

## Images of Spiritism in Brazilian Catholic Discourse (1889-1937)

**Authors :** Frantisek Kalenda

**Abstract :** With the ultimate triumph of the republican movement in 1889 in Brazil and adoption of constitution promoting religious freedom, formerly dominant Roman Catholic Church entered a long period of struggle to recover its lost position, fighting both liberal and secular character of the new regime and rising competition on the "market of faith". Spiritism in its originally Brazilian form proved to be one of its key adversaries during the First (1889-1930) and Second Republic (1930-1937), provoking significant attempt within official Church to discredit and destroy the movement. This paper explores this effort through Catholic portrayal of Spiritism in its official media, focusing, on the creation of stereotypes and both theological and "scientific" arguments used against it. Its core is based on primary sources' analysis, mainly influential A Ordem and Mensageiro da Fé.

**Keywords :** Catholic Church, media, other, spiritism, stereotype

**Conference Title :** ICTRPR 2017 : International Conference on Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion

**Conference Location :** Havana, Cuba

**Conference Dates :** November 23-24, 2017