bahia), with the **Nucleus for Population Studies** (State University of Campinas), the **National School for Public Health (ENSP/Oswaldo Cruz Foundation)** and the **Institute of Health (SES/São Paulo)**. CLAM researchers and IMS professors participated in the 11th edition of this three week course, which was held in Rio de Janeiro. Besides Brazilian students, five researchers from the region were accepted and financed by CLAM. Among these, two will receive grants to carry out research in 2005.

CLAM is organizing a series of books to be co-published with the Garamond Publisher as well as a collection of strategic documents. It also brings out a newsletter on a regular basis.

Collection Sexuality, Gender and Society

Divided into three different series (*Sexuality and Gender in Social Sciences*, *Sexuality under Debate* and *Homosexuality and Culture*), the collection will publish national and international works that are considered as being relevant to the field of sexuality as well as different collections, and the outcomes of seminars held in 2003 and 2004.

Books published in 2004

The book **Two makes up a couple: gender and sexual identity in an egalitarian context**, by anthropologist Maria Luíza Heilborn, examines conjugality in a comparative perspective, focusing both heterosexual and homosexual couples. Addressing linkages between egalitarianism, gender and sexual identity, the author seeks to highlight different conjugal arrangements – or conjugality standards – that can be observed in heterosexual and gay and lesbian couples. The book is part of the series *Homosexuality and Culture*.



The book **The homosexual as seen by people in the know**, by anthropologist Carmen Dora Guimarães became a classic in homosexuality studies in the 70s. This is a pioneering study that investigates the dilemmas of constituting identities in a certain segment of the gay people that lived in Rio de Janeiro in the 60s and 70s, when homosexuality became a life style. The book is part of the series *Homosexuality and Culture*.



Sexualities and knowledge: conventions and frontiers is the first volume of the series *Discussing Sexuality*, that presents research findings and papers presented at the seminars promoted by CLAM. The book gathers articles that seek to polemicize the organization of sciences that produce norms on sexuality. Authors present their thoughts on the impact of these norms on theoretical reflection and in medical and juridical practices. Some of the themes dealt with are: sexual tourism, homosexuality and race, homosexual parenting.



Strategic Documents Collection

This collection aims to publish strategic documents produced by CLAM through diverse research works.

Documents published in 2004

Rights and sexual policies in Brazil: the current panorama, written by the anthropologist Adriana Vianna, with collaboration of Paula Lacerda, presents the results of a research carried out in 2003 and 2004. It offers an overview of rights and sexual policies in place in Brazil, addresses paths taken in sexual rights in an international scope; seeking to reflect on the impact certain conventions and treaties have had in the Brazilian political field. It also contains updated information on laws, public policies and jurisprudence regarding sexual rights in Brazil, such as sexual orientation, reproductive rights, sexual violence, Aids and other themes.



Politics, Rights, Violence and Homosexuality

This book was produced by CLAM and contains research findings carried out during the 8th Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Pride Parade, in Rio de Janeiro. Through outlining the social and political profile of participants in the Parade, it points out the diversity in homosexual identities, and also focuses on the victimization and violence this population undergoes. Sexuality and prevention are also among the subjects approached.



Gender, Sexuality and Society Newsletter

This is a publication of the Program on Gender, Sexuality and Health (IMS/UERJ) that now has support from CLAM. The quarterly publication seeks to address themes that are key to the contemporary debate on sexuality. Currently, 3000 issues are distributed free of charge to civil society institutions and research institutions throughout Brazil.

Library

Since the beginning of its activities CLAM has also been working on the acquisition and organization of a library containing publications on the theme of human rights and sexuality. Currently, the library can be consulted on our website www.clam.org.br in the item library, through the key-work *clamsex*. The CLAM library is housed in the Library of the Institute of Social Medicine/UERJ, and has some 650 titles, in addition to acquiring and renewing subscriptions of periodicals in the area.

website communication

CLAM has been developing a website project since 2003. In 2004, through the creation of a social communication team, the site (www.clam.org.br) has been constituted as the main communication and information channel with a broader audience. Also elected as the strategic means to regionalize the project in Latin America, its goals are:

- Disseminate latin-american production on sexuality and human rights;
- Give visibility to contents produced in all countries;
- Interact and link points in the regional network;
- Facilitate retrieval of available information.

Producing diagnosis and strategic mapping on themes that pertain to human rights and sexuality has been the action strategy used by CLAM to organize and systemize information in the area. Three surveys were carried out in Brazil and three in Andean America and South Cone. Research is also being carried out on victimization, homosexuality and violence in Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre. The Research Project Gender, Sexuality and Family: ruptures and continuities in the experience of the modern western Personhood is supported by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) and includes CLAM researchers and professors.

Strategic documents produced in Brazil:

Rights and sexual policies in Brazil

Coordinated by anthropologist Adriana Vianna the research was carried out with the aim of offering a panorama on rights and policies regarding sexuality, which are in effect in the country (see above Collection “Documents”, in the Publications item).

Mapping and diagnosis of data banks and research on sexuality and sexual behavior in Brazil

Under the coordination of anthropologist Laura Moutinho, the objective of this research was to map and analyze quantitative data banks on sexuality and sexual behavior in Brazil, focusing on the following themes: Aids, reproduction, violence and justice.

The state of art research on sexuality and sexual rights in Brazilian social sciences (1990-2002)

This research sought to map Brazilian bibliographical production in the field of Social Sciences on sexuality, sexual rights and sexual health from 1990 to 2002. Sociologist Maria Teresa Citelli coordinated the study.

Jurisprudence and sexuality in Brazil

Analyzing the key juridical issues concerning rights related to sexuality in Brazil. Researcher and Federal Judge Roger Raupp Rios coordinated this research.

