

# **THE WRITING OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF EUROPE: SCIENTIST'S ARCHIVES, SYSTEMIC PARADIGM AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES – A CASE STUDY**

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## **Resumo/Abstract**

The construction of a Environmental History of Europe (or even of the World) was the aim of recent session at the 8<sup>th</sup> European Society for Environmental History (Versailles, France, 30 June-3 July 2015 <http://www.esch2015.eu>).

If the first step is to define the structure, the problematic, the issues, the thematic lines, it is, from our point of view, very important to construct not an environmental history of each country, but understand the connections between nature and men, even if the nationalism and the colonialism have created a particular overview. The three angles of environmental history, that, we can summary in three ideas are: the study of 'nature itself', including humans – from an ecological point of view, examining the behavior of species, including those cultivated and domesticated, and flows of materials; the socio-economic interaction between humans and nature, production, reproduction, customs, and so forth (with a pollution component added in), and thirdly, analyzing the 'mental interaction', the myths, ideology, and all ways of thinking about nature.

Regarding this aims we believe that the organization of personal scientists archives are the best way to understand the international connections about nature and science, the connections between scientists and a lot of academic institutions, natural museums and local communities.

To prove our point of view we will present the organization and the informational system of a Portuguese Geologist, Archeologist, Naturalist, Professor of the Faculty of Sciences and Museum of Natural History, named Rui Serpa Pinto (1907-1933), which maintain a fluent correspondence with other personalities from Spain, France, Russia, England, Germany, Czech Republic. Through the analysis of the letters and other papers kept at the archives of the Museum of Natural History of the University of Porto, we organized the information produced by him in a systemic methodology according to the paradigm of science of information. Regarding this organics model we intend to overcome the traditional approach based in a biographic and archivist history of scientist and propose the reconstruction of the international networks of environmental mental interaction, that is, ways of think and act in and with nature.

## **CV**

### **Liliana Rodrigues**

2010-2013 Degree in Art - Conservation and Restoration at the Catholic University of Porto.

2013-2015 Master's Degree in History and Heritage - Branch Historical Archive at the Faculty of Arts, University of Porto.

July 2013 -August 2013 Intern at the Museum Dom Diogo de Sousa in Braga.

November 2014 - July 2015 Intern at the Museum of Natural History of the University of Porto.

## CV

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Director of the Department of History, Political and International Studies of University of Porto (DHEPI).

Teacher of Economic and Social History, Heritage and Tourism.

Main Researcher of the Thematic Line (RG-4059-1172) MARITIME CULTURES AND ENVIRONMENT of CITCEM, Centre of Transdisciplinary Research of Culture, Space and Memory.

Management Committee member of COST Action IS1403: Oceans Past Platform (OPP), 2014-2017. [http://www.cost.eu/domains\\_actions/isch/Actions/IS1403?management](http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/isch/Actions/IS1403?management).

Member of the Committee Board of the ESEH (European Society of Environmental History, <http://eseh.org/about-eseh/board/> and Regional Representative for Portugal at the ESEH (since August 2013).

PTDC/AAC-CLI/119078/2010 (2012–2014) – Research member, Project KLIMHIST - *Reconstruction and model simulations of past climate in Portugal using documentary and early instrumental sources (17th-19th century)* <http://clima.ul.pt/klimhist-project>.

2013-2015 – Research member of [CNIC - Catalyzing New International Collaborations](#) (USA) *Community Response and Resilience to the 1755 Lisbon Earthquake*.

2008-2005 *Coordinator of the Project SAL(H)INA - Salt History - Nature and Environment - from XVth to XIXth* (FCT-POCTI/HAR/56381/2004) [https://www.fct.pt/apoios/projectos/consulta/vglobal\\_projecto.phtml.en?idProjecto=56381&idElemConcurso=63](https://www.fct.pt/apoios/projectos/consulta/vglobal_projecto.phtml.en?idProjecto=56381&idElemConcurso=63).

Research interests and writings: in economic and social history, environmental history, climate history, maritime resources and heritage (salt, fisheries), trade and work, prices and credit, consumption, poor and healthcare