

# V!RUS13

para tempos difíceis  
**Boas notícias**  
Good news  
for hard times

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s e m e s t r e 2 s e m e s t e r

revista do nomads.usp | nomads.usp journal  
issn:2175.974x | CC BY - NC  
DOI 10.4237/virus\_journal

## GOOD NEWS FOR HARD TIMES Marcelo Tramontano Juliana Trujillo Juliano Pita Luciana Roça Sandra Soster

**How to quote this text:** Tramontano, M.; Pita, J. V. C.; Trujillo, J.; Roça, L. S.; Soster, S. S., 2016. Boas notícias para tempos difíceis. (Editorial). *V!RUS*, [e-journal] 13. Available at: <<http://www.nomads.usp.br/virus/virus13/?sec=1&item=1&lang=pt>>. (Accessed 00 m. 0000.)

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**Juliano Veraldo da Costa Pita** holds a Master's degree in Architecture and Urbanism, a professor at the Federal Institute of São Paulo, and a researcher at Nomads.usp. He studies Architectural design, its relation with the public sphere and the implications of the new technologies, especially the use of BIM.

**Luciana Santos Roça** is a Bachelor of Arts in Image and Sound, Master in Architecture and Urbanism and is a researcher at Nomads.usp. She studies sound interventions in public spaces, seeking to integrate the disciplinary fields of Sound Studies and Architecture.

**Sandra Schmitt Soster** holds a Master's degree in Architecture and Urbanism and is researcher at Nomads.usp. She studies the use of digital media in the management and preservation of cultural heritage.

The editorial process of the V!RUS journal thirteenth issue took place during the first months of great political upheaval in Brazil. Since its inception, the current government has taken several measures that suppress acquired population rights and destabilize public institutions and services in the areas of Education, Culture, Health, Science and Technology, Communications, among others. By focusing on the interests of specific groups, such as large financial corporations, the real estate market and large media companies, such measures accentuate, on the other hand, chronic national problems. They aim to reverse and cancel public policies that have been seeking - and succeeding - in reducing the enormous social inequality that characterizes Brazilian society from its earliest days. A sense of hopelessness and helpless indignation thus seems to accompany part of the country's and the world's population. It has been increased by a

certain attitude, fostered by the press in general, of depreciation and disqualification of popular and academic achievement arduously built up over decades, based on broad debate and participation of various sectors of society.

We are, however, pleased to see that the sixteen works selected to integrate this issue of V!RUS swim against the current. They have in common an interest for spaces of resistance existing within social life. They show the desire to contribute to the development of practices aiming to preserve critical thinking and support for the most vulnerable classes and groups of the population.

They argue above all that solutions to the problems of a nation can only be correctly formulated within an environment of freedom of thought, expression, creation and experimentation. The texts and images presented here gather information about several cities of Brazil and abroad, composing an impressive, current and necessary mosaic of reflections and practices.

In the Interview section, a wide view of the issue's theme is offered by the sociologist and former president of the Brazilian Institute of Information Technology **Sérgio Amadeu da Silveira**. The notion of news as information transmitted and manipulated serving the interests of those who transmit it, is amplified through an examination of the current moment in which Brazil and the world live, especially of online social networks as an information dispute arena by different social actors.

Three articles focus exclusively on experiences outside Brazil. **Lev Manovich** and **Agustín Indaco** propose a method of mapping social inequality in New York as in major world cities through the use of big data retrieved in online social networks. **Christoph Walther** reports on the touching self-organized work of international volunteers to receive refugees on the Greek island of Chios. And the Madrid-based group **Ecosistema Urbano** presents its requalification and restructuring project of the central area of Asuncion, Paraguay, through the mobilization of citizen and private initiatives, in a continuous process in which the city reinvents itself from its own resources.

