

## Scientific Report

### **EuroCORECODE Meeting: *Regions and Borders, Imagined and Real* organized at the 2013 CARMEN Annual Meeting Eng. António de Almeida Foundation, Porto, Portugal 13-15 Sept. 2013**

#### **Summary**

The 2013 CARMEN Annual Meeting was organized by the *Center for the Study of Population, Economy and Society (CEPESE)* of the University of Porto (Portugal).

CARMEN – the *Co-operative for the Advancement of Research through a Medieval European Network* – is a network of research institutions, universities and academic groups (from Europe, North America, East Asia, Australasia and Latin America) interested in the study of the Middle Ages. Among its purposes, the promotion of research strategies and agendas, the construction of major scholarly collaborative projects, the dissemination of information and the articulation between national associations, are considered. Underlying all these aspects is the idea that it is essential to reach critical mass.

The annual meetings are privileged moments when all these topics are discussed, through the organization of roundtables involving distinguished experts and workshops during which, in an open dialogue, all interested colleagues can participate.

This year the theme that assembled the main interventions was the *Impact in the Humanities* and it is worth stressing Julia Boman's (ESF/HERA – Humanities in the European Research Area) participation with an interesting paper entitled *Defining and Evaluating impact in the Humanities*.

Given to the fact that the meeting took place in Portugal, CARMEN's Executive Committee sought to give the floor to a reflection on the Medieval Studies and the Portuguese World (Portugal, Brazil and Asia).

Within the workshops dedicated to the presentation of projects in progress or coming to an end, several sessions were organized. One of them was dedicated to the Project *Cuius Regio. An analysis of the cohesive and disruptive forces destining the attachment of groups of persons to and the cohesion within regions as a historical phenomenon*. On this occasion, an assessment was made of the participation of several countries involved in the project, including Portugal.

Also the Market Place had a significant turnout, with 17 stands of different universities, Research Centers and Scientific Associations, both national and international.

#### **Final programme of the event.**

The Meeting followed the following program:

##### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

09.00 –10.00: Registration (Entrance Hall)

10.00 –11:00: Welcome and introductions (Cristina Pimenta)

*Introduction to CEPESE (Centre for the Study of Population, Economy and Society)*

Fernando de Sousa (President of CEPESE)  
*Introducing the CARMEN Worldwide Medieval Network*  
Simon Forde (CARMEN Executive Director)  
*The State-of-the-art of Medieval Research in Portugal*  
Luís Adão da Fonseca (President of the Scientific Council of CEPESE)

11.00 –11:30: Coffee / tea

11.30 –12.30: Impact in the Humanities – Part 1 (Entrance Hall, Room 3)  
*Defining and Evaluating impact in the Humanities*  
Julia Boman (ESF/HERA – Humanities in the European Research Area)  
*Impact-oriented Research for Medievalists ('You Are What you Ate: Food Lessons from the Past', Wellcome Trust Society Award: engaging science grant no. 092293)*  
Iona McCleery (University of Leeds)

12:30 –14:00: Buffet lunch

14.00 –16.00: Impact in the Humanities – Part 2 (Entrance Hall, Room 3)  
*Business Partnerships – The MED-FEST Consortium*  
Pam King (University of Glasgow) and Simon Forde  
*Using the Book Citation Index to Assess Research Impacts of Books and Academic Publishers in the Humanities*  
Daniel Torres-Salinas (University of Navarra)  
*General discussion*  
Moderator: Felicitas Schmieder

16.00 –16.30: Coffee / tea

16.30 –18.00: Open meetings (Garden House):  
*Forum for National Associations* (Garden House, Room 2)  
*CARMEN Graduate School* (Garden House, Room 3)  
*Applied Research Centre for the Humanities Network, and Embryonic CARMEN Publications Committee* (Garden House, Room 4)

20:00: Dinner  
Círculo Universitário do Porto – University of Porto Club  
Rua do Campo Alegre, 877, Porto.

### **Saturday, 14 September**

9.00 –09:30: Setting up the Market Place (Entrance Hall)  
09.45 –10.45: Medieval Studies and the Portuguese World (Entrance Hall, Room 3)  
*Portuguese-Brazilian Scientific and Academic Relationships in the Field of Medieval History*  
Maria de Lurdes Rosa (New University of Lisbon and IEM)  
*Medieval, Early Modern Studies about the Portuguese in the East: Scientific and Academic Relationships*  
João Paulo Costa (New University of Lisbon and CHAM)  
*General discussion*  
Moderator: Luís Adão da Fonseca

10:45 –11:15: CARMEN Business & Planning Meeting  
*Application and Funding Possibilities / election of CARMEN Executive Committee members for 2014-2016 / other CARMEN business matters*  
Gerhard Jaritz and Simon Forde  
11:15 –11:45: Coffee / tea and final preparation of the Market Place

11:45 –13:00: Market Place (Entrance Hall)

A presentation of members' activities in an informal, market-place setting.

