

**Department of the
History of Science and Technology**

Krieger School of Arts and Sciences
3400 North Charles Street
Gilman Hall, Room 301
Baltimore MD 21218
410-516-7501 / Fax 410-516-7502
<http://host.jhu.edu>

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Re: Assessment of CIUHCT Activities 2021-22

This performance assessment takes into consideration the 2020 and 2021 reports provided by the *Centro Interuniversitário de História das Ciências e da Tecnologia*, as well as the list of activities and bibliography generated by members of the center for these years. My overall evaluation is that the CIUHCT is performing at a very high level in terms of academic publications, outreach activities, major projects and special programs. The Center has weathered the critical period of the global pandemic remarkably well. They returned quickly to the high level of activity that characterized previous years and have even increased the number of yearly publications. This shows how resilient the Center's leadership and its researchers are, plus signals a bright future for the Center. I was invited to serve in the Center's Advisory Board in August, so my comments are based solely on the reports and websites mentioned wherein but not a visit to the Center.

Academic Publications

The center supports several collective projects that are impressive in ambition and scope. The four printed volumes of *Ciência, Tecnologia e Medicina na Construção de Portugal* (2021) is a much-needed reference collection of important historical milestones in the history of these fields in Portugal. Due to its recent publication, it is only currently found in ten libraries in the United States, but I expect this number will increase in years to come and I urge the Center's leadership to promote the collection internationally. The other two flagship projects, the *Dicionário de Cientistas, Engenheiros e Médicos Portugueses* and the *Bibliographical Guide to HSTM* are both online and installed on well-designed and easily accessible websites. The entries are fully documented with bibliographies and citations. With these three projects the CIUHCT has positioned itself as the essential point of reference for history of Portuguese science in the world. The Center also publishes the journal, *History of Science and Technology (HoST)*, which publishes peer-reviewed articles and special issues on trending topics in the field. These activities have given the Center a high profile in the field, not only as the keeper of Portugal's past legacy in STEM, but also as a key contributor to current trends and topics of the historical studies of science and technology.

The publications of its individual researchers are well-balanced between national and international forums. This is, in my opinion, indicative of the Center's academic strength, since the thematic scope of these publications extend far beyond Portuguese topics. Three monographs in particular stand out: Avelar's book on astrology in Late Medieval France, Salomini's book on Catholic schools in Early Modern Italy, and Leitão/Madrid's book on maps of the Strait of Magellan. These, and other publications in edited volumes and top-tier peer-reviewed journals, give the Center a strong international presence and a voice in transnational historical debates.

Outreach Activities

The Center did not let the pandemic slow down appreciably its outreach activities. While some events had to be rescheduled, others were adapted swiftly on on-line platforms, thus ameliorating the impact of

the pandemic to the Center's academic profile. The three "Knowledge: Made in Portugal" documentaries (in English) are a prime example of the Center's commitment to making the history of Portuguese science and technology in maritime exploration, urban modernization and water management better known by the general public. I look forward to evaluating the finished project at a later date. The Center is wisely leveraging its expertise in public dissemination of techno/scientific information by sponsoring courses in the topic that brings together historians and scientists. These types of courses are rare in academia—I know of none in the US—but essential for helping current and future historians, scientists and engineers develop the skill necessary to convey the importance of their work to different audiences of peers, funding agencies and popular audiences. I congratulate the CIUHCT for taking a leadership role in this area.

Funded Projects

For its size, the Center has an impressive number of well-funded and highly visible projects currently under its direction: ERC- RUTTER, ERC-MEDEA, and FCT-AQUA. It also has at least five (if I counted correctly) projects in which members of the CIUHCT are either PIs or leaders. The agencies responsible for funding lines should be very pleased with the output from these projects. RUTTER, MEDEA, and AQUA have developed sophisticated websites through which they provide their extensive research openly. I am most familiar with the RUTTER and MEDEA projects since they coincided with my area of expertise. These are world-class resources for historians of early modern maritime expansion and have brought what were once areas of research on interest on only a few individuals to a much larger community of scholars. Along with AQUA, the material on these sites is of the highest quality and impeccably documented. The projects have published a robust number of articles and other supporting scholarship in important journals, thereby increasing the profile of the projects and of the CIUHCT.

The *Inquisition in Action* website was released in 2022, after delays caused by the closure of the National Library of Portugal. As it stands, it promises to offer easy access to books censored by the Portuguese Inquisition. While this in itself is very helpful to scholars, I wish the site had explanatory essays for each book—or type of books—explaining the reasons why they were censored. The conclusions included in the article by Francisco Malta Romeiras, "Putting the Indices into Practice: Censoring Science in Early Modern Portugal," (*Annals of Science* 77 (2020): 71–95) should form part of the website.

Final Assessment

The Center's size places it among the larger of the History of Science and Technology departments in the world, when considering the total researchers and PhD students affiliated with the Faculty of Science of the University of Lisbon and FCT Nova. Yet, because its activities are both intensively pedagogical and also research oriented comparisons are difficult to make relative to stand-alone research institutes such as Spain's CSIC and Germany's MPIWG (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science). In my estimation, however, the activities reviewed above have raised the CIUHCT's international profile to where it is, in my opinion, comparable to the leading departments of history of science in the world in terms of the quality and publication volume by its affiliates, and also in the scope and number of projects funded by extra-university sources. In my estimation it compares nicely with similar programs at Princeton University, The Johns Hopkins University, and University of Chicago.

I look forward to visiting the CIUHCT in 2023 to learn more about its activities first-hand, meet its researchers, and consult published material that is currently unavailable to me in the United States.

Yours sincerely,



María M. Portuondo, PhD
Professor (Retired)