Participatory urban planning practices are the subject of several studies. **Camille Bianchi** and **Luíza Andrada e Silva** discuss the role of alleys, junctions, stairways, walkways and paths created in spontaneous urbanization processes as articulators of the appropriation of the Jardim Angela neighborhood by its residents, in the city of Sao Paulo. **Luísa Gonçalves** addresses inhabitants actions, whether or not combined with architects inputs, giving new uses to residual spaces, such as the reconversion of the High Line elevated railroad in New York, a metro station in Mulheim, Germany, and a viaduct in Rio de Janeiro. Through the Collective Subject Discourse methodology, **Júlia Lahm** and **Soraya Nór** evaluate the implementation of community-based urban vegetable gardens in the city of Florianopolis, in southern Brazil, concluding that, far beyond food production, they contribute to bring people closer to their community, to nature and to themselves.

In a more subtle approach, **Marcela Dimenstein** and **Jovanka Scocuglia** produce a reading of the central area of Joao Pessoa city, in northeastern Brazil, through the eyes, the experience and ways of life of its elderly users, witnesses of the passing time. Also interested in the relationship between lifestyles and the built environment, **Ana Kláudia Perdigão** traces a rich portrait of stilt houses in Amazonia, understanding it as resistance to the extinction of the cultural riverside tradition.

Audiovisual languages as a means of reading and expressing the city and society are dealt with in two works. **Arthur Autran** identifies the resurgence of politics as a central issue in recent Brazilian films, which conversely can contribute to the expansion of the country's political debate. In the Nomads section, the researchers **Luciana Roça** and **Maria Julia Martins** present five videos produced as part of a transdisciplinary didactic experience in postgraduate studies, whose proposal was the use of the notion of refuge

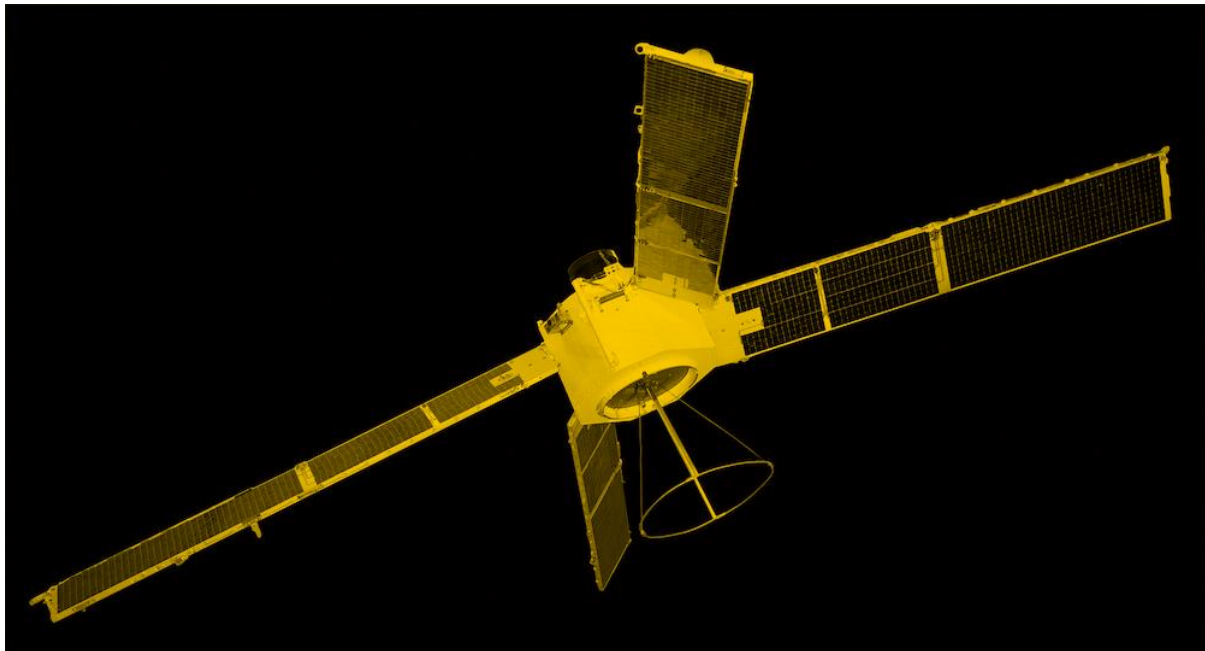
as a guide to understand aspects of urban life. In a third work, photography connected to the Foucault's concept of heterotopias and to Morin's complex thinking, is the means chosen by **Carlos Nigro** to examine territories of social vulnerability as well as their actors.

