

**47 - THE "SOCIETY OF RISK" AND PRACTICE OF ACTIVITIES IN NATURE: DIVING IN LITERATURE**

LUCIANA SILVA ABDALAD;  
 MARIA AUXILIADORA TERRA CUNHA;  
 JACQUES ARAÚJO NETTO;  
 ELZIR MARTINS DE OLIVEIRA;  
 VERA LUCIA DE MENEZES COSTA.

Centro Universitário Augusto Motta - UNISUAM/ RJ, Brasil  
 luabdalad@globo.com

doi: 10.16887/85.a2.47

**INTRODUCTION**

Something makes us different. We are born with eyes accustomed to the blue waters. We have a body that longs for the sea and a lung that accepts major hardship air just to prolong our life in the blue world. We are men and women of restless spirit. We seek in our lives more than what was given. We went through great trials to get closer to the fish. Turn our feet into large flippers, hold the warmth of our bodies with fake fur. And all for what? In order to satisfy a passion, a dream. Because we, someday, somehow introduce us to a new world. A world of silence, stillness, mystery, respect and friendship. And this calm and silence made us forget the mess and bustle of our home world. The mystery involved our heart thirsty for adventure.

In this account of the divers, Cousteau (2009), oceanographer, says that these men and women are individuals "restless spirit", and that "something" makes them different. These are people who, diving, seeking more than life gave them and yearn for the "blue world" of marine waters. Have the familiar blue eyes; her body eager for another dimension and trained and lungs conformed to "great hardship air" to live this experience. And it's a "big test". With their thirsty hearts of adventure they are at risk, turn your feet in "large flippers" and use "fake fur" to handle the heat. Satisfy his passion and dream to find a "new world". Escape from routine surrounded by "mess and bustle" of the world and depart towards the "quiet, calm, mystery, respect and friendship" found at the deep of the seas. Become. Adventures. They risk.

**THE "SOCIETY OF RISK"**

Practices that involve risk, thought advocated by Beck (1993) and Giddens (2002), record a growing number of practitioners in contemporary society, also called "risk society" by some other authors. Beck (1993) provides a periodization of modernity in three stages: pre-modernity, modernity and classical reflexive modernity. The classical, or industrial society, dissolved the feudal structure and broke with the traditions of pre-modernity. Reflective begins to dissolve the structures of industrial society. It is a society that offers new possibilities for transformations and rational development of the human condition: greater equality, greater individual freedom and greater capacity for self training. This, also called the risk society, reflexive society is characterized, among other aspects of globalization, individualization and reflexivity.

Globalization in perspective Beckniana, is the process of separating the relationships between time and space that has the effect of dispossession. This articulation of social relations that cross borders of time and space becomes feasible because the movement of people, goods and information began to be facilitated by advances in transportation. However, the condition of globalization lies between developments, improvements and access to electronic media.

Individuation refers to the transformations occurring in traditional institutions - family, work and education - making the biographies become central processes in the constitution of contemporary subjectivity.

Reflexivity refers to chronic revision of most aspects of social activity and relations with nature, in light of new information. This process permeates our everyday life, thought of as the private sphere, the project of science and the proper activity of

The theoretical adds that there are three dimensions of risk that can be differentiated in global risk society, namely the ecological crisis, the global financial crisis and the terrorist threat, especially since September 11, 2001, caused by the transnational terrorist network. From there, a common model of political contradictions and possibilities could be discussed. Concerns about the risk and the attempts of risk estimates in modern social life, however, does not have a direct connection with the prevalence of hazards to the individual routines. As stated by Giddens (2002, p. 109) "in the existence of the individual, in terms of life expectancy and the degree of freedom in relation to serious illness, people in developed societies are in a safer position than most in previous times."

Regarding the sports universe, Le Breton (2009, p. 87) states that in the Western world there is a growing search for activities that deal with the risk. For the author, hallucinate, explode with pleasure, make an effort beyond their own forces, despite the exhaustion, hunger, cold, fear or indecision, not giving in to the irresistible attraction to relax, feel, finally, to shock the world - If against him, touching it with his hands, the whole body becomes interiors for many Westerners. "

While performing sports activities in nature, all the risks that arise must be properly calculated to practitioners in security, they can derive pleasure from the activity. However, it is important to comment that the danger remains, and in some cases the technique and courage of practitioners are not enough to prevent a serious accident. It takes constant attention and much respect to the evidence of Nature.

