

VII Seminar on Geography and Planning - University of Minho (Portugal)

Travels and Travellers

17th December 2010

Viagens e Viajantes

Throughout history geographers have been travellers, observers, measuring and narrating space and the world. From people like Humboldt or Al-Idrisi - carrying with them nomad ideas of looking and knowing of the cosmos - geographers have specialised and settled in their physical contact with the earth. If geography continues to be a discipline centred around the encounter with the world and with the 'other', paradoxically, in a time where space-time compression allows us hiper mobilities, we are increasingly closed in our offices, institutions, lives, rules and sedentary and rushed routines. If we know little about some of the most intrepid historical travellers, others have left rich legacies which reveal extraordinary reflections on the 'here' and 'there', and of the reconfiguration processes of the world. With the massification of pleasure travel (even if confined to a part of the world), there is an increasing number of people that travels extensively, participating in these flows or scapes as Arjun Appadurai calls them. The whole world seems to be on the move: from journalists to migrants and refugees, from tourists to movie and sport stars, from military to missionaries of all kinds. Apparently, for many people the world has no borders. Consequently, we find travel narratives in texts, images, in paper, in digital forms, and many diverse ways of telling travel, which define borders and spaces. Some of these acquire a renowned status and great notoriety, and even constitute themselves as dominant forms of seeing the world. Among this fertile travel narrative production we seem to find few formal geographers. It is this 'other' set of travellers that tells space and that in a sense produces geographical knowledge, constructing a plurality of geographical imaginations and 'impure geographies' as Derek Gregory names them. The meeting 'Travels and Travellers' intends to discuss the possible and the existent relationships between geographers, and Geography as a science that writes the world and that has always grown with travels, and travellers that construct various geographies. It is through this dialectic and in this *terra incognita* that we will try and build a common ground to discuss the production of geographical knowledge.

Call for Papers

Analytical and interpretative papers on the connections between space, travel and travellers are welcomed on the following themes:

- Travel experiences and geographical writing
- Tourism and mobility
- Spatiality of travel
- A experiência da viagem e a escrita geográfica

- Travel cultures
- Space, literature and travel writing
- Space and the History of Travel
- Technology, travellers and travel
- Travel representation
- Economy, space and travel
- Landscapes and travel
- Geopolitics and travel
- Gender and travel
- O Turismo e a mobilidade
- A espacialidade das viagens
- Culturas de viagem
- O espaço e a literatura e relatos de viagem
- O espaço e a História das viagens
- Tecnologias, viajantes e viagens
- Representações de viagem
- Economia, espaço e viagem
- A paisagem e os viajantes
- A Geopolítica e a viagem
- O género e a viagem

Submission of abstract /Submissão de resumos (max. 350 words)

no later than 10th October

Notification of acceptance/Comunicação da aceitação

no later than 30th October

Please send a Word document with the abstract, including name of author(s) & contact email to j.sarmento@geografia.uminho.pt

Portuguese, English, Spanish and Galician are the four official languages. The two morning sessions and the closing lecture will be held in Portuguese. Please note that simultaneous translation is not available

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