

**Report of the External Advisory Committee, Instituto de Estudos Medievais (IEM),
Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Portugal)
February 21, 2020**

Meeting

The meeting of the advisory committee took place on Friday, 21 February 2020, at the new premises of the IEM in the Colégio Almada Negreiros (Auditório 1.03) of the Campolide Campus of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, in the presence of the director (Dr. Maria João Branco), subdirectors (Dr. Adelaide Millán Costa and Dr. João Luis Ingles Fontes), the team leaders of the two principal research programs (Dr. Catarina Barreira, Dr. Miguel Metelo Seixas and Dr. Tiago Viúla Faria), the editor of the journal *Medievalista online* (Dr. Bernardo Vasconcelos e Sousa), and other faculty members, doctoral students, and post-doctoral students.

Committee members present

Prof. Maria Helena da Cruz Coelho, Universidade de Coimbra
Prof. Denis Menjot, Université de Lyon 2
Prof. Harvey L. Sharrer, University of California, Santa Barbara
Prof. Juan Antonio Quirós Castillo, Universidad del País Vasco
Prof. Simon Doubleday, Hofstra University, New York [via Zoom]

Committee members absent

Prof. Silvia Maddalo, Università degli Studi della Tuscia-Viterbo
Prof. Ermelindo Portela Silva, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela

Assessment

The IEM has become a nationally and internationally-recognized hub of research into medieval studies with an impressively active program of interdisciplinary research (in Archaeology, Art History, History, Literature and Musicology) and a deep commitment to the dissemination of scholarly knowledge among the broader public, including involvement in public “cultural heritage” programs across Portugal.

The research programs of the IEM currently remain organized around two coherent thematic strands: “Territories and powers: a global perspective” and “Images, texts, and representations,” the latter being a new topic intended to develop around “Heritage and Material Culture.” The total number of integrated members has increased from 38 (2017) to 55 (2019). In July of 2019 the FCT external evaluation committee awarded the IEM a rating of “Excellent.” The IEM has benefitted greatly from this highly positive assessment together with a corresponding increase in funding by the FCT. For instance, this new funding has enabled 17 postdoctoral fellowships. The IEM has followed the Strategic Plan 2018-2020. It has a balanced budget and a fine democratic organizational structure which the committee believes is fully capable of tackling the challenges of the coming years.

Internationalization is clearly a high priority for the IEM. Many of its members are involved in international research projects, establishing a wide range and growing number of partnerships, and have successfully sought external funding from private grant-awarding bodies, including the Volkswagen Foundation, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and more modest municipal foundations and public institutions of culture, archives, libraries and museums.

Among ongoing projects receiving specific funding the IEM is the host entity or a participating entity in the following:

- VINCULUM: Entailing perpetuity: Family, Power, Identity. The social agency of a corporate body (Southern Europe, 14th-17th centuries [recipient of a European Research Council (ERC) consolidator grant of 1.6 million euros]
- ArtMedGIS (Analysis of the artistic exchanges in the medieval Mediterranean between the 12th and 15th centuries through the Geographical Information Systems: A critical review of “center” and “peripheries” [recipient of a Marie Skłodowska Curie individual fellowship]
- CISTERCIAN HORIZONS – Studying and characterizing a medieval scriptorium and its production: Alcobaça, local identities and liturgical uniformity in dialogue [FCT-funded]
- JUSCOM – Meet the Judge: Justice and communities in a transitional period (1481-1580) [FCT-funded]
- STEMMA- From singing to writing: survey on material production and routes of the Galician-Portuguese lyric [FCT-funded]
- ILUMINHEBRAICA – Hebrew illumination in Portugal during the 15th century [FCT-funded]
- MEDCRAFT – Crafts regulation in Portugal in the late Middle Ages: 14th-15th centuries [FCT-funded]
- APVETERES – Testimony, memory and identity: the *Annales Portucalenses Veteres* and the construction of the oldest historiographical tradition in Portugal [ended in 2019; Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation-funded]

Following the success of one IEM member in receiving a large ERC grant, the committee suggests that the IEM should continue to pursue strategies that will ensure competitiveness in obtaining new external funding, particularly other European. Where appropriate European and overseas scholars should be included in the composition of national research project proposals. The committee also suggests the promotion of long-term projects oriented to create new and innovative lines of research. Concerning external participation in IEM projects, the committee believes that the IEM is an ideal candidate to receive more European researchers within the Marie Curie IF program. We also suggest that IEM members, through their participation in congresses, meetings, doctoral thesis panels and other activities, promote the IEM as a center of

excellence in hosting research the promotion of long-term projects oriented to create new and innovative lines of research.

Concerning its doctoral program in Medieval Studies, the committee lauds the IEM's e-learning agreement with the Universidade Aberta as well as the creation of Summer Schools and Autumn Schools in Castelo de Vide. The committee also deems very positive the research agreements that the IEM has signed with various institutions in Spain and the UK, namely the Casa de Velázquez (Madrid), Universitat de Girona, Universidad de La Laguna, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, and Oxford University.

