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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



- UNESCO Chair in
• The Ocean's Cultural Heritage
• Portugal



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STUDYING THE OCEANS IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Up until recently, Portuguese historiography has dedicated little attention to the study of themes related to the oceans in the Middle Ages.

For many centuries, the seas beyond the Pillars of Heracles were viewed – in Stabo’s words – as the western point of the ‘whole inhabited world.’ Traditional folk and the dangers the Atlantic posed to navigation fed this misconception of the ocean, until Iberian explorers began breaking the known boundaries of the Atlantic. A certain analogy might be drawn between history and historiography.

Up until recently, Portuguese historiography has dedicated little attention to the study of themes related to the oceans in the Middle Ages. Something that, in part, is explained by the overwhelming prominence of research on the overseas expansion, and on figures like Henry the Navigator and Vasco da Gama. A situation which did not find parallel outside Portugal, where historians have long produced many studies on sea-related studies.

In recent years, the Institute for Medieval Studies (IEM in the Portuguese acronym) at the NOVA University of Lisbon outlined a strategic project aiming at studying the cultural, social and economic interactions that Europeans established all along the seashore. Some of the ongoing projects include research on the *amazighe-andalusí* fishing techniques in the Ibero-Moroccan Gulf in the Middle Ages (*Recherche historique, archéologique et ethnographique sur les pêcheries berbères de pierre dans les Golfs Hispano-marocain*). This project is supported by the Cátedra Internacional de la Cultura Amazigh das Fundações Euroárabe de Altos Estudos de Granada, and by Leila Mezian de Casablanca, and coordinated by Antonio Ramos Millán and Dolores Villalba Sola. The IEM is concurrently further developing research on the religiosity of the people of the sea in the Iberian Kingdoms, studies on urban intervention in port cities, and investigation on the taxation system of Iberian port towns (congresses, seminars and workshops are currently being organised on these topics). In addition, the IEM is also part of a consortium of European universities studying *Maritime Conflict Management in Atlantic Europe, 1200-1600* (NWO project, coordinated by Louis Sicking).

Amélia Aguiar Andrade, Flávio Miranda and Gonçalo Melo Silva

A RESEARCHER AND HER WORK

Ana Cláudia Silveira

Ana Cláudia Silveira is a researcher at the IEM – Institute for Medieval Studies, and her academic work has been on subjects related to heritage and coastal resources, focusing particularly on the construction of tide mills in Portugal. In 2016, she received the *Alberto Sampaio History Prize* for her research on the production and salt trade in late medieval Portugal. In 2017, her essay “Testemunhos históricos sobre a evolução da linha de costa em Portugal” was the recipient of the *Doutor José Silva Maltez Prize* at CIJVS – Centro de Investigação Professor Doutor Joaquim Veríssimo Serrão.



▲ Beach of Sesimbra. Photo: Joana Gaspar de Freitas.

THE BEACHES OF PORTUGAL

Sesimbra

As so many other beaches to the south of Lisbon, Sesimbra is not mentioned in the *Guia do Banhista* [The Sea Bathers Guide] (1876), of the writer Ramalho Ortigão. The village has an important fishing port, but its use as a sea bathing place was limited to the local people. In 1924, the *Guia de Portugal* [Portugal's Guide], a book collection detailing the best places to visit in Portugal, explained that Sesimbra was very isolated, because it did not have good access roads.

Only later, the village was integrated in the national touristic circuits: in 1942, a poster, by the National Services of Propaganda, described Sesimbra as having a “wonderful beach, calm sea and interesting fishing life”. Six years later, a national touristic guide recommending a visit to the Setubal's Peninsula, where Sesimbra is located, suggested spending some time in this village. According to the guide, the beach was the picturesque scenery of the daily activities of the local fishers. In the 1960s, it finally became an elegant sea bathing beach, used by the city folk. After 1966, with the construction of the bridge connecting Lisbon to the south margin of the Tagus river, Sesimbra got closer to the capital. It became an attracting place for mass tourism that developed in the 1970s, specially after the democratic revolution of April 1974.

