Abstract

This research deals with the phenomenon of the barras bravas (hooligans) in Bogotá, approached from an anthropological perspective. Under a comprehensive interest and based on a qualitative ethnographic field methodology, the research underlines some cultural aspects of the barra, understood as a social group. The study was realized during the year 2003 and part of the 2004. The methodology followed is characterized by the direct participation of the author inside the group. The acquisition of linguistic, spatial and corporal competences made possible the acceptance of the author within the group. The theoretical approach is based on the evidence observed inside and outside of the stadium and on the notion of sports field (P. Bourdieu). Based on the reality of the groups dynamics, the theoretical approach was oriented towards two basic categories: territoriality and identity. These categories are examined separately in analytical terms, pointing out that the social practices of the barra are expressed through total actions and manifestations of the group.

Keywords

Hooligans, football, youth, territoriality, identity, sport field.