Strategic documents produced in Andean America and South Cone:

State of art research on sexuality

(Peru/Argentina/Chile)

Documents focused on the state of art of social investigation on sexuality were also produced in these three countries that comprise the Andean Region and South Cone.

Research

2003/2004

Politics, Rights, Violence & Homosexuality

General coordination: Sergio Carrara (CLAM/IMS/UERJ), Silvia Ramos (CESeC/UCAM) Regional coordination: Veriano Terto Jr (NUPACS/UFRRG), Marcio Caetano (Grupo Arco-Iris), Fernando Pocahy (Grupo Nuances)

In partnership with the gay and lesbian activist group Arco-Iris and with the Center of Studies on Security and Citizenship (CESeC/UCAM), CLAM carried out research that focused on data regarding victimization, violence, sexuality and prevention among homosexuals. Carried out during the 2003 Gay Pride Parade, in Rio de Janeiro, it sought to outline the political profile of participants. The results, based on the 468 questionnaires that were filled in, gave origin to a CLAM publication that can be downloaded from its site. In 2004, the research was enlarged, and carried out also

in Porto Alegre. New partnerships were made with the Research Nucleus for Anthropology of the Body and Health (NUPACS) of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul and with the activist group For Free Sexual Expression (Nuances).

The Research Project Gender, Sexuality and Family: ruptures and continuities in the experience of the modern western Personhood

Coordination: Jane Russo (CLAM/IMS/UERJ) and Luiz Fernando Dias Duarte (PPGAS/MN/UFRJ)

This project is supported by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) and includes individual studies carried out by CLAM researchers focused on the following themes: gender, sexuality, family and religion. The challenge is to seek to link these dimensions, so as to shed light on the ruptures and continuities in the construction of the modern personhood in different social contexts: Some of the projects underway are:

- a) *Homosexuality, Violence and Justice*, being carried out by Sergio Carrara and Adriana Vianna
- b) *Teenage Pregnancy: “gender, sexuality and youth in Brazil”*, being carried out by Maria Luiza Heilborn
- c) *Constructing the Personhood: family, reproduction and religious ethos in Brazil*, being carried out by Luiz Fernando Dias Duarte
- d) *Sexuality in psychiatric classifications: a study on medical influence in daily life*, being carried out by Jane Russo
- e) *Sex and gender in Brazilian medical discourse from the second half of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century*, being carried out by Fabíola Rohden

- f) *Reason, love and desire: an analysis of inter-racial relationships among homosexuals in Rio de Janeiro*, being carried out by Laura Moutinho
- g) *Homosexuality, parenting and homosexual groups*, being carried out by Ana Paula Uzziel
- h) *Psychiatric science and assistance policy in Brazil: mental disease, gender and sexuality (1940-1970)*, being carried out by Ana Teresa Venâncio
- i) *Homosexuality and Religion: a study on discourses on homosexuality among evangelicals in Rio de Janeiro*, being carried out by Marcelo Natividade

disseminating ideas

Disseminating the Theme at Academic's and Activist's Discussion Fora

During 2003/2004 the Latin American Center sought to participate in different discussion fora, taking these opportunities to network and disseminate CLAM's actions and goals. These are some of the events we attended, in 2004:

Debates on Abortion – Juridical Perspectives

Organized by Themis (Juridical advisement and Studies on Gender) and Repem (Popular Women Education Network)

Porto Alegre – April 2004

Seminar Feminist Human Rights and Sexual Orientation Agenda

“Joint initiative of the Feminist Health Network/Rio de Janeiro Regional Office and the Brazilian Lesbian League/Rio de Janeiro Regional Office

Rio de Janeiro – April 2004

National States, Health and Indigenous Women in the Amazon: public policies, culture and reproductive rights in a Pan-Amazon context

Promoted by the Brazilian Anthropological Association (ABA), with Ford Foundation support

Manaus/AM – April 2004

I National Symposium of Human and Social Sciences in Health of the Brazilian Association of Post Graduate Studies in Collective Health

Organized by Brazilian Association of Collective Health (ABRASCO)

Rio de Janeiro – May 2004

disseminating ideas

Seminar *The Brazilian State and the Difference Policy*

Held by the Brazilian Anthropological Association with support from the Ford Foundation, Superior School of the Public Ministry of the Union, 6th Chamber of Coordination and Revision Indigenous Communities and Minorities and the Federal Public Ministry/Federal General Attorney's Office.

Brasilia – May 2004

Special Research Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health;

Research Forum *The Contemporary Family: inter-generation and gender relations*;

Special Symposium *Sexuality and Religion*

24th Meeting of the Brazilian Anthropological Association (ABA)

Recife – June 2004

Roundtable *Subjectivity and other families*;

Communication Session *Homosexuality and Religion*;

Communication Session *Graduates Research II*

II Conference of the Brazilian Association of Homo-culture Studies (ABEH)

Brasilia – June 2004

I State Conference on Public Policies for Women

Rio de Janeiro – June 2004

IV Symposium *International Policy on Public Health*

Thirtieth Annual Meeting of International Academy of Sex Research

Helsinki/Finland – June 2004

I National Women's Conference

Brasilia – June 2004

disseminating ideas

VIII Luso Afro-Brazilian Congress of Social Sciences

Portugal – September 2004

Thematic Seminar Body, Sexuality and Identity

28th Annual Meeting of ANPOCS (Brazilian Association of Post-Graduate Research and Training in Social Sciences)

Caxambu/MG – October 2004

National Seminar on Sexual Rights and the Right to Abortion: Building Strategic Dialogues among Emancipation Movements

The Latin American Center for Sexuality and Human Rights

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