Beck (2006, p. 5) says that the risk society is a society of manufactured uncertainties, ie, the "true uncertainty, reinforced by rapid technological innovations and accelerated social responses, are creating a new landscape of global risk." In the field of risk activities in nature, the uncertainty desired by individuals is not presented as something totally out of control, even if it contains potentially failure and even death. She remains in the sphere of situation that can be managed and partly owned by the practitioner. For Le Breton (2009) she is the "substance of the risk," and causes the intensity and commitment to success. It is the experience of new uncertainties that renew the sensations that habit tends to dull. To take on new risks, change of venue, style or partners, the practitioner maintains the full intensity of experienced emotions. You can think of mountaineers seeking new routes and higher mountains; to explore different beaches that surfers looking for bigger waves; or divers launch themselves into ever greater depths. New challenges are courted by these individuals.

Giddens (2002) points out that there are differences between the risks that occur voluntarily and risks experienced as a result of a pattern of lifestyle to which they adhered. In this case, the risk is grown or deliberately sought by individuals. For the

author, these situations make possible the demonstration of perseverance, courage and skill, and "people are clearly aware of the risks involved in what they are doing, but dare to create an uncertainty which is missing in routine circumstances" (p.124). The emotions experienced when there is a "growing risk" involves a search for uncertain situations, exposure to danger and a sense of confidence that will overcome it. One can think of the adventurers who practice risky sport in nature.

The notion of risk "becomes central in a society that is leaving the past, the traditional way of doing things, and that opens up to a problematic future. This statement applies to both hazardous environments institutionalized as in other areas" (p.106). For the author, there are new factors of risk society, fundamental to a better understanding of modernity. These factors are defined as the risk parameters in the reflexive society. They are: reducing the risks that threaten the life of the individual as a result of the expansion of security in everyday activity guaranteed by abstract systems; building institutionally confined environment and risk; the risk monitoring as a key aspect in the reflexivity of modernity; the creation of high-consequence risks arising from globalization. Emphasizes further that the operation of everything that happens in a society where there is the backdrop of a "climate risk" inherently unstable.

As to the first factor - reducing the risks that threaten the life of the individual as a result of increased security in everyday activity guaranteed by abstract systems - tells us that a series of global changes, such as sewage, treated water, improvement continuous treatment of various diseases, the increased availability of family planning methods, among others, have reduced considerably the risks of the population, although they made negative consequences, such as environmental pollution, increasing the number of car accidents, use of inappropriate drugs. But in terms of basic life safety, reducing the risk elements outnumber new risks.

Risks relating to the practices of this always refer to future events, so the colonization of the future opens new risk situations, some of which institutionally organized. These institutionalized systems of risk - second parameter addressed by the author - considerably affect people's lives. Thus, states that "the difference between these institutionalized systems and other risk parameters is that they are made for risk, if it is not a situation where it is accidental" (p. 112). These environments linking individual and collective risks and exemplifies the capitalist economy and the stock market.

The risk monitoring, third factor pointed to by the student, is understood as the assessment, monitoring and consequent amendment regarding medical conditions. Reports that studies on the risk profiles of the major diseases that threaten human life indicate large differences between the turn of the nineteenth to the twentieth century and today in developed countries (p. 113-115).

Regarding these aspects, ie, forms of social control risk, Spink (2001) comments that the perception of risk refers to the relationship between the audience and the technological risks being associated, so the research on acceptance of certain technologies, as with many modern applications of genetic engineering. Also turns to the prospect of preventive risk control, seeking, through education, deleterious affect on the health of the body and the environment behaviors. Understands that there are risks in the management of three integrated strategies: the insurance laws of accountability for damages and direct government intervention.

The fourth factor discussed by the author comes to creating high-consequence risks arising from globalization, which in contrast to the health risks, represent the dark side of modernity. They are the result of turbulent processes of globalization. Are imminent risks stemming from possible nuclear accidents, global warming. These high-consequence risks have a distinct feature, because "the more calamitous the dangers involved, the less our actual experience of the risk we take, ie, if things 'go wrong' will be too late" (p. 115). These factors are subject to human error and sabotage, which makes it impossible to reliably calculate the risk. The risks of high consequence in the reflexive society is a segment that has as its backdrop a "climate risk" inherently unstable. Is this "climate risk" that man goes to live in a world where security and stability are increasingly removed from reality. Creates new truths and new concepts. Not necessarily mean that everyday life is more risky today than formerly, but "the conditions of modernity, both laity for experts in specific fields, thinking in terms of risk and estimates risk is an exercise almost permanent" (p. 117).