Stimulating creative relationships between projected works and their users is the motto of two extremely exciting experiences presented in this issue. In the Design area, **Denise Mendonça** provides an assessment of the evolution of a furniture design course, in which students have been invited, for twelve years now, to design and carry out pieces of furniture for use by children in childhood support institutions, presenting great gains compared to traditional didactic and pedagogical procedures. In the scope of Architecture and Urbanism, **Carlos Teixeira, Leonardo Rodrigues, Daila de Araújo** and **Frederico Almeida** present their interventions in residual spaces of the city of Belo Horizonte, in three different scales, considering the architecture of the city as standbys open to varied interventions.

Reactions to oppressive situations are dealt with in two papers. **Maria Cristina Costa** treats censorship as a State strategy, showing the rescue of theatrical texts censored by the Brazilian military dictatorship and the actuality of their study. The feminist movement is **Camila Diniz** text theme, addressing the creation and consolidation of a Reference House targeting to host women victims of aggression.

Finally, the graphic design of this edition brings together different systems of transmission and exchange of information that have changed the face of the world. The following eight images were chosen to illustrate our table of contents and the background of each section. They remind us of the importance of inventions that have contributed to changing our daily lives, our relationships with others, with the world, and with ourselves.

We hope that reading this issue of V!RUS can contribute, albeit modestly, to make present times less difficult.



