

Pitch for a PhD Candidate:

Medieval Glass in Motion - Portugal within a European context

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This work is to be developed at
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Lisbon - Portugal.

2020 Call for PhD Research Scholarships:

- <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/individuais2020.phtml.pt>
- <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/individuais2020.phtml.en>

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Medieval Glass in Motion - Portugal within a European context

In Portuguese archaeological contexts from the medieval period, the presence of glass finds is recurrent. However, only from the 15th century onwards references to glassmakers and furnaces start to appear in époque documents. This leads to the question of provenance of these glass objects which this project intends to disclose using a transdisciplinary approach. The aim is to investigate archaeological glass assemblages from all territory through a systematic methodology, approaching its history, its archaeological contexts, determining the glass chemical composition (glass as a material), disclosing connections through cultural contacts, as well as the craft specialization involved in the making of the objects (glass as a vehicle).

This will be the first systematic study in the Iberian Peninsula comprehending archaeological glass assemblages from the medieval period, where art history, chemical composition, and production technology will be considered. Furthermore, this project will explore the fact that the assemblages from the north of Portugal are catalogued as being Christian medieval opposed to the ones from the south, which are catalogued as Islamic medieval - this approach does not take into consideration the exchange of knowledge between coexistent people of both religions and the constant interaction between them. Moreover, it leaves out of the equation the presence and influence of the Jewish community and the multiculturalism of the medieval period. Considering what is proposed, the project will focus on:

- i) the study of the historical and archaeological contexts of the selected assemblages,
- ii) the chemical characterization of the fragments - identification of compositional groups, as well as identification of probable imported and probable local produced items,
- iii) 3D design reconstruction followed by the reproduction of the selected objects to disclose manufacturing techniques
- iv) the preparation of an exhibition with the historical objects together with the prepared reproductions.

This project will not only gather knowledge on the Portuguese glass history but will also contribute to a better understanding on the global/European developments on glass production that occurred during the medieval period and that allowed for the great technological accomplishments observed during the Early Modern period. The comparison of glass finds from different regions of the country will allow to look at these objects as dynamic contributors for cultural traditions, thus tying this project with local communities. The final goal of the project is to map the medieval glass objects in history, promoting scientific tourism, but also developing new tourism routes for the general public, where the new knowledge gathered about the history of glass production and circulation in Portugal will be put together in a symbiotic way.