Decisions of the subject in a globalized world, the risk society itself, require the knowledge to calculate and evaluate an ocean of uncertainties that arise in their lives. The risk presents itself socially in the economy, in politics, the lack of security in the streets, in the world of work; is necessary for man to know to manage it and deal with their presence. Uncertainty takes over the daily lives of individuals, who increasingly break with stable, needing to venture into throws and plays that seek victory, the conquest. Decisions in everyday professionals, Love, financial situations, are taken personal risks. Losing their anchors safety abroad, looking at the man himself. It is noticed that for Costa (2000) the risk emerges as "a fellow of the everyday, and we need to know it, calculate it, control it."

Bernstein (1997) relates the story of risk, noting that until the Renaissance man could see the future only as a matter of luck or the result of some random variations of the environment. We observe, however, that there was a shift towards notions of risk until the present day. Lay and inexplicable vision came to modifying as man perceived possibilities to predict and avoid certain situations that could be tragic. The risk became, then, a matter of administration and a constant quest to be calculated in order to be minimized.

Giddens (2002) tells us that one of the features present in individuals who engage in risky situations are emotions that can be achieved in living the "grown-risk". To feel them, they depend on a deliberate exposure to risky situations, which allows the activity experienced stands out of the routine of daily life. Thus "the thrill of risky activities involves several discernible activities - awareness of exposure to danger, voluntary exposure to such danger, and a confident expectation to overcome it" (p.125). Complements this idea by stating that the emotion of feeds grown risk of a heart felt socially positive way. The individual begins to woo and risks experiencing no obligation; lives for the pleasure of venturing and dominate the risk.

Regarding this emotion Lupton & Tulloch (2002) present the notion of voluntary risk and its pleasures. In this article, the authors report a survey conducted in Australia, in which seventy-four people were interviewed between 1997 and 1998. They sought to understand the implications outlined in the voluntary risk and aims to identify the meanings that informants attributed the concept risk, the ways in which the risk had affected them and how informants manifested these ideas with discursive strategies. Respondents were not necessarily involved with the physical body risk because risk was also involved in the dimension of risk behaviors and different attitudes, for example, the case of the informant who was theater director. The research sought to portray key themes, narratives, definitions, discourses, social and personal histories, expressive and rhetorical devices that have emerged from the transcribed interviews. Present the results commenting that three dominant discourses were identified and discussed in the evaluations of the informants: the discourse of improvement, emotional involvement and control.

The speech enhancement is identified through the metaphor of space. Accordingly, the risk taken is outside the existing boundaries, ie, to improve you have to take risks outside the limits already won. The authors transcribe a few lines to illustrate this idea "I think that risk is out of a comfort zone and leave familiar territory and go into the unknown, or do something you did not before" (p.117). Another informant expressed the idea of risk assumed and transgressing the barriers of security, "in

some respects I'm an addict at risk, a lot of what I like is to be out there wandering in the 'no man's land', behind barriers. From time to time it's worth retreat to safe places. But life would be boring without risk and I love these opportunities "(p.117). In the speech of the informants the question of risk suggests being out of your comfort zone and familiar territory.

Speaking of emotional involvement is related to issues of fear, nervousness and discomfort. In this dimension, take risks emotionally involves seeking situations of great emotional intensity that cause pleasure in a life that does not usually excite us. The informing attach the risk of stimulating the sense of adrenaline, which is perceived as adventure, challenge and excitement, ie the higher the greater risk excitation. Clearly the vivid awareness of risk is an important part of the pleasure in participating in these activities. Taking risks is also a way to release feelings of rapture. Summarizing the issue of emotional involvement, describing it is coded as something that provokes adrenaline and related stakeholders with escapes rationality and control of the body, to allow the body to live stronger sensations. There is a feeling of living happily, living closer to nature than culture and break the rules that society imposes on us.

The discourse of control for them, is related to the fact that very few times totally lost the desire to control our bodies, ie, we can experience this risk control voluntarily or involuntarily. The first example that link is a sailor who portrays risk awareness when out sailing. For example, he may leave to sail counting on good weather, and suddenly the weather changes and it will have to deal with events not originally planned. At that point he will have to deal with unplanned events, but keep control of the situation. The unexpected presents itself in this case. It is a form of control related to the individual self.

The example of involuntary risk presented by the researchers, is related to a person who, by working in a theatrical production, sometimes needs to climb high ladders and confesses to feeling fear and pleasure in this situation. The authors report the informant's "swinging on a bar stand eight meters above the ground, keep working, and then escape from that situation gives me a feeling that I have much control over my body. And that's a good feeling that I like to live. "Are the sensations of vertigo, which can slide the feelings of anguish and pleasure. Voluntary risk for these informants is inherent to its notions of the connections of their bodies, as they feel how far you can go, and how they feel conquering your emotions of fear and feelings of vulnerability. Knowingly take risk in this context is seen as an opportunity to show live courage, conquer fear, prove something to himself, that allow them to live a life with the feeling of full activity.

