

CIUHCT External report 2020-2022

Created 15 years ago notably to focus on the early modern and modern history of science, technology, and medicine in Portugal in a global perspective, the Centro Interuniversitário de História das Ciências e da Tecnologia (CIUHCT) has been a particularly innovative and productive group. It is made up of researchers from the faculty of sciences of the University of Lisbon as well as the NOVA school of science and technology. During this period, its membership has risen from 60 to 84, including 58 doctoral candidates, up by 13 from 2018 and is today amongst the most internationally well-known centres in the domain.

Indeed, it must be remarked that the CIUHCT is one of the most cohesive groups in the European and international history of science community. Undergirding its dynamism and productivity is a bouquet of 4 flagship editorial projects consisting of (1) a 4-volume history of science, technology and medicine (HSTM) in Portugal; (2) a dictionary of Portuguese scientific biography; (3) a bibliographical guide to HSTM in Portugal; and (4) an online open access biannual journal HoST (published since 2016 by the prestigious German publishing house, De Gruyter/Sciendo). These are both unique in the European and international landscape of the domain, not least because they provide a convergent focus for the group and at the same time very powerful instruments for the training, socialisation and professionalisation of students and early-career researchers associated with the Centre. As online projects, already accessible since 2020 (a year ahead of schedule), they are constantly enriched and updated, making them ongoing core activities.

Despite the Covid pandemic, the CIUHCT has been impressively active both in individual and collective communications and publications, organisation of international and national meetings and workshops, as well as in professional training and post-doctoral socialisation and various outreach activities across the whole spectrum of the history of science, technology and medicine. Not only has the number of individual publications by its members increased by 50% in international peer-reviewed journals – up from 36 to 53 – and by 300% in national publications (from 13 to 39), but so have communications in conferences and workshops (both national and international) by similarly impressive proportions. It is also noteworthy that members of the Centre were able to continue organising a substantial number of both national and international scientific meetings – up from respectively 6 and 13 in 2020 to 7 and 53 in 2021. The articles appeared predominantly in high impact-factor international journals, such as *Isis*, *Notes and Records of the Royal Society of London*, *Imago Mundi*, *Technology and Culture*, *Social History of Medicine*, to name but a few. It must also be mentioned that 4 out of the 21 books published by members of the Centre, 4 appeared under the imprint of two of Europe's foremost scientific publishing houses, Brill and Springer.

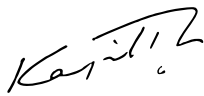
In addition to the core activities, members of the Centre are also participants (as principal investigators or team members) in projects financed by highly competitive national and international funding organisations, including from Marie-Curie Actions of the EU. Furthermore, the CIUHCT has ongoing collaborations with other prestigious institutions in the history of science and technology, such as the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG) in Berlin.

In fact, it has fulfilled almost all its goals set for the period under review. All this has made it possible for the CIUHCT to host both doctoral students and post-doctoral early career researchers and with all its projects and dynamics to provide a vibrant intellectual atmosphere for their training and professionalisation.

Finally, the Centre has both initiated and participated in a number of outreach activities, notably TV appearances, video casts, guided tours of exhibitions and online presentations and discussions especially during the pandemic.

It is not surprising then that several members of the Centre have won various academic prizes or have been appointed as members of learned societies, and that some of the exhibitions where they participated have won prizes.

In conclusion, and in light of my own experience both as a professional scholar in France and as an evaluator of research in the humanities and social sciences for other national and European research foundations, I can confidently state that the CIUHCT is amongst the foremost centres for the history of science, technology and medicine in Europe and the world today and can be justly proud of contributing to the prominent visibility of Portugal on the domain's map.



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