

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the first English language edition of the *Revista Brasileira de Ciências Sociais* (RBCS). This special issue contains a selection from articles published since the first issue in 1986 to issue 41 in 1999. An English language edition is now published every two years containing a selection of articles published during the period. RBCS will be also available in electronic format (<http://www.Scielo.br>).

The articles for this issue were selected by the following committees:

Anthropology

Eduardo Viveiros de Castro
Lilia Schwarcz
Manuela Carneiro da Cunha
Roque de Barros Laraia
Yvonne Maggie

Political Science

Eli Diniz
Gláucio Ary Dillon Soares
Maria Hermínia Tavares de Almeida
Maria Regina Soares de Lima
Maria Teresa Sadek

Sociology

Elisa Reis
Gabriel Cohn
Juarez Brandão Lopes
Sérgio Miceli
Teresa Sales