Lupton & Tulloch (2002) conclude the article by stating that all discourses expressed by informants point to the fact that a life lived without risk is very limited and unchallenging. These speeches are collated by contemporary ideas of identity and individuality. The notion of taking risks contributing to the development, update, authenticity and control is part of a broader discourse that emphasizes individuality as a project that requires constant work and attention. At risk in this context becomes a practice of individuality, a means by which subjectivity is expressed and developed in accordance with prevailing ethical and moral values.

Speeches presented by informants when describing take risks, speak of an intense emotion and bodily sensation, movement, and fluid waves breaking and cross cultural barriers. These sensations suggest that the pleasure caused by taking risks is related to the transgression of a civilized body image. Against the ideal of a body / individuality highly controlled / civilized exists a discourse that values the flight control and regulation, wishing that remains after the body 'grotesque', the body that is more permeable and open to the world. Taking risks is not only about loss of control over the body / self. For some people, the notions of control remain central to the concept of taking risks and are important parts of their pleasures. In fact, if well understood, not in a destructive way, voluntary risk can lead to a greater sense of control resulting in a sense of achievement and individuality.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

From this brief dip in the literature it is possible to raise some questions: - Is this is the case of practicing sport in Nature? - Do individuals are approaching a discourse of control? - The experience of physical risk is deliberately chosen by these explorers? - What is the risk for these practitioners?

These and other questions emerge for a possible expansion of reflections on risk in contemporary sports activities in nature.

### REFERENCES

- BECK, U. Risk society: towards a new modernity. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1993.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Incertezas fabricadas. IHU ONLINE. São Leopoldo, maio 2006. Disponível em: <<http://www.unisinos.br/ihu>>. Acesso em: 15/12/2006.
- BERNSTEIN, P. L. Desafio aos deuses – a fascinante história do risco. Rio de Janeiro: Elsevier, 1997.
- COSTA, V. L. de M. Esportes de aventura e risco na montanha: um mergulho no imaginário. São Paulo: Manole, 2000.
- COUSTEAU, J. Y. O mundo silencioso. Documentário. Disponível em: <<http://www.karolmeyer.com>>. Acesso em: 16/05/2009.
- GIDDENS, A. Modernidade e identidade. Rio de Janeiro: Jorge Zahar, 2002.
- LE BRETON, D. Conduas de risco: dos jogos de morte ao jogo de viver. Campinas, SP: Autores Associados, 2009.
- LUPTON, D.; TULLOCH, J. Life would be pretty dull without risk: voluntary risk-taking and its pleasures. *Health, Risk&Society*, v. 4, n. 2, p.113-124, 2002.

### THE "SOCETY OF RISK" AND PRACTICE OF ACTIVITIES IN NATURE: DIVING IN LITERATURE ABSTRACT

This article was written based on an outline of a literature review of the Doctoral thesis entitled "The Imaginarium of Social women practitioners of extreme risk - a dive into the world of free divers", with the aim of promoting an expansion in discussions respect of risk in contemporary society. At this time do not bother to discuss issues relating to gender and sport. Dipped himself in some concepts, such as "Risk Society", Reflectivity, Globalization, Individuation, in the approaches of Beck (1993) and Giddens (2002); the "substance of risk", according to Le Breton (2009); Social Risk Control, Spink (2001); and the notion of voluntary risk and its pleasures by Lupton & Tulloch (2002). It is believed that other authors contribute to the expansion of concepts and discussions about risk. However, we choose definitions that could help in the expansion of the reflections on the practice of sports that involve risk situations realized in Nature. From this brief dip in the literature it is possible to raise some questions as: - The experience of physical risk is deliberately chosen by practitioners of sport in Nature? - What is the risk for these practitioners? These questions emerge for building new visions regarding the risk in contemporary sports.

