



AS CIDADES NA HISTÓRIA  
CONGRESSO INTERNACIONAL  
SOCIEDADE

First Circular Letter

## **CITIES THROUGH HISTORY: SOCIETY**

International Congress

In 2012, as Guimarães was the European Capital of Culture, the 1st International Congress - Cities through History, with the theme POPULATION, was held in this city.

It started from the awareness that the history of cities is central to research regardless of the chosen approach, Population, Economy, Society, Culture or Art. The challenge was then launched to the different European partners to deepen the history of their cities in the long term, with the Congress as an occasion for dialogue and meeting of common cultural roots, with possible consequences beyond the scientific objectives.

In fact, the City of Guimarães, a World Heritage Site, is a desirable host for events of this nature, not only because of the cultural structures it has, but also because of the magic of its urban surroundings. The Historical Congresses can be a starting point for other Meetings in which Guimarães is an important platform for that desirable European dialogue.

In a logic of constructing integrated knowledge, the First International Congress - Cities through History focused on the theme of Population, the first distinction between the urban world and the rural world. At the end of the works, the frequency of the congresses was announced, and the Scientific Committee agreed that the next congress would focus on the theme Society.

In this 2nd edition, the aim is for the Congress to maintain its starting point identity, addressing the evolution of cities in different historical and geographical contexts, from the Ancient City to the City of the Present, on the way to the Future, with a special focus on the cities of the Mediterranean world.

The congress will be divided into five main thematic areas; the city in the ancient world, in medieval times, modern, industrial and, finally, the city of the current era. Each of these areas will have a plenary session structured around two speakers, one Portuguese and one from outside Portugal, and a series of parallel sessions to present spontaneous results on the respective themes. The works will end with a round table on the Future City.

There will be no official language in the congress. Although most of the works may be presented in Portuguese or Spanish, the English or French languages will be accepted, without excluding the possibility, in plenary sessions, of simultaneous interpretation.





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## 2. Organisation

### President of the Congress:

Luís de Oliveira Ramos

### Scientific Committee:

#### Coordinators:

Maria Norberta Amorim, GHP | CITCEM | University of Porto

Diego Ramiro, CCHS, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

#### Thematic Areas Coordinators:

Maria Manuela Martins, University of Minho

Maria Helena da Cruz Coelho, University of Coimbra

José Damião Rodrigues, University of Lisbon

Jorge Fernandes Alves, University of Porto

Magda Pinheiro, Lisbon University Institute

#### Secretary-General of the Congress:

Antero Ferreira, GHP | CITCEM | University of Porto

#### Organizing Committee

Domingos Bragança, Mayor of Guimarães

Alexandra Marques, City Hall of Guimarães

Maria Norberta Amorim

Antero Ferreira

António Amaro das Neves

João Abreu

CITCEM – University of Porto

CECS – University of Minho

Lab2PT – University of Minho



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## Rules for submission of communications

Those interested in participating in the congress should contact the responsible for the Thematic Area of their interest, sending a brief abstract of the communication (up to 500 words), accompanied by a short CV (up to 200 words). They should also send the proposal to the general organization [chi@cm-guimaraes.pt](mailto:chi@cm-guimaraes.pt). The coordinators of the thematic areas are responsible for accepting the proposals, and should communicate their decision to the authors and to the organization of the congress.

## Congress calendar

- December 2016 - distribution of the first circular letter of the Congress.
- 3 February 2017 - deadline for submission of communication proposals to those responsible for the thematic areas.
- March 2017 - sending of the second circular letter of the Congress, with the list of provisional titles of the works accepted in each thematic area.
- 16 September 2017 - deadline for receipt of communications.
- 18 to 20 October 2017 - congress in Guimarães.

## REGISTRATION FEE:

Registration: € 50 | Students: € 25

*(Awarding accommodation grants to young researchers has been provided for)*



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## CITIES THROUGH HISTORY: SOCIETY

### Thematic Areas:

#### 1. THE ANCIENT CITY

Coordinator:

Maria Manuela Martins – University of Minho ([mmmartins@uaum.uminho.pt](mailto:mmmartins@uaum.uminho.pt))

#### Activities, sociabilities and identities

The theme of the society in the ancient city encountered important theoretical and methodological developments in the last decades, raised by the evolution of the investigations carried out based on the study of the literary, epigraphic, iconographic and archaeological sources. Particularly noteworthy are the advances made by archaeology that have made it possible to identify the physical spaces of many cities, as well as their urbanism and architecture, thereby providing an understanding of the specificities of the civic communities residing therein, regardless of the political systems in which they lived.

