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Evaluation of the Research Center CIUHC

The CIUHCT (Centro Interuniversitário de História das Ciências e da Tecnologia) is a research center based at the University of Lisbon. The center conducts research in the area of the history of science and technology with reference to different epochs and with a growing focus on the global world.

The present report refers to the years 2020 and 2021.

Research

The number and quality of publications, awards, and further activities testify for a great and dynamic research activity. A specific mention should be first dedicated to the Special Program, which greatly supports specific projects. As for 2020, the main project in this framework was the "Anthropocene Campus Lisboa: Parallax" coordinated by Maria Paula Diogo. In the frame of several institutional international partnerships, six international seminars as well as keynote lectures and further public events were organized with particular attention toward the active participation of the next generation of scholars. In total 90 young scholars attended the campus and the initiative turned into a great impact to society in Portugal, Europe, and outside the continent.

The two other projects included in this program (webtool STMgram and "Inquisition in Action") experienced however a slower start than planned. This was also due to the pandemic but not only. Especially concerning the project "Inquisition in Action" a discrepancy between objectives of the project and financial support emerged. CIUHCT showed however its solidity as institution and

was able, by means of careful planning, to rescue the project by re-shaping the timeline so to allow higher funding. In 2021 further projects were started with great promising steps. In particular, the project "Knowledge: Made in Portugal" produced three of the 15 planned documentary movies to be delivered beginning from 2022.

Publications and qualification works

The trend of publications is extremely positive from 2020 to 2021. In particular, the percentage of articles published in peer-reviewed journals relevantly increased in the frame of an overall increase of the total amount of publications. CIUHCT has proved to be very active in promoting common ideas and research as shown by the number of edited volumes and special issues. Among them are certainly worth being highlighted:

- the Four edited volumes on HSTM in Portugal;
- the volume edited by Ana Duarte Rodrigues and Carmen Toribio Marín, *The history of water management in the Iberian Peninsula between the 16th and 19th centuries* (Springer, 2020);
- the special issue, *The Inquisition and the Censorship of Science in Early Modern Europe* (Annals of Science) introduced by Francisco Malta Romeiras;
- the special issue of Javier Ordóñez and Antonio Sanchez, *Standards: Taming knowledge?*;
- The special issue by Ana Simões and Antonio Sánchez, *The Fabulous 1930s in the History of Science and Technology*.

Among the numerous monographs, the international highlights are:

- Helena Avelar, *An Astrologer at Work in Late Medieval France: The Notebooks of S. Belle* (Brill)
- David Salomini, *Educating the Catholic People: Religious Orders and Their Schools in Early Modern Italy, 1500-1800* (Brill)
- Henrique Leitão and José Moreno Madrid, *Drawing the Gateway to the Pacific. Maps, Charts and Other Visual Representations of the Strait of Magellan, 1520-1671* (Brill)
- Maria Paula Diogo and Tiago Saraiva, *Inventing a European Nation: Engineers for Portugal, from Baroque to Fascism* (Springer).

Particularly relevant for what concerns the systematization of knowledge and research results as well as their dissemination and long-term preservation are the following two ongoing publications:

- The Dictionary of Biographies of Portuguese STM actors (<https://www.dicionario.ciuhct.org>);
- The bibliographical guide to HSTM in Portugal (<https://bibliografia.ciuhct.org/>).

As for the qualification works, six Doctoral theses were concluded during the time considered here.

Teaching and other activities

While the teaching activity as well as any form of intellectual gathering suffered a break in 2020 starting in March and could only be fully re-activated in October 2020, during 2021 the activities proceeded with no break and great intensity and efficiency. Worth of being highlighted here is the advanced class, activated in 2021, "Production of Science Communication Activities" whose aim is to teach how to communicate science to non-specialized audiences.

To re-balance the isolation due to the lockdown additional online regular meetings as well as a NewsLetter were moreover activated.

The re-activation of public mobility then offered CIUHCT the possibility to gain a central position within the broader society. Apart from the participation at Ciências Research Day, an impressive effort has been accomplished to organize and actively participate at exhibitions, whose aims were to disseminate research results with a profoundly inclusive approach.

According to the current habits, the project teams operated in order to continually increase the presence and the offer through the web and a great amount of audio-video material was produced and freely distributed.

Financial aspects

The allocated budget was efficiently used, with exception made for travel money in 2020.

Conclusions

There is almost no need to mention that the work and research of these two years have been profoundly influenced by the pandemic. It has been such a determining factor that it cannot be overlooked.

The first good news, however, is that no projects or activities have been completely cancelled. There have been delays and downsizing of purposes in 2020 but CIUHCT has proven to be a solid structure with clear goals. This turned into a 2021 connotated by a great success especially for what concerns publications and outreach activities on one side and the re-activation and development of the research projects that mostly suffered during 2020 on the other. Thus, this is an important feature as it portends the possibility of major developments in the future.

For what concerns the research, three general positive aspects should be mentioned. First, new projects connotated by an increasingly global approach have been activated and are showing to be very successful. These mostly move toward the investigation of subjects related to environmental history and the Anthropocene. Second, such new research endeavors have not been detrimental to the solid research tradition on science and technology of the early modern period, a research tradition that made CIUHCT already an important international crossroad of scholars and ideas in the past. It is important that this line of research will continue in the future. Third, the last two years show an increasing attention for local history and the role of Portuguese

science and technology in history at all levels. This trend is relevant not only for its content but also because it allows for a deeper link between CIUHCT and the current Portuguese society around it.

In this respect it is relevant to point the attention to the fundamental and positive fact that CIUHCT has succeeded in relevantly improving the dissemination of its research results.

The publication trend sketched above demonstrates that the work and the research results of CIUHCT are increasing both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Such overall positive trend is finally underlined by the prizes awarded during these two years, 12 in total, 4 of which assigned during 2020.

It is foreseeable that such overall trend will continue in the future and therefore desirable that the institutional funding bodies increase their support to CIUHCT proportionally to the evident increase of results, their quality and their societal impact.

With best wishes,

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