One measure of the high international profile of the IEM has been the huge and enthusiastic response to its advertisement of doctoral and postdoctoral scholarships. Applications have evidently been received from a number of countries. The committee notes the very serious intellectual training of its doctoral students – who are deeply involved in the work of research teams at the IEM and beyond (including internationally) – and is pleased to note that an exchange program with Oxford University is already in place. The committee observes that the number of postdoctoral students and visiting scholars has steadily increased during the 2017-2019 period. One concern expressed by the IEM leadership is the current absence of Universidade Nova course offerings in paleography, this being a vital component of historical research for many of the IEM's graduate and post-doctoral students. The committee understands that the faculty member who has taught paleography in the past has had a recent health issue. We strongly encourage the Universidade Nova to seek out a qualified alternate instructor.

The last three years has seen a very significant and constant production by IEM members of new printed books, e-books as well as book chapters and articles in both national and international journals. We single out the following IEM book publications:

- Paulo Lopes (ed.), *Portugal e a Europa nos séculos XV e XVI. Olhares, relações, identidade(es)*, 2019
- Giulia Rossi Vairo, Joana Ramôa Melo and Maria João Vilhena de Carvalho, *Almas de Pedra. Escultura Tumular: Da criação à musealização*, 2019
- Amélia Aguiar Andrade, Catarina Tente, Gonçalo Melo da Silva and Sara Prata (eds.), *Inclusão e Exclusão na Europa Urbana Medieval*, 2019
- Amélia Aguiar Andrade and Mário Farelo (eds.), *Catálogo da Exposição “Pão, Carne e Água: Mémoires de Lisboa Medieval*, 2019
- Alicia Miguélez Cavero and Fernando Villaseñor Sebastian (eds.), *Medieval Europe in Motion. La circulación de manuscritos iluminados en la Península Ibérica*, 2019
- Maria de Lurdes Rosa, Rita Sampaio da Nóvoa, Alice Borges Gago and Maria João da Câmara (coords.), *Recovered Voices, Newfound Questions*, 2019
- Maria Alessandra Bilotta (ed.), *Medieval Europe in Motion. The Circulation of Artists, Images, Patterns and Ideas from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic Coast (6th-15th Centuries)*
- Amélia Aguiar Andrade and Catarina Tente (eds.), *Espaços e Poderes na Europa Urbana Medieval*, 2018
- Adelaide Millán da Costa, Amélia Aguiar Andrade and Catarina Tente (eds.), *O Papel das Pequenas Cidades na Construção da Europa Medieval*, 2017

The committee reiterates its great surprise, as articulated in its most recent report (2016) that the FCT does not allow the sale abroad of FCT publications: it is essential to rectify this aberration, to ensure that the excellent work of IEM scholars is better known internationally. We also recommend that the FCT allow IEM publications to be sent to leading foreign research libraries, and indeed further funding for publication would enhance the number of books that could be produced. Also, the committee recommends that the IEM define an explicit editorial policy, differentiating the various publication series (Série Estudos; Série Documentos; Extra-coleção; Instrumentos de Trabalho) and defining profiles and orientations for each.

Of equal importance to its publications, during the review period the IEM has organized numerous scholarly meetings at different levels (seminars, lectures, conferences and workshops. We list just a few:

- Medieval Europe in Motion V – Materialities and Devotion (5th-15th centuries), 2019
- IV Jornadas Internacionais de Idade Média (Castelo de Vide) – Abastecer a Cidade na Europa Medieval, 2019
- EMCAM 2019 – Early Medieval Countryside Archeological Meetings, 2018
- Ciclo de seminários “Tesouros em pergaminho,” 2018
- 37th Dyes in History and Archaeology Meeting, 2018
- O Medievalismo no século XXI, 2018
- Ciclo de conferências Manuscritos de Alcobaça II, 2018
- Seminário sobre estudo da História e intervenção social: “‘Ethical turn,’ História ‘engajada,’ arquivos da(e) comunidade(s): estudo da História e intervenção social,” 2017
- V Colóquio Internacional “A Nova Lisboa Medieval” – 1147-1217: Caminhos do Ocidente e do Oriente, 2017
- Interdisciplinary Conference on Iberian Manuscripts, 2017
- II Jornadas Medievais Internacionais da Idade Média “Espaços e Poderes na Europa urbana medieval,” 2017
- 8th International Conference “The Medieval Chronicle,” 2017
- Congresso Internacional Portugal e a Europa nos séculos XV e XI. Olhares, relações, identidade(s), 2017

IEM members have also participated in many other conferences, workshops, and symposia internationally. Among these gatherings are the major international congresses at Leeds (UK) and Kalamazoo (Michigan, USA), including the organization of some sessions. The committee suggests IEM members take part in other relevant international meetings, such as the annual conferences of the European Archaeological Association, the European Association for Urban History and the Medieval Academy of America.

