Abstract

In 2008, on February 2nd both the celebration of the Festivity of Ntra. Sra. de la Candelaria, patron of Humahuaca and Puno, and the beginning of carnival took place. Likewise, the authors of this paper were doing ethnography each of them in the cities mentioned before. This fortuitous and random fact that hadn't occurred for more than 100 years, lead us to think again about the use of the specific category of syncretism generally used in studies of festivities and rituals of Andean zone to characterize rituals practices, iconography and stories in which it is evident the presence of elements at least of two different cultural origins. For this purpose, we analyze the rituals practices as performances developed in the harvest seasons and the catholic liturgy, focussing in the senses that move around the notions of Pachamama and mamita, which emerge some times overlapped but also juxtaposed or in contrast between them. We are equally interested in emphasizing the political dimension of the performance and as an instance of updating social identities.

Keywords

Carnival, Patron celebration, Mixture process, Performances