**Fig. 01:** Transit, the first satellite of the GPS system, launched in 1960 in the US.



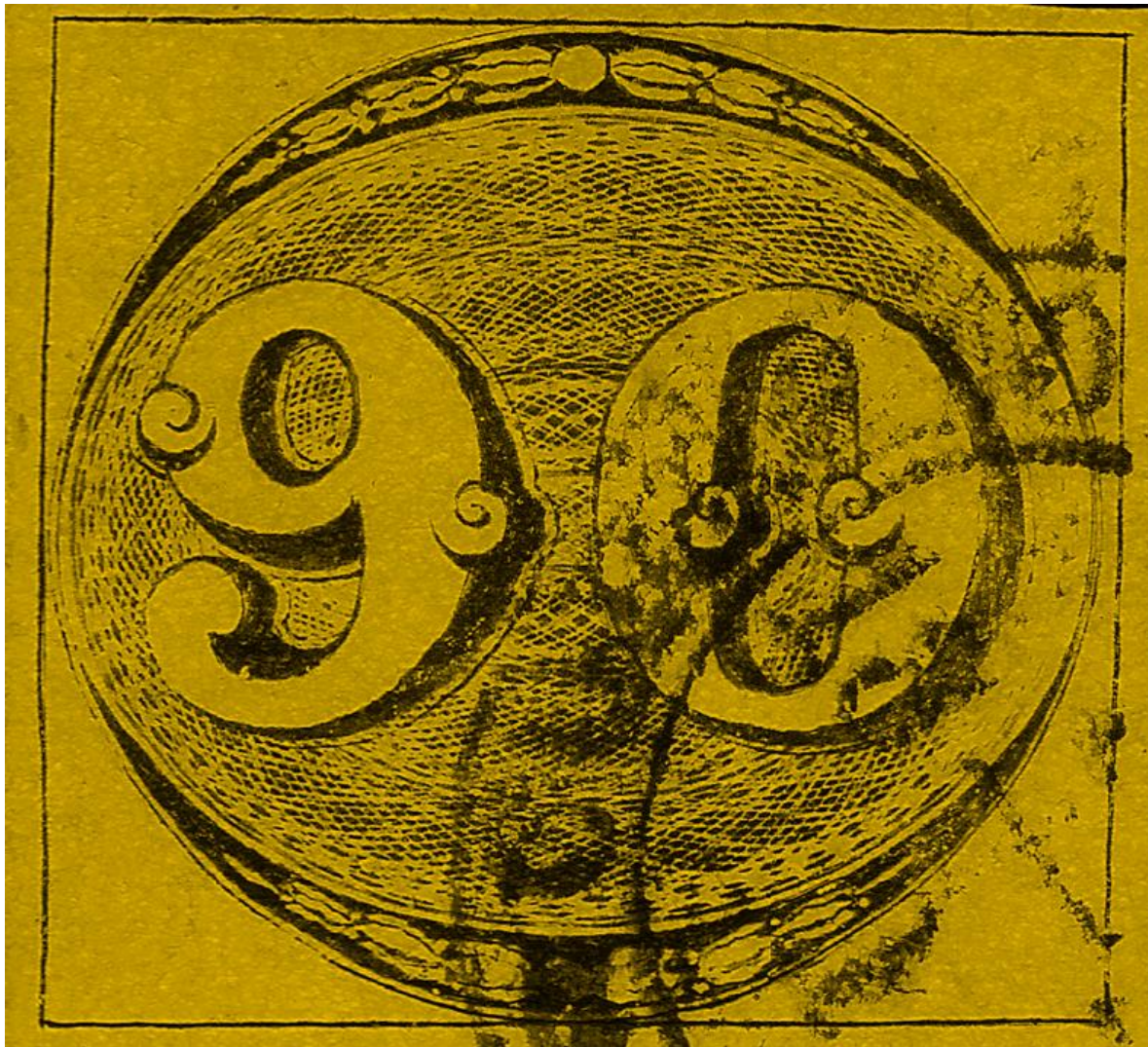


**Fig. 02:** The Turing machine, precursor of modern computers, designed by computer scientist Alan Turing in the 1940s in the United Kingdom.

