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THE SEAPUBLIC PROJECT

Public policies and the portuguese maritime economy, 1900-2015

The IHC – Institute of Contemporary History (Universidade Nova de Lisboa) and the CEIS20 – Centre for 20th Century Interdisciplinary Studies (Universidade de Coimbra) joined efforts to put forward the project “SEAPublic: public policies and the portuguese maritime economy, 1900-2015”, coordinated by the researcher Álvaro Garrido.

This interdisciplinary research project aims to open the way for a Contemporary Maritime History, a field of study practically inexistent in Portugal, contributing for the ongoing debate on sea policies and on the role of the “new maritime economy” for economic development. Its purpose is to place the actual discourse on sea policies in a historical perspective, identifying changes and persistence over the long term. The analysis of comparative history includes the cases of British historiography (England) and Spain (Galicia).

SEAPublic also aims to educate young scholars to produce research instruments addressed to support policy-making in the Portuguese maritime economy renewal context. The project’s outputs will be shared with the scientific community, public and private decision-makers and the civil society.

To reach the proposed goals partnerships were established with others European research centres and Portuguese institutions, such as the Maritime Studies Historical Center (University of Hull, United Kingdom), the Instituto de Estudios Marítimos (Universidad da Coruña, Spain), the Departamento de Xeografía e Historia (Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain), the Sea Ministry and the General Administration for Sea Policy (Portugal).

Álvaro Garrido

A RESEARCHER AND HER WORK

Maria Inês Queiroz

Maria Inês Queiroz is a researcher at IHC – Institute of Contemporary History and has a PhD thesis in Contemporary History, entitled *History of the Portuguese Marconi Company within the world communications network (1906-1936)*. Previous research projects were related to the History of Science and Technology, telecommunications networks, science organization and scientific Policies, namely regarding the History of Camões Institute (1929-2009) and the History of Telecommunications in Portugal (1853-2007). Her current research is devoted to the role of Portugal towards the preservation of transatlantic cables crossing a historical, archival and technological heritage perspective, aiming to propose new approaches to the heritagization of undersea communication networks.



THE BEACHES OF PORTUGAL

Espinho

The Portuguese writer Ramalho Ortigão said, in 1876, that Espinho was one of the most esteemed beaches, those who used it admitted no comparison with any other. It was divided into neighborhoods, the new and expensive of the bathers and the old and poor of the fishermen. Social life was lively during the summer because of those who came to bathe there.

But, at the time Ortigão was writing, Espinho was being destroyed by the sea. The waters, in stormy days, invaded the beach and ruined the buildings erected on the sand. First, the *palheiros*, the wooden homes of the fishermen, afterwards the houses of the ones who had more possessions. The disaster took such proportion that government intervention was called for. Studies were carried out: no one knew the reason for such phenomenon; no one could stop “the sea invasions”, as they were called at the time. In 1911, the first groins were built. Throughout the twentieth century, more robust coastal engineering structures were needed to protect the city. Coastal erosion, as it is called now, did not disappear with these engineering works, it is only contained by the great stone structures. If these are not maintained – which costs millions of euros – the city will be in danger again. You can read more at: www.redebraspor.org/livros/2013/Braspor%202013%20-%20Artigo%206.pdf



▲ Espinho – *Ilustração Portuguesa*, 5-12-1904.

NEWS AND EVENTS

COURSE: HISTORY OF SEAMANSHIP AND PORTUGUESE NAVIGATIONS

August 25-27, 2017

The CIDH – Chair Infante Dom Henrique for Atlantic Island Studies and Globalization, an initiative of the Universidade Aberta and CLEPUL – Centre for Lusophone and European Literatures and Cultures, has created a training course on History of Seamanship and Portuguese Navigations. The course will be taught by Commander António Costa Gomes, between August 25-27, on high seas, on board of the Vera Cruz caravel. Contacts: cidh.global@gmail.com

EXHIBITION: SCIENCE AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE DEEP SEA FLOOR

From July 2017 to July 2018

The exhibition “Sea Mineral - Science and Natural Resources on the Deep Sea Floor” was inaugurated on July 13 at MUHNAC – National Museum of Natural History and Science, and featured a presentation by Professor Andy Wheeler (University College Cork, Ireland) about the discovery of the hydrothermal field Moytirra, in the region of the Extension of the Continental Platform to the North of Azores. This exhibition is dedicated to Mário Ruivo (1927-2017), an outstanding oceanographer. More information at: <https://ciencias.ulisboa.pt/pt/evento/13-07-2017/mar-mineral-ci%C3%A2ncia-e-recursos-naturais-no-fundo-do-mar>

MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY

Underwater archaeological parks: the case of Angra do Heroísmo (Azores, Portugal)

The classification of PASA - Angra do Heroísmo's Underwater Archaeological Park, located in Terceira Island, at Azores, was a pioneer initiative in Portugal. It allowed, for the first time, the classification of a large maritime area, because of its important underwater culture heritage. During the European maritime expansion, between 16th-17th centuries, this bay was one of the most important ports in the Azores archipelago, sheltering and supporting countless vessels crossing the Atlantic. However, this bay also witness many shipwrecks mainly caused by storms or bad ships maneuvering. Aware of this great historical and archaeological value, as well of the fragility of this place, the Regional Department of Culture took the initiative, in 2005, of classifying the bay as PASA. At the same time, were created two areas that can be visited and enjoyed by divers: the *Lidador*, a 18th century shipwreck laid down in a shallow area very close the city's edge, and the *Anchor Graveyard*, corresponding to the old anchorage site from the 16th-18th centuries. This initiative is an asset in terms of cultural tourism.

More information at: www.culturacores.azores.gov.pt/pasa

Ana Catarina Garcia



HERITAGE COMMUNICATION

Costa de Lavos - Pedagogical Beach

In the western coast of Portugal, to the south of the city of Figueira da Foz, there is a small beach called Costa de Lavos. Two years ago, the local association Casa dos Pescadores developed a pedagogical project to disseminate local knowledge about the sea and the village's traditions.

The visits are for organized groups from all ages. First, there is a presentation about life in the village, then a walk to see the coastal dune ecosystem. After, the group goes to the Casa dos Pescadores to visit the fishing workshop, here the seamen can show, for example, how they do their fishing nets. In the end, at the beach, visitors can meet the fishing companies and learn with them about the uses of the fishing gears, the species they caught and their daily routines.

This initiative has already received more than 3000 people, contributing to the dissemination of the maritime cultural heritage of the Portuguese coast, so that the traditional knowledge of men and women who live from the sea is not lost.

More information at: www.facebook.com/costadelavospraiapedagogica

