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