Based on the advances in the knowledge of urbanism and the architecture of cities in the ancient world, it is now possible to view them as the scene of complex processes of interaction between individuals and groups that produced and used urban spaces and built different identities in them. In this context, urban scenarios constitute a source of insider information for the understanding of economic activities, daily life and differentiated sociabilities, helping to understand collective and individual practices and behaviours, social relationships and beliefs.

Therefore, the ancient city offers new possibilities today to approach themes of great pertinence and relevance as to the identity, the urban sociabilities and the use and differentiated enjoyment of the spaces, provided by the re-reading of the different sources in the light of new theoretical and methodological perspectives.

#### OBJECTIVES

The session dedicated to the ancient city will focus on a broad chronology, until the 7th century, seeking to focus on two types of approach. One of them will seek to enhance the data and methodologies that allow studying society in a more quantitative perspective, in order to understand the social and economic contexts of cities, groups and individuals. The other will take into account the qualitative analysis of the processes of interaction and sociability of the urban population, valued from the different sources, which refer us to social composition, to the world of work, to the socio-political activities, to cult modalities or to the role played by minorities in urban society.



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## 2. THE MEDIEVAL CITY

Coordinator:

Maria Helena da Cruz Coelho – University of Coimbra ([coelhomh@gmail.com](mailto:coelhomh@gmail.com))

The 2nd Congress 'Cities through History. Society', in the section dedicated to the Middle Ages, covers a vast chronology, extending from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and opens to various themes, sources, methodologies and comparative analyses. One has to consider, in a sociological perspective, a re-reading of the urban phenomenon in which the individual constructs his/her identity in the relationship with others, in the sociabilities and neighbourhood solidarities, in the interurban mobilities, in the dialectic of the urban centre with its boundaries, in the tensionalities of order, consensus or conflict. The city, as an organised space, a society and a centre, calls for reflections on stratification and social hierarchizing; the urban elites; the presence of the marginalized and the poor in the cities and the welfare solidarity; the dialogue between the clergy and the faithful in the definition of worship and religiosity of the parishioners; the social marks of religious coexistence between Christians, Jews and Moors; the memory and the representation of civic power. In the convergence of the anthropological and sociological view of social groups with archaeological and archaeogeographic information, urban 'fabrication' is known in its various spaces: fortified, of power, of commerce, of sociability, domestic and sacred, involving and shaping links of distinct nature among neighbours.

The works, in view of this broad projection of social composition in the urban fabric, in case studies or in historical analyses of regional or more global incidence, in their interdisciplinarity and multiplicity of approaches, will aim to contribute to a better knowledge of Cities and Societies in medieval times.



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### 3. THE MODERN CITY

Coordinator:

José Damião Rodrigues – University of Lisbon ([josedamiaorodrigues@campus.ul.pt](mailto:josedamiaorodrigues@campus.ul.pt))

Although, by the end of the 18th century, the city is an exceptional phenomenon — worldwide, the rate of urbanisation would fluctuate around 10% and, in Europe, 80 to 90% of its inhabitants lived in the countryside — the cities were a powerful intellectual referent and had a huge fascination, as documented in various texts that describe the ‘exotic’ cities that the European conquerors, merchants, missionaries and diplomats encountered in the Americas, in Asia or in Africa. It is no wonder then, that, at the end of the 15th century, Giovanni Botero declared that the city contained the world or that, in a work published in 1608, Luís Mendes de Vasconcelos, following a long tradition, stated that defining the ‘City’ allowed to define the ‘Republic’.

But, in addition to the continuity of the categories and models of a Plato or Aristotle, the reality of the city has changed substantially in the modern period, starting with the space plan, when we consider the founding of European cities in new territories. The political dynamics associated with the state building process, to the principle of ‘capitality’ and the establishment of the princely court, or the economic ones, resulting from the ‘opening of the world’ and the intense circulation of people and goods between continents and oceans, especially benefiting port cities that affirmed themselves as cosmopolitan spaces, transformed the urban world between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is true that most of the population centres continued to be small and medium-sized, but, in general, we can say that, in the course of the modern period, urban life has become more complex and cities claimed to be a privileged vehicle of modernity.

We accompany Edgar Morin when he said that ‘the city, the living seat of historical society, is an extraordinary means of order, complexity, disorder, invention and ‘noise’.’<sup>1</sup> Therefore, it is the multiple dimensions of urban societies in the modern period that we intend to address in this set of sessions, welcoming communications that include, among many other themes and through case studies or comparative analyses, the impact of family models, migration and gender in the cities; social geography and urban zoning; the influence of the courts in the urban world; the coexistence among social bodies; urban identities; conflicts and riots; or the representation of social life in the arts.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Edgar Morin, *O Paradigma Perdido: a Natureza Humana*, Lisboa, Publicações Europa-América, s.d. [original edition: 1973], p. 179.



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#### 4. THE INDUSTRIAL CITY

Coordinator:

Jorge Fernandes Alves – University of Porto ([jorge.f.alves@gmail.com](mailto:jorge.f.alves@gmail.com))

Industrialization brought with it a new world, making itself visible in a significant way in the urban environment: it takes ownership of the city, promotes its reconfiguration in some cases, projects other spaces as new cities or surrounds the city by implanting itself in its outskirts, in the unceasing conjunction of several location factors, which sediment the industrial city.

Markets, techniques, mechanisation, factories, urbanisation, transport, automation, specialisation, distribution, production, consumption, new goods and values, profit, workers, social classes, inequalities and egalitarian ideals are some key words of an extended family, raised by the emergence of industry, touching almost all dimensions of life.

Industry is, by nature, transformation, resulting in continuous processes of transition or revolution, in structuring and restructuring, with the rapid emergence of obsolescence and innovation. How has the new industrial fabric covered the traditional city or shaped new cities? What is the industrial city like in its web of relations? Its light and its shadows? Its agents, its machines, its sites? What local and global social dynamics brought about industrialisation? How was its splendour, its renovation or its decadence? What are the contours of the industrial landscape bequeathed to us? Finally, what images, in the multiplicity of perspectives, does the industrial city raise?



## 5. THE CITY OF THE PRESENT

Coordinator:

Magda Pinheiro – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa ([magda.pinheiro@iscte.pt](mailto:magda.pinheiro@iscte.pt))

The deindustrialisation of large cities, in particular of European capital cities, has different chronologies depending on the country and began well before the deindustrialisation of Europe because of the theories in vogue among urban planners of the 1950s and 1960s. The heavy industry was, by state planning, transferred to small provincial towns or to the Iberian Peninsula, which became industrialised when Northern Europe began to deindustrialise. The same process reached the Iberian Peninsula, especially after the entry into the EEC and the relocation of Industry to the Far East.

The redevelopment of areas formerly dominated, not only by industry but also by port facilities, such as the Docklands in London, resulted in a breakdown of workers' or popular housing and its replacement by lofts or luxury floors for yuppies, artists and foreigners with high income. The dominant jobs in these areas are, however, precarious, related to cleaning and food and very dependent on emigrants. Thus, 'gentrification', in addition to the peripherisation of the popular habitat, also led to an extreme of social distances, replacing workers protected by powerful trade unions by often precarious immigrants.

However, the social consequences were diverse even in cities dominated by a single firm. Ivrea, in Italy, grew up linked to the Olivetti firm whose bosses had a policy of industrial modernisation and remarkable social progress. Defeated by personal computers, the family business has since collapsed, but the city managed to diversify its activities and maintain some social balance. Seixal, or even Barreiro, with the collapse of the industries and dominant companies, knew moments of great misery in the late 1980's. Strong social states, such as Germany and Sweden, were able to sustain transitions without much degradation of the people's standard of living.

The growth of international mobility has resulted in the existence of large numbers of migrants predominantly in precarious and underpaid jobs, but not only. The exponential growth of tourism causes the number of residents to fall while the streets, transport and even housing are full of tourists. In these movements, Art and artistic events deserve emphasis.

Some industrial cities have become historical cities, as is the case of Mulhouse, which was transformed into a Railway city.

Thus, the themes of this debate will be:

- Social aspects of deindustrialization with emphasis on port cities.
- Reurbanisation, social aspects, 'gentrification', Events, Art and Tourism
- Migrants, exile and economic emigration, social aspects.