Read more at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y98x3h82>

NEWS AND EVENTS

BOOK PRESENTATION

O Homem e o Litoral. Transformações na paisagem ao longo do tempo – Tomo VI da Rede BRASPOR

It took place in Sesimbra (Portugal), between September 18-21, the VII Meeting of the BRASPOR Network. This network joins annually Portuguese and Brazilian researchers interested in the study of coastal areas in Portugal and Brazil. In the first day, it has presented a book that gathers some of the works of the BRASPOR members. The book is available online, for free, at: www.redebraspor.org/livros.html

CONCHA PROJECT

It was recently approved the application made to the European Programme MSCA-RISE. The project “CONCHA: The construction of early modern global Cities and oceanic networks in the Atlantic: An approach via Ocean’s Cultural Heritage”, is chaired by Prof. João Paulo Oliveira e Costa and coordinated by Cristina Brito (CHAM-NOVA FCSH, UAc). This is a researcher’s exchange project that joins 11 partner institutions from Europe, Africa and the Americas. It has a duration of 4 years, during which several research, education and scientific dissemination activities are planned. CONCHA is directly connected to the main purposes of the UNESCO Chair *The Ocean’s Cultural Heritage*. CONCHA’s main goal is to explain the different ways that port cities developed around the Atlantic from the late 15th and early 16th century in relation to differing global, regional, and local ecological and economic environments.

LAUNCH OF THE UNESCO CHAIR ON WATER

November 24, 2017

November 24, 2017, at the University of Algarve (Faro), it will take place the launching of the UNESCO Chair “Ecohydrology: Water for Ecosystems and Societies”, coordinated by Professor Luís Chícharo. More information at: www.ualg.pt/en/content/unesco-ualg-chair

PONTA DELGADA (AZORES) IN THE WORLD WAR I

The Municipality of Ponta Delgada (S. Miguel Island, Azores) and the IHC – Institute of Contemporary History, NOVA FCSH, remembered the centenary of the city bombing by a U-155, in July 4, 1917, with several activities, coordinated by Sérgio Rezendes. “Ponta Delgada in the World War I – in the Centenary of all changes” aimed not only to recall the 100 years of the attack, but also the creation of the first U.S. Marine Corps base outside the USA. It was followed by an exhibition with the purpose of showing the WWI in Azores to the general public. Between July 13-16, the International Colloquium “The World War I and the Azores: from naval strategy to the trench war” analyzed the complex logistical support and its multiple dynamics, in Atlantic and Azores, stimulating the discussion around the preservation of Memory, History and Culture. In the colloquium, it was also presented the 2.^a edition of the book of Sérgio Rezendes, *A Grande Guerra nos Açores: Memória e Património Militar* (The World War I in Azores: Memory and Military Heritage). More information at: www.jornalacores9.net and www.dn.pt



▲ Envelope with commemorative stamps (CTT). Photo: Sérgio Rezendes

MARITIME ARCHEOLOGY

Exhibition: Good Practices – Concerning Underwater Cultural Heritage in Portugal

The oceans are the past and the future of human life. For their relevance, they are part of the Sustainable Development Goals, a set of seventeen Global Goals, elaborated by the United Nations, to be reached until 2030.

Understanding the historic relation of humanity with the ocean and the safeguarding of underwater cultural heritage are important issues for the full implementation of the 14th goal – Protect Maritime Life. Protecting underwater cultural heritage from pillage, commercial exploitation, trawling-damage and climate change, facilitates a beneficial use of the ocean.

To promote institutional and public awareness, encouraging sustainable activities and good practices, a travelling exhibition was created, based in five panels and developed by several institutions (CHAM – Centre for the Humanities; CINAV – Center for Naval Research; CMC – Cascais Municipality and the National Archeological Museum). The exhibition was launch in May 5, Day of the Portuguese Language and Culture, by the Minister of External Affairs, at the UNESCO headquarters, in Paris.

The institutions interested in receiving the exhibition should contact fatima.claudino@mne.pt



HERITAGE COMMUNICATION

The Maritime Museum of Sesimbra

Inaugurated in 2016, the Maritime Museum of Sesimbra is located in the Santiago Fortress, in Sesimbra. It gathers an important tangible and intangible heritage, collected through a work with the local fishing community and it aims to promote the culture of the region and to strength its identity deeply connected to the ocean.

The museum rooms are dedicated to several themes linked to the fishing activities and the fishers. For example, the main fishing gears used in that area, pilots and sailors from Sesimbra, the navigation instruments, memories and religious devotions and popular art. In the House of the Governor of the Fortress there is an exhibition dedicated to the Portuguese King, Carlos I, a well-known oceanographer. Another space, called the Community Room, holds four particular objects, donated to the Museum, that represent four relevant economic activities to the history of Sesimbra: sport fishing, seaweed harvesting, woodwork and the canning industry. More informations at: www.museusesimbra.pt

