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Introductory Note: in this issue, we are introducing the Editorial in Portuguese, as we have done previously, and now also in English.

With this issue (Volume 18, Number 3), we conclude our editorial work for the year 2026, reaffirming our commitment to scientific dissemination via OPEN ACCESS. We view science as a common good. We remain optimistic regarding practices that uphold the democracy of knowledge.

We once again highlight the diverse backgrounds of the Brazilian authors, who are affiliated with universities in three states of the Brazilian federation (Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Minas Gerais). The international contributions came from India, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

We remain steadfast in our selection of articles resulting from academic research. Readers will see the social, political, and economic relevance of the articles in this issue.

We are entering the final quarter of yet another extremely difficult year for contemporary societies from both an international and regional perspective. Major institutional changes and a new balance of political power among countries, along with the constant and persistent emergence of a new political force from countries that had long been under imperialist domination by the U.S. and Europe, are breaking the old international orders. The effects of this realignment have led to increased tension and conflict in relations between countries.

Against this backdrop, violent practices such as invasions of sovereign states' territories, blatant piracy involving the hijacking of oil tankers, looting, and the predatory exploitation of mineral resources have proliferated. Genocides have spread, with no attempt to conceal the true motivations of plunder and domination by force—previously justified as “defense of democracy” or “abuse of human rights” in the countries that are invaded. The events surrounding the extermination of an entire people by the Zionist state of Israel—ironically, the very same people who welcomed them during the exodus of Jews from Central and Eastern Europe after the horrors persecutions since the turn to the 20th century—speak for themselves. And how can we fail to mention the criminal boycott of Cuba (!); a small country that has fought (and continues to fight) for its sovereignty and poses no military threat (though classified as “terrorist”) to any country in the four corners of the globe? If the



Cubans' internationalist solidarity and humanitarian responsibility bother the U.S. empire and NATO countries so much, the problem is certainly not Cuba, much less the actual existence of a danger. The problem for peace in terms of international relations has a name and an address: the foreign policy of U.S. imperialism.

Finally, we have not mentioned the Russian/Ukrainian war because the media in Western societies does not devote a single line to the legislative coup d'état carried out in Ukraine against a government legitimately elected in 2014—a coup sponsored by the U.S.

In this context of many contradictions, the BRICS bloc continues to affirm the principles and decisions governing multilateral trade. For many academic and research centers in Brazil (and in other Western societies), the internationalization of scientific journals is synonymous with publication in English and the publication of articles by researchers from the U.S. and Europe. However, *Passagens* continues to welcome authors from all over the world. For the editorial line of our journal, internationalization implies internationalist academic practices, in a broad and political sense (with all the political implications that such practices entail).

The good news for authors and readers of *Passagens* is that, starting now, our journal will welcome professor and researcher Rahul J. Nikam to our Editorial Board. We need more regionally informed peer review submissions from Asia, and his contribution is most welcome.

May we receive more unpublished submissions and reach a large and diverse readership.

Gizlene Neder (Editor)