

# **THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY-STS MOVEMENT IN SOME BRAZILIAN SCIENCE MUSEUMS<sup>1</sup>**

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The science museums in Brazil today were significant spaces for the dissemination of the scientific culture. Many of them have emerged as a typical third generation museums (Mc Manus, 1992) – whose propositions were based mainly in the exploring of concepts and phenomena through interactive apparatus. According to Marandino (2005), currently one of the challenges in the activities of the dissemination of the scientific culture is to present science with a more humanized and historical point of view, revealing its struggles in its construction, and the relations between science, technology, and society instead of a spectacle and non-critical image.

Therefore it would be necessary for the comprehension of the current meaning of these spaces to analyze what the position of the museums is before the approaches that take into consideration the mutual interferences between Science, Technology and Society. These dimensions have been discussed in the area of Science Education through the STS approach, which outlines the importance of the public awareness about the impacts of scientific and technological development in society. The STS approach emerged in the 80's in the Anglo Saxon countries as a counterpoint to the traditional teaching, which did not take into account the mutual influence between Science, Technology and Society (Garcia Hoz, 1990). Despite the importance and legitimacy of the transformation in the way society started to see science advances, in Brazil this movement was not widely incorporated, for many reasons. Among them, the teachers' education program, which was incompatible with the interdisciplinary perspective present at the STS movement, and the little production of text books in this line (Auler and Bazzo, 2001). These difficulties and obstacles to its insertion do not keep the STS movement away of the agenda of discussions in science education and it is still relevant in its ideas.

At this point, we would like to ask if the Brazilian science museums are incorporating the STS movement in their exhibitions. Therefore, our research focus in what are the presented themes in some museums, and with which strategies they communicate with the public and what is the science image they exhibit.

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This study is focused in three reference science museums in Brazil, with a qualitative research methodology: *Estação Ciência/USP* (1987), *Museu da Vida/ Fiocruz/RJ* (1999) and *Museu de Ciência e Tecnologia – PUC/RS* (1967, new format 1998).

This paper is to present some of the results including that the STS approach is more frequent in environmental themes. Although is not often to find exhibition elements that bring up-to-date themes or discussions about ethics and social implications in the use of new technologies, that does not mean these discussions are not present in these spaces. For this matter, the research includes a further study phase about the exhibitions in these institutions through observation and records, interviews with the designers, and analyses of documents such as projects and designs.

### **References**

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