



## **WATER USE IN SÃO PAULO - 1850-1920**

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### **Abstract**

By the means of a historical study about the uses of water in São Paulo, it is possible to comprehend the diversity of cleaning habits and its transformations over time. However, they also reveal the power relations between masters and slaves, men and women, immigrants and natives, as well as the everyday of workers whose crafts disappeared with the progressive plumbing of the great majority of the city's rivers and streams. During the studied period, there was also a series of important changes in the concept of hygiene and in the material culture related to techniques used for withdrawing, storing and distributing water. This research intends to demonstrate how the former diversity of the uses of rivers, streams and fountains was, to a great extent, forgotten in favor of new ways of conceiving cleanliness, health and urban landscape.