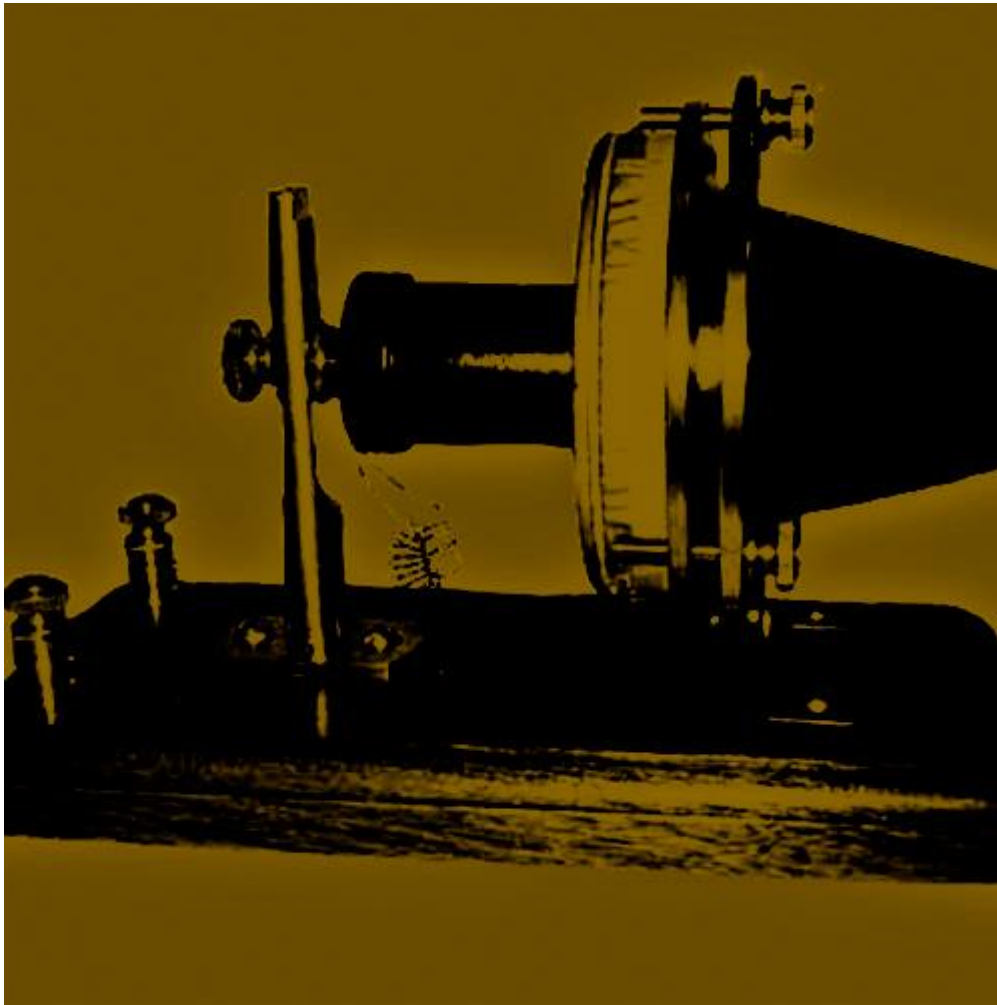


**Fig. 03:** Movable types for printing, invented in China in the eleventh century.

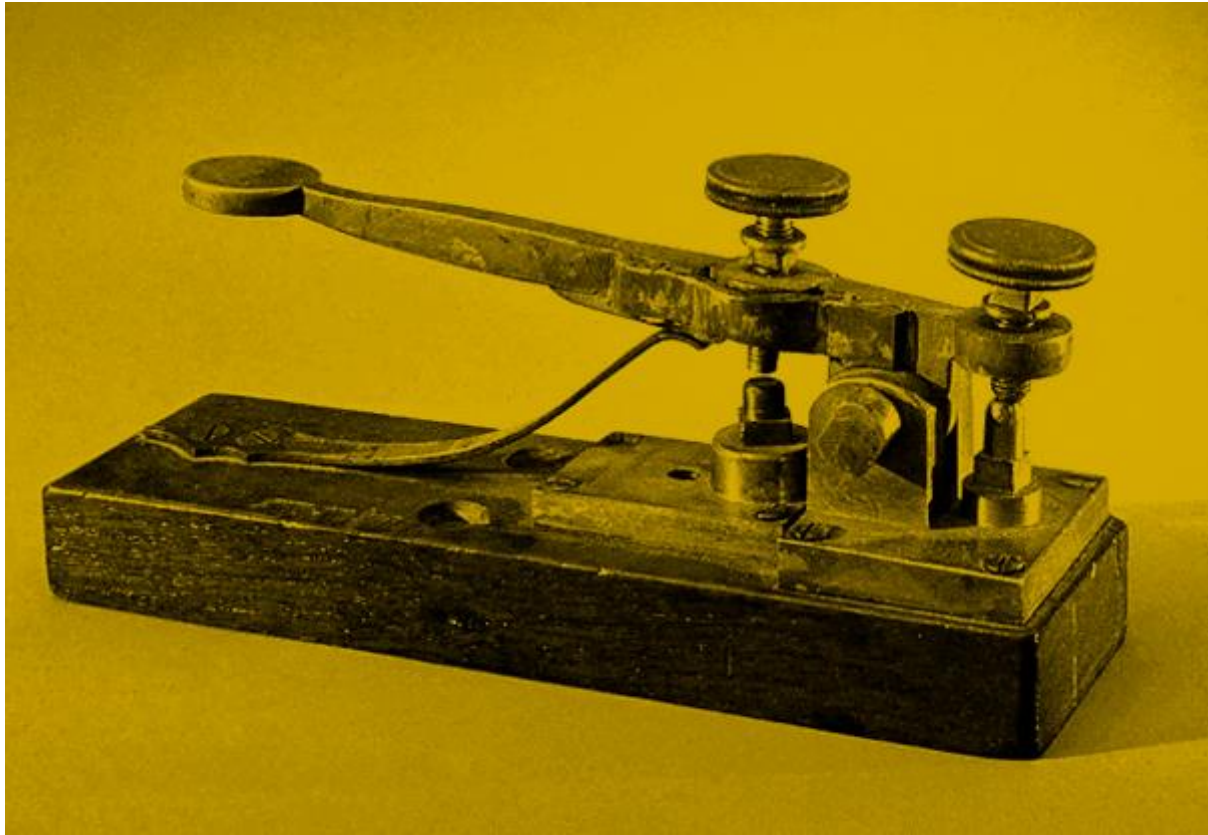




**Fig. 04:** "Olho de Boi" postage stamp issued by Brazil in 1843, which thus became the second country in the world to issue a postage stamp.



