



Marlyse Meyer (1924-2010)



Lélia Coelho Frota (1938-2010)

Two losses¹

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Yesterday (July 19, 2010), Marlyse Meyer died aged 86. Teacher and researcher, she was noted for her rich and stimulating interdisciplinarity. She worked in cultural history, folklore, art criticism, always in dialogue with other specialists, especially anthropologists. She was always respected for her extraordinary curiosity and an endless capacity for hard work.

Amongst her many publications, I mention especially “*Folhetim, uma história*” (São Paulo, Companhia das Letras, 1996), which is a precious contribution to literature studies. With strong references to the the social sciences the book is important for the understanding of world views, mentalities and life styles.

Marlyse Meyer participated actively in political and social movements against authoritarianism and in defense of minority rights. She was a devoted teacher who kept in contact with various generations of students and former students. She was averse to publicity or any kind of academic vanity. Her death is a serious loss for the Brazilian intellectual community.

Recently, on May 27, Lélia Coelho Frota, writer, poet, student of folklore and researcher of popular culture, died at the age of 72. Like Marlyse Meyers, she was at home in various fields of knowledge.

She directed the National Folklore Institute with great competence, renewing and strengthening the dialogue with anthropology and other social sciences. She also occupied various important positions in relation to Brazilian cultural politics and coordinated various interdisciplinary projects.

Her achievements in the areas of cultural heritage both erudite and popular, gave her a unique position in Brazilian social science.

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Both Marlyse and Lélia are examples of women who developed original and instigating research, opening space for debate and cultural creativity.

Bibliography of their most important texts:

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