

# ABSTRACT ZOOM

## **Atlantic routes. Abolitionist struggles and the formation of the working class**

**Marcelo Badaró Mattos**

The article offers a transnational perspective on confluences and distances between two sets of social movements, organizational forms and political views: the anti-slavery movement and the movements of the working class during its formation process. The essay focuses on the Brazilian case: the last slave society in the Americas to abolish slavery (1888), the Empire of Brazil witnessed the development of an abolitionist movement in which distinct sectors of society converged. The article highlights the participation of one of them – the urban working class – and addresses the relationship between the formation of the working class and abolitionism.

**Keywords:** Brazil, anti-slavery movement, working class movement

## ***A baianada.* Work, migration, and identity in São Paulo**

**Paulo Fontes**

This article highlights the importance of internal migration to the formation of the working class in São Paulo, Brazil, after the Second World War. In dialogue with specialized literature and primary sources, I analyse the internal migration of workers from the countryside in the context of São Paulo's accelerated industrialization during the 1950s and 1960s, when industries had an intense need for manual labour. In addition to economic and demographic factors, I highlight the agency of, and the strategies chosen by, the migrants in this process, as well as how gender relations influenced distinct experiences of migration. Finally, I seek to demonstrate how the presence and the action of migrants have been fundamental for the debate of the "Northeastern question" and for the creation of a political and cultural imagination about the Brazilian Northeast and about Northeasterners in São Paulo.

**Keywords:** Brazil, internal migration, working class, post-WWII, industrialization

## **Coalition or conflict. U.S. social work and the working class**

**Michel Reisch**

This essay discusses the diverse and occasionally contradictory roles social workers in the U.S. have played in addressing the issue of social class and in assisting low-wage workers in their struggles for economic justice. These contradictions reflect several interrelated factors: the evolving class composition of the social work profession in the U.S.; the complex relationship between social workers and working class communities, particularly those of people of color and immigrants; the status of the social work profession in the nation's political-economy; and the conflict between unionization and professionalization. These factors were reflected in the theories underlying social work practice, its conception of knowledge and research, the sectors in which social workers were employed, and the changing self-image of the profession. This essay also discusses the challenges these issues create for contemporary and future social workers in the U.S.

**Keywords:** United States, social workers, working class, class composition, migrants