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## Editorial

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**Pedro Martins**

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# Editorial

Pedro Martins\*

With *Práticas da História* reaching its twelfth issue, it can be said that the journal is entering a consolidation stage. At the time of the first issue's release, there were several doubts that this project was feasible or that it would become a success. Many journals in the academic and scientific milieu are easily discontinued or fail to keep their periodicity, thus affecting their own indexation. However, thanks to the efforts of the members of our editorial board – recently updated –, to the diligent work of our referees, and to the support of the institutions that financially support us *Práticas da História* has gradually been established as a significant journal in the fields of history of historiography, theory of history and uses of the past. Furthermore, the ambition mentioned in the opening issue by the founders António da Silva Rêgo and Joaquim Gafeira of it becoming an “international journal” has been largely fulfilled. Although since its beginning many of the published articles have been in Portuguese, all issues have also included a high number of articles in the languages accepted by the journal – which demonstrates the impact that it has reached beyond the Portuguese context.

Another factor that we believe contributed to the journal's success has been its alternation between thematic and non-thematic issues. This has provided more space for plural perspectives, which was also one of our starting aims. The present issue, which follows a special issue, pursues this trend. It includes a set of separate texts on subjects as diverse as the struggles for slavery reparations, the representations of the “other” in the context of Portuguese colonialism, the uses of the Middle Ages in Italian cinema of the fascist period, the construction of the so-called “Anglo-Saxon” past, or concepts of “historicity” and “populism”. If, on the one hand, this apparent

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thematic dispersal can be understood as a proof of the diversity of texts that have been submitted, on the other hand, the issue's very structure resumes two great topics that have been traditionally covered in the journal.

Thus, the issue starts with the theme of memory, representations and uses of the colonial past. In this field, Tereza Ventura's article reflects on the role of black activism in the deconstruction of the regime that supports slavery and racial inequality in the Brazilian context. The text focuses on the concepts of "historical reparation" and "transitional justice", showing how, in the last four decades, the Brazilian black movement has been denouncing the persistence of colonial logics and contributing to the preservation of the memory of the former enslaved subjects' descendants. The second article, by Andrea Vacha, is dedicated to the representations of the colonial past, namely the iconography of the Vátua king Gungunhana, between the end of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 1960s. By examining a set of visual sources, the author demonstrates how Gungunhana became a symbol of the "Other", seen as savage and inferior in the context of Portuguese colonialism in this period.

The second topic covered in this issue, and which has been also recurrent in *Práticas da História*, are the representations and uses of the medieval past. Davide Iacono's article examines the representations of the figure of the *condottieri* in Italian fascist cinema. By mainly focusing on two movies from this period, Iacono explains how these late-medieval and Renaissance military leaders were transformed into symbols of Italian nationalism and prefigurations of a political leader such as Mussolini. Renato da Silva's text, on the other hand, makes an incursion into the uses of the so-called "Anglo-Saxon" past from the XVII<sup>th</sup> century to our times, demonstrating how the very term "Anglo-Saxon" is largely an historiographical construction marked by racist and colonialist prejudices. The article alerts to the appropriations of this construction by contemporary far-right movements and suggests possible solutions in the academic field to question its assumptions.

As has been tradition in the journal, the issue includes a section of essays. The two that we publish focus on two concepts: "historicity" and "populism". The first one is derived from a commentary to Leon-

hard Von Renthe Fink's entry "historicity" (*Geschichtlichkeit*), originally published in the *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie*, translated into Portuguese by the author Augusto Carvalho Dias Leite and published on this issue. Taking a phenomenological perspective, the text analyses the problem of historicity as the metaphysical foundation of the idea of modern history by examining in which sense authors such as Hegel, Heidegger and various Brazilian philosophers used it. The second essay, by Fernando Dores Costa, addresses contemporary debates on the concept of "populism". Reading the concept through Margaret Canovan's lenses, Costa demonstrates not only its fluidity but also its implications in the analysis of current political contexts.

We also publish Nuno Domingos and Diogo Ramada Curto's interview with Allen and Barbara Isaacman, conducted at the time of their visit to Lisbon in late 2019. In this interview, the two historians reflect on their experiences in the Mozambican colonial context, which would constitute the basis of their historiographical work.

This issue concludes with the usual book review section, this time dedicated to four works published last year. Similarly to the issue's structure, the section starts with the subject of the memory and uses of the colonial, namely with João Figueiredo's review of Dan Hicks' *The Brutish Museum: The Benin Bronzes, Colonial Violence and Cultural Restitution*. The second text, by Manuel Ribeiro Sanches, reflects on Gavin Arnall's *Subterranean Fanon. An Underground Theory of Radical Change*, a book that seeks to demonstrate the topicality of Fanon's political and psychiatric texts in the context of contemporary struggles. The third review, by Giulia Strippoli, addresses Teresa Bertilotti's edited work *Women's History at the Cutting Edge. An Italian Perspective* on the tensions and questions raised by the consolidation of feminist studies in the Italian context. The issue's last text, by Marta Prista, focuses on Pablo Alonso González's book *El antipatrimonio: fetichismo y dominación en Maragatería*, recently translated into Portuguese.