**Fig. 05:** Telephone handset developed by Graham Bell from the invention of Antonio Meucci, and patented by Bell in 1876 in the US.



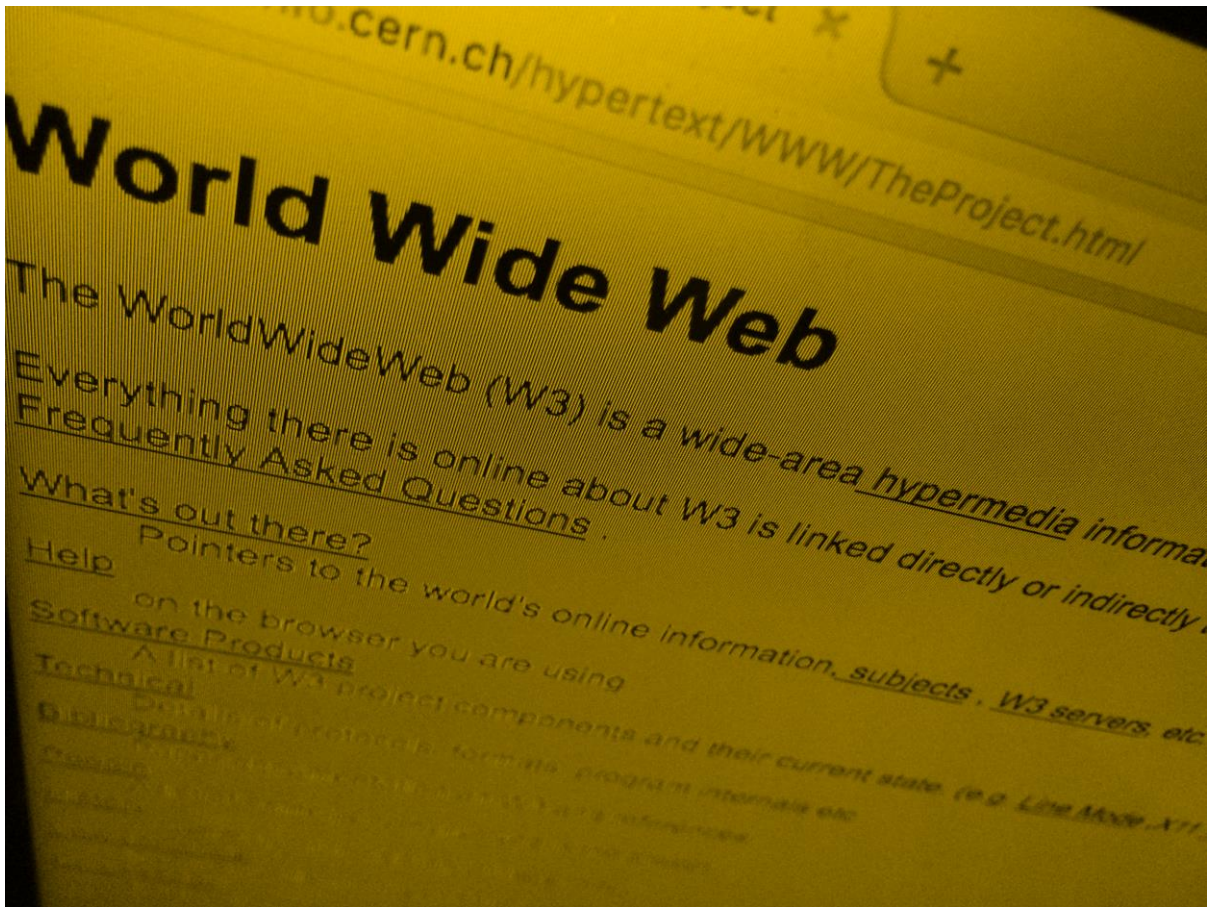
**Fig. 06:** One of the first telegraph set in the world, able to transmit data through electric impulses according to binary code conceived by Samuel Morse in 1838 in the US.





**Fig. 07:** The televisor invented by John Logie Baird in London in 1926.





**Fig. 08:** The first Internet website, designed by Tim Berners-Lee in Switzerland in 1989, is available at: <http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html>