Stall-holders Include:

Amélia Andrade (IEM - Institute for Medieval Studies of the Faculty for Humanities and Social Sciences of New University, Lisbon)

Maria Helena da Cruz Coelho (SPEM- Portuguese Society of Medieval Studies)

Elizabeth Oyler (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign /*The Medieval Globe* journal)

Simon Forde (Amsterdam University Press and Arc-Humanities Press)

Gerhard Jaritz (MAD-Medieval Animal Data-Network / Central European University)

Kateřina Horníčková (IMAREAL Krems - Institute for Material Culture, University of Salzburg)

João Marinho dos Santos (Centro de História da Sociedade e da Cultura)

Claire McIlroy (ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions)

Stephen Morrison (Brepols Series: Textes Vernaculaires du Moyen Âge)

James Murray (CARA -The Medieval Academy of America)

Cristina Pimenta (CEPESE-Research Group of Medieval Studies and Renaissance)

Ana Maria S. A. Rodrigues (Universidade de Lisboa Alameda da Universidade)

Flocel Sabaté and Karen Stöber (Medieval Research Group Space, Power and Culture, Lleida)

Marjolein Stern (Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies, Gent)

Andrea Vanina Neyra (Universidad de Buenos Aires)

Annemieke Verboon (Centre Alexandre Koyré - Histoire des sciences et des techniques)

Nada Zečević (University of Eastern Sarajevo)

13:00 –14:00: Buffet lunch

14:00 –15:30: Workshops for prospective projects, I (Garden House)

*Investing in the European Past in a Globalised World* (Felicitas Schmieder) (Garden House, Room 2)

*Nature* (Gerhard Jaritz) (Garden House, Room 3)

*Courts* (Jitske Jasperse) (Garden House, Room 4)

15:30 –16:00: Coffee / tea

16:00 –17:30: Workshops for prospective projects, II (Garden House)

*Cultural Encounters* (Kateřina Horníčková and Andrea Vanina Neyra) (Garden House, Room 2)

*Cities* (Pam King) (tbc) (Garden House, Room 3)

*Inspired Authority* (Anke Holdenried) (Garden House, Room 4)

*EuroCORECODE Meeting: Regions and Borders, Imagined and Real* (Entrance Hall, Room 3)

17:45 –19.15: Workshops for prospective projects, III (Garden House)

*A Template for Creating a Marie Curie ITN Submission* (Simon Forde) (Garden House, Room 2)

*Circular and Linear? Medieval Ideas of Time (8th-12th century)* (Miriam Czock and Anja Rathmann-Lutz) (Garden House, Room 3)

*Discovering the (Real) World* (João Paulo Costa) (Garden House, Room 4)

19:30: Closing words and thanks (Entrance Hall, Room 3)

## Description of the scientific content of the event

The work started in the morning of September 13, with a welcome session, that ended with the intervention of Luis Adão da Fonseca (CEPESE. University of Porto) entitled *The State-of-the-art of Medieval Research in Portugal*.

In this intervention, the following topics were addressed:

- Portuguese institutional frame: organization of science in Portugal (financing and evaluation);
- History research centres with medievalists in Portugal: indication of the centers, its dimension and profile;
- Academies and scientific societies;
- Thematic organization of research;
- Professional community: dimension, external links, importance of increasing the visibility (academic journals).

This paper was followed by the second session, organized around the issue *Impact in the Humanities*. It opened with a speech by Julia Booman (Science Officer in charge of HERA at the ESF, Strasbourg), about *Defining and Evaluating impact in the Humanities*. In this intervention, the following topics were addressed:

- What is Impact?
- What is Research impact
- Why an emphasis on impact?
- How funding agencies encourage impact? The HERA case.
- Challenges in assessing impact The societal impact.
- Humanities and impact. Humanities: what kind of impact? The Finnish case
- Potential users
- HERA examples

This one was clearly an introductory paper to the topic (pedagogically perfect), which was followed by two speeches in which were presented two specific cases of projects that, regardless of their scientific quality, are characterized by a high degree of societal impact. It is the case of the paper of Iona McCleery (University of Leeds): *Impact-oriented Research for Medievalists ('You Are What you Ate: Food Lessons from the Past', Wellcome Trust Society Award: engaging science grant no. 092293)*;

In the afternoon, there were three simultaneous meetings on three CARMEN initiatives. The theme of these meetings has the greatest interest for CARMEN connection with the academic community of medievalists: the Forum for National Associations; the CARMEN Graduate School; the Applied Research Network Centre for the Humanities, and Embryonic CARMEN Publications Committee.

The next day, the first part of the morning was occupied with a roundtable on Medieval Studies and the Portuguese World. In this roundtable, have been presented some of the most relevant aspects of the Portuguese experience of relations with historians, medievalists especially, from Brazil and Asia (especially from India and China):

- Maria de Lurdes Rosa (New University of Lisbon and IEM): Portuguese-Brazilian Scientific and Academic Relationships in the Field of Medieval History;
- João Paulo Costa (New University of Lisbon and CHAM): Medieval, Early Modern Studies about the Portuguese in the East: Sscientific and Academic Relationships.