**KEYWORDS:** Risk Cultivated. Activities in Nature. Sport.

## LA “SOCIÉTÉ DU RISQUE” ET LA PRATIQUE DES ACTIVITÉS DANS LA NATURE: UNE PLONGÉE DANS LA LITTÉRATURE

### RÉSUMÉ

Cet article a été rédigé à partir d'une section revue selon la littérature de la thèse de doctorat intitulée "l'imaginaire social de pratiquantes de risque extrême - une plongée dans le monde des apnéistes", dont l'objectif est encourager des discussions par rapport au risque dans la société contemporaine. En ce moment nous n'avons pas l'intention d'aborder des questions relatives au genre et au sport. Nous avons plongé dans certains concepts comme la "Société du risque", la Réflexivité, la Mondialisation, l'Individuation, dans les démarches de Beck (1993) et Giddens (2002); la «Substance du Risque», selon Le Breton (2009); le "Contrôle des Risques Sociaux" par Spink (2001); et la notion de risque volontaire et ses plaisirs par Lupton et Tulloch (2002). On croit que d'autres auteurs contribuent au élargissement des concepts et des discussions sur le risque. Cependant, nous avons choisi des définitions qui pourraient contribuer à l'expansion de la réflexion sur la pratique des sports qui impliquent des situations de risque réalisées dans la nature. En ce qui concerne ce bref plongeon dans la littérature, il est possible de poser des questions comme: Est-ce que l'expérience de risque physique est délibérément choisie par les praticiens du sport dans la nature? À quoi le risque signifie pour ces praticiens? Ces questions se posent pour la construction de nouvelles visions concernant le risque dans les activités sportives contemporaines.

**MOTS-CLÉS:** Risque cultivé. Activités dans la nature. Sport.

## LA "SOCIEDAD DEL RIESGO" Y LA PRÁCTICA DE ACTIVIDADES EN LA NATURALEZA: POR INMERSIÓN EN LA LITERATURA

### RESUMEN

Este artículo fue preparado a partir de una delimitación de la revisión de la bibliografía de la tesis doctoral, titulada "El imaginario social de la mujer los profesionales de riesgo extremo - un chapuzón en el universo de apneistas", con el objetivo de promover una ampliación en el marco de las discusiones sobre el riesgo en la sociedad contemporánea. En el momento en que no le importa para examinar las cuestiones relacionadas con el género y el deporte. Él mismo sumido en algunos conceptos, como el de "sociedad del riesgo", reflexividad, la globalización, individualización, en los enfoques de Beck (1993) y Giddens (2002); "Fondo de Riesgo", la segunda Le Breton (2009); Control Social de riesgo, de Spink (2001); y en el concepto de riesgo voluntario y sus placeres, Lupton & Tulloch (2002). Se cree que otros autores contribuir a la ampliación de los conceptos y las discusiones sobre el riesgo. Sin embargo, se optó por definiciones que podrían ayudar a la expansión de las reflexiones sobre la práctica de los deportes que implican situaciones de riesgo en la naturaleza. De esta breve nadar en la literatura es posible plantear algunas cuestiones tales como: La experiencia de riesgo físico es elegido deliberadamente por practicar deportes en la naturaleza. El riesgo representa para estos profesionales? Estas preguntas surgen de la construcción de nuevas visiones sobre el riesgo hoy en los deportes.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** Cultivado Riesgo. Actividades en la Naturaleza. Deporte.

## A “SOCIEDADE DO RISCO” E A PRÁTICA DE ATIVIDADES NA NATUREZA: MERGULHANDO NA LITERATURA

### RESUMO

Este artigo foi elaborado a partir de um recorte da revisão de literatura da tese de Doutorado, intitulada “O Imaginário Social das mulheres praticantes de risco extremo – um mergulho no universo das apneistas”, com o objetivo de promover uma ampliação nas discussões a respeito do risco na sociedade contemporânea. Neste momento não nos preocupamos em discutir as questões relativas a gênero e esporte. Mergulhou-se em alguns conceitos, como o de “Sociedade do Risco”, Reflexividade, Globalização, Individuação, nas abordagens de Beck (1993) e Giddens (2002); de “Substância do Risco”, segundo Le Breton (2009); Controle Social do Risco, de Spink (2001); e da noção de risco voluntário e seus prazeres apresentada por Lupton & Tulloch (2002). Acredita-se que outros autores contribuem para a ampliação de conceitos e discussões sobre o risco. No entanto, optou-se por definições que pudessem auxiliar na ampliação das reflexões sobre a prática dos esportes que envolvem situações de risco realizadas na Natureza. A partir deste breve mergulho na literatura é possível levantar algumas questões como: A vivência do risco físico é deliberadamente escolhida pelos praticantes de esporte na Natureza? O que o risco representa para esses praticantes? Esses questionamentos emergem para a construção de novos olhares a respeito do risco nas atividades esportivas contemporâneas.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** Risco Cultivado. Atividades na Natureza. Esporte.