Meanwhile, the IEM continues to advance knowledge through the production of sophisticated databases (ten such in total), including:

- Littera, Imago, Regnum Regis – As inquirições do reinado de Afonso II (1211-1223)
- Dicionário online do Oficialato Periférico da Coroa (séculos XIV e XV)

- Fontes publicadas sobre Lisboa Medieval; Bibliografia sobre Lisboa Medieval
- Glosario Crítico de Fiscalidad Medieval
- INVENT.ARQ (on family archives)
- Medieval Colours
- Simbologias animais da Idade Média portuguesa dos séculos XII a XV

Medievalista online, whose first issue appeared in 2005 and which has regularly produced two issues a year since 2008, continues to be the only Portuguese journal dedicated entirely to medieval studies, adhering to a rigorous process of double-blind peer review. We note the increasing number of submissions from Spain, Brazil, and more recently English-speakers (especially from the USA). Welcoming submissions in a variety of languages, the journal is already indexed on Latindex, Dialnet, Revues.org, DOAJ, SCielo, and ERIH Plus. The committee expresses its surprise that SCOPUS should have rejected the *Medievalista online* application to be indexed, given the high quality, importance and internationalization of the journal and its fulfillment of all the parameters demanded by SCOPUS for international scholarly journals. The committee therefore suggests that the IEM should submit a new application in 2021. The committee observes that *Medievalista online* offers as an important regular feature detailed presentations of completed doctoral theses relevant to the study of medieval Portugal. This section of the journal tends, perhaps inordinately, to favor masters and doctoral theses directed by Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas (FCSH) professors. While some attention is given to dissertations from other Portuguese and foreign universities, the committee would encourage even greater representation of dissertations of merit from outside the FCSH and the IEM's sphere of foreign contacts.

The committee encourages continuing attention to social media—in particular, Facebook and Twitter—as a means of raising the profile of the IEM. We understand that the website is in the process of being updated and should be made available within one month. It represents an extremely valuable resource for researchers. Moving forward, it would be useful for the website to be available in an English-language version, and for a regular blog and a YouTube channel to be created. A priority should be placed on making the site user-friendly and facilitate access to the catalog of publications, indexes, an updated agenda of the activity and direct access to *Medievalista online*. The committee also suggests that the IEM consider producing a podcast channel and develop collaborations with national and international TV broadcast programs in order to improve the visibility of the IEM.

The committee suggests as well that the IEM create a regular newsletter that gathers references to new projects, publications and the incorporation of new researchers into IEM activities. Finally, the committee believes it would be useful to improve the IEM's identity on platforms such as Academia.edu and Researchgate.net, not only creating profiles of all members of the IEM and updating the, but also unifying references aimed to facilitate institutional visibility.

Meanwhile, the IEM is involved in numerous and prestigious international networks devoted to the Middle Ages. These include CARMEN (The worldwide medieval network); FIDEM (Fédération Internationale des Instituts d'Études Médiévales); the international network Small Cities in Time (In-SCIT); Ménestrel. Médiévistes sur le net: sources, travaux et références en

ligne; Rede Medieval. Rede Luso-Brasileira de Estudos Medievais; Cátedra Jaime Cortesão Parceiros; and RURALIA.



The committee wishes to note that the IEM has been extremely responsive to all recommendations made in our previous (2016) report. This includes the submission of research to international journals (print and electronic) in order to advance the diffusion and dissemination of work being carried out by IEM members. In 2019 alone, affiliated members of the IEM published some 123 articles in international peer-reviewed journals, as opposed to 35 in 2018, 31 in 2017 and 57 in 2016.

The IEM has made substantial efforts to disseminate knowledge to a broader public and pay particular attention to the articulation between research and teaching. The committee wholeheartedly approves of the efforts made in regard to the training of tourist guides, teacher education and other dissemination activities conducted in 2017-2019 and plans to develop a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). Public engagement has meant forging relationships with local town councils, such as that of Castelo de Vide. There have been workshops and open courses, including

- No tempo de D. João I (2019)
- Sobre a Idade Média (2019)
- Compreender os espaços monástico-conventuais (2019)
- A Filosofia na História da baixa Idade Média: Escolástica e mentalidades (2019)
- Literacia informacional para a investigação em História (2018)
- Preservação e conservação de manuscritos: novos desafios (2018)
- Compreender as imagens medievais – Personagens, Histórias e Mitos através da Arte [2ª edição] (2017)
- Compreender o arquivo (2017)

Conclusion

The IEM has now become a renowned international center of scholarly excellence whose work should continue to be supported by the FCT and by the Universidade Nova. During the 2017-2019 period under review the IEM has achieved its relevant objectives. These included the move to new offices, the employment of an efficient technical staff and, most importantly numerous accomplishments while having to adapt to certain budget restrictions that thankfully are now much improved with the augmentation of financial resources for the new triennial. As noted during the meeting the increased funding involves greater responsibilities as well as new challenges, challenges of which the IEM leadership and the whole IEM research unit is fully aware and which it is well equipped to meet.



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