

Title

***Jané Reko Paranhá: an experience in indigenous teachers' formation and the revival of the Xetá language in the state of Paraná, Brazil***

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**Title of the research project from which current text was derived:**

**JANÉ REKÓ PARANUHÁ (Narrating our Existence) - Interinstitutional and Multidisciplinary Research Program on the Xetá people.**

**Agents**

State University of Maringá (UEM), Maringá PR Brazil  
Laboratory of Archeology, Ethnology and Ethno-History

**Coordinators:**

Dr. Lucio Tadeu Mota PhD  
Dr. Rosangela Celia Faustino

**Funding Agent**

Support Program for Teaching and Scientific Research in Culture (PRÓ-CULTURA)  
Ministry of Culture (MINC)

Coordination for the Upgrading of Personnel in Higher Institutions (CAPES)

**Joint Institutions**

University of Brasília (UnB)  
Laboratory of Indigenous Languages (LALI)

Federal University of Mato Grosso (UFMT)  
Department of Anthropology

Secretary of Education of the state of Paraná (SEED/PR)  
Coordination of Indigenous School Education (CEEI)

Museum of Archeology and Ethnology of the UFPR (MAE)

Museum of the state of Paraná

## **The Xetá in the state of Paraná, Brazil**

The Xetá are an ethnic group which inhabited the northwestern region of the state of Paraná, Brazil, up to the 1960s. The expansion of coffee plantation in the region brought about vast deforestation and the almost extinct of the Xetá population.

The few remaining families spread throughout the small towns where they began a different form of living or were transferred by the indigenous-protection organization (SPI) to different indigenous reserve areas in the state of Paraná.

Only eight children survived and were educated by non-indigenous people. Tikuen, who was only 9 years old at the time, guarded the Xetá Language and the ways of his people. He married a peasant and had several children.

The first encounter of all survivals of the Xetá group was held in Curitiba PR Brazil in 1997: "Encounter of the Xetá: survivals from extermination", supported by the Social and Environmental Institute (ISA) and by the Museum of Archeology and Ethnology of the UFPR (MAE). All survivals of the Xetá group and their families participated, together with Dr Aryon Dall'Igna Rodrigues, who produced the first studies on the Xetá (Tupi-Guarani) language in the Serra de Dourados in the 1960s.

## **Aims of the Research Project**

Cultural revival; the compilation of documentary sources; teacher formation; elaboration of Xetá bilingual didactic materials.

- To implement the Interinstitutional and Multidisciplinary Research Program for the revival, reorganization and spreading of the Xetá's culture in the state of Paraná;
- To revive the linguistic, cultural and historical aspects of the Xetá people through the compilation of the memories of remnant Xetá family groups in the Serra dos Dourados, Paraná, Brazil, in the 1950s;
- To recovery and systematize the documentary history of the Xetá people in several regional archives of the state of Paraná;
- To contribute with public policies for the acknowledgement and social inclusion of ethnic groups and the development of appropriate methods to receive and disseminate Indigenous Knowledge;
- To strengthen the indigene Xetá agency and the group's struggle for the demarcation of its territory

## **Activities**

Selection and formation of a team of researchers

Review of the literature

Document studies and collecting of sources

Planning and logistics of field research – the elaboration of research tools

Development of field research

Monitoring of visits to the ancient territories of the Xetá in the northwestern region of the state of Paraná to map and report their material and immaterial culture

Encounters and workshops on Indigenous Knowledge

Systematization and analysis of data

Elaboration of a Technical Report

Production and publication of scientific essays and bilingual didactic materials

## **Results**

Organization of 10 workshops: Indigenous Knowledge (2010 - 2012)

Organization of three monitored visits to Museums, public documentary archives and libraries in the state of Paraná

Organization of two Research Seminars

Formation of a team with 10 researchers

Preparation of 3 Master's Dissertations in Education, Anthropology and Linguistics

Publication of 4 books, comprising two scientific books and 3 DVDs