

NOVA SCIENCE

Interdisciplinarity and Impact

2023



NOVA
NOVA UNIVERSITY
LISBON



50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
IN RESEARCH

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS
AND FUTURE HORIZONS

RESEARCH
IMPACT

INTERDISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH

NOVA R&D
UNITS

AWARD-WINNING NARRATIVE 2023

Reviving non-conformist modern culture

Person responsible for the application:

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NOVA FCSH
CHAM - Centre for the Humanities

Main Scientific Area:
Humanities

Types of Impact:
Academic, Cultural, Educational, Social and Technological

SDGs:
4 and 11

SDGs Targets:
4.3, 4.7, 11.4

Back in 1993, Zília Osório de Castro created the "Seminário Livre de História das Ideias" (Free Seminar of History of Ideas) also known as the Seminar. The Seminar, constituted by an autonomous research and publication team formed by scholars with various academic affiliations, whose research is part of the CHAM – Centre for the Humanities of NOVA FCSH, had the aim of choosing an annual topic of common interest for discussion in monthly presentations by its members. At the turn of the century, the choice fell on the Dreyfus Affair, which made the group focus on the history of intellectual movements and on the magazines that provided their identity. However, the foremost problem of twentieth-century Portuguese cultural historiography soon emerged: the difficulty in accessing, consulting, and analysing numerous, complex, and sometimes extensive periodicals, often missing, or truncated in many leading cultural heritage institutions.

Starting from the intuition that only information technology could solve this problem, the Seminar decision was made

> The RIC Portal (Revistas de Ideias e Cultura) provides universal and indexed access to influential magazines of the 20th century.

> RIC has over 100,000 users and has received the Ler+ Award, as a testament of its significance in promoting modern cultural heritage and research in the humanities.

> The portal emphasizes open and user-friendly information access, attracting institutional partnerships in Portugal and Brazil, and promoting new forms of reading.