Then followed one of the traditional activities of the CARMEN meetings: the Market Place. The representatives of the research centres and medieval studies departments have the possibility of, for some hours, present their projects in small stands. This initiative is an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with other colleagues from different countries, these contacts resulting in multiple possibilities for scientific collaboration.

There followed three series of workshops for prospective projects. As it was scheduled, a workshop about *Regions and Borders, Imagined and Real* took place on Saturday, September 14, from 16:00 to 17:30.

### **Presentations in the event (abstracts provided in annex)**

Chair: Luís Adão da Fonseca

1. Cosmin Popa Gorjanu (CUIUS REGIO) – *The use of a common questionnaire: Understanding Transylvania by comparing it to other regions*
2. Przemyslaw Wiszweski (CUIUS REGIO) – *Cohesion and disruption of the region. Silesia: longitudinal studies*
3. Nils Holger Pedersen (SAINTS) – *Saints' Cults: Mental or Imagined Regions*
4. Béla Zsolt Szakacs (SAINTS) – *Expressions of spatial identity in art. Regional versus European: example Hungary*
5. Dorte Jagetic Andersen (UNFAMILIARITY) – *(Un)familiarity as signs of European times. Scrutinizing historical representations of otherness and contemporary daily practices in border regions*
6. Cristina Pimenta (CUIUS REGIO) – *The case of Portugal: the evolution of an Iberian region*
7. Flocel Sabate (CUIUS REGIO) – *Value and future of comparative studies using a broad concept of region.*

### **Assessment of the results and impact of the event on the EUROCORES programme**

After these seven speeches (who filled the first part of the session), took place, a second part was fully dedicated to debate. It was an interesting exchange of comments and information, involving not only the Eurocores projects members, but also the public that was present. The general lines of the arguments that were discussed can be summarized in five paragraphs:

1. The benefits of a program with the features of a EUROCORE were recognized: this was not an unique program, organized as transnational at the European level, but an articulated program: in reality, a network of seven research teams. The practice has shown that this last model was very advantageous.
2. According to what is indicated in § 1, the key to good results was to have adopted a common methodological instrument between the seven collaborative projects. In the Cuius Regio project, the questionnaire had a decisive role. Among other benefits, this questionnaire enabled a comparative approach in an historical matter where, in addition to a common thematic definition, we were facing profoundly different situations.
3. The relevance of the social awareness in the different processes of spatial identity became evident. Hence, the need to be attentive to the extent non-rational and non-economical, as is the case of the emotions that end up to be decisive in many levels of social differentiation, such as those which

- have a spatial projection (for example: The past as an image of the present either the influence of the historical representations of otherness);
4. The need to define a model of Regional Cohesion as well as the advantages of thinking, in some cases (like Portugal), of national history through a regional approach.
  5. Anyway, it was recognized that although many of the conclusions have a general character, it became desirable to organize, from the relationships built in the projects now coming to an end, other projects, networks or databases that would give continuity to the work done until this moment. In this sense, it was recognized that, if we have some shared comparative views, it is necessary to deepen many others. Therefore, from several speeches, we could perceive the advantages that would arise from the future organization of collaborative tools, less heavy than the EUROCORES, that could give continuity to effort so far developed.

It is obvious that this summary only intends to gather, in an orderly way, the different ideas that were presented. But it is important to emphasize that more than once, regarding either one or other intervention, some reviews of concordance were made, even suggesting that the discussion could constitute a point of departure to forthcoming collaborations.

It is understandable that, in a debate of this nature, it is impossible to determine concrete collaborations, but I must say that an important step just arose from there aiming at consolidating the collaborative experience that we all had in the different Eurocores. It is also important that this experience could be applied to other future research collaborations.

I may also add that some initiatives were brought forward, all produced in the course of the Eurocores but now envisaged to achieve other kind of partnerships. This may be the case of the application that gathers Portuguese and Polish researchers (with experience of working together in *Cuius Regio*) in a project that is now being evaluated by the Polish Ministry of Science, or the pursuit of an Iberian collaboration, also born within the progression of *Cuius Regio*.

After the meeting, several people commented that they were very positively impressed by the way the session was held and that they could derive useful ideas to develop in the near future.

This was, in fact, the reason that led me to write those considerations about comparative methodology in the last of the five notes that I pointed above. In effect, that observation, in my view, is methodologically very important. As Stefan Berger wrote in an important book, *Writing History. Theory and practice* (London, 2010: 188), the legacy of transnational comparisons is so strong that we often forget that nations do not have to be our units of comparison. In fact, as economic historians particularly point out, regions might constitute better units of comparison.

In fact, this point seems to me the great transversal contribution that links the three EUROCORES: the comparative concern and the regional dimension.

Port, the 23rd October 2013

