

## *GENIUS LOCI* – PLACES AND MEANINGS

The three volumes, now published, are comprised of the essays presented in the *Genius Loci* International Congress – places and meanings, which was held between April 20 and 22, 2016 under the joint supervision of the Departamento de Ciências e Técnicas do Património (Department of Sciences and Techniques of Heritage, DCTP) of the Faculty of Arts and CITCEM (Transdisciplinary Research Center for Culture, Space and Memory). This academic conference was the product of two extremely important events: to commemorate the Department's two decades of existence as an institution of research, teaching and intervention in the field of Heritage and also to honour the late Professor Carlos Alberto Ferreira de Almeida, its mentor and first proponent. Recalling the unique pedagogical and scientific legacies left by this author so dear to us, legacies marked by the multidisciplinary nature of his course and body of work, we invited the scientific community to submit proposals for discussing and reflecting on fields to which he devoted himself the most during his life. For this reason, the Congress plan was divided into seven sections: Military Architectures, Sacred Spaces, Heritage Management, Images and Contexts, Worlds in Transition, Vernacular: Expressions and Representations and Paths, Landscape and Territory; each of these sections was supervised by lecturers affiliated with the DCTP.

The Congress received overwhelming support from the national and international scientific community – 180 communication proposals, involving 254 researchers, were submitted: 125 Portuguese submissions and 55 proposals from researchers of other nationalities. Of the latter group, we highlight the participation of various Spanish researchers, with 21 proposals and of several researchers from Brazil, with 13 proposals. The Congress was also attended by colleagues from a multitude of other countries: from Turkey, Italy, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Germany, Croatia, the United States of America, Latvia, Russia and Serbia.

To these communications we must add – and thank for the participation of – the seven invited speakers to open each of the structuring sections of the Congress: Section 1 – Military Architectures – Manuel Retuerce Velasco, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, with the essay titled “Los sistemas de fortificación en la Corona de Castilla”;

Section 2 – Sacred Spaces – Eduardo Carrero Santamaría, from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, with the paper titled “Liturgia, reyes y catedrales. Sobre una arquitectura concebida pra un reino o vestir la Iglesia para exaltar a un monarca”; Section 3 – Heritage Management – Dominique Crozat, Université Paul Valéry Montpellier, with the communication “A quoi sert le patrimoine? Patrimoine et developpement territorial “; Section 4 – Images and contexts – António Martinho do Carmo Baptista, from Archaeological Park of the Côa Valley and the Côa Museum, with the essay titled “A arte do Côa e o espírito do lugar: tradição e modernidade”; section 5 – Worlds in Transition – Carlos Fabião, from the Faculty of Letters of the University of Lisbon, author of the essay entitled “Índigenas vs. romanos e romanos vs. bárbaros: conceitos, periodizações e suas consequências ou como tornar os processos de transformação e mudança em objecto de estudo”; Section 6 – Vernacular: expressions and representations – Paulo Ferreira da Costa, director of the National Museum of Ethnology, with the paper “Património Imaterial: entre a emblematização e a produção de conhecimento; section 7 – Paths, Landscape and Territory – Laura Castro from the School of Arts of the Portuguese Catholic University of Porto, with the communication “As caminhos de longe e de perto.”

Of the 180 communications selected to be presented during the Congress, we are only able to publish (?) for several reasons. These presentations were submitted to the members of the congressional scientific committee for peer review. The high volume of texts submitted – along with the disparity in terms of subjects found in the proposals presented in the different sections – led us to publish this compilation in three volumes. The sections titled “Holy Places”, “Images and contexts” and “Heritage Management” received a greater number of proposals than the rest and, consequently, possess a greater volume of essays. To guarantee some degree of balance in the dimensions of each volume and their thematic coherence as a whole, we chose to divide them in the following manner: in Volume 1, the texts concerning the sections “Sacred Spaces” (19) and “Images and contexts” (21); in Volume 2, the sections “Military Architecture” (16), “Transitional Worlds” (10), “Vernacular: Expressions and Representations” (11) and “Roads, Landscape and Territory” (10); in Volume 3, the section “Heritage Management” (23). The multidisciplinary character of this academic conference united papers from several scientific fields, albeit with a greater incidence in the fields of Archaeology, History and History of Art, which we hope that shall contribute in a meaningful and impactful manner to the enrichment and to the broadening of knowledge in the fields of research to which Professor Carlos Alberto Ferreira de Almeida so passionately devoted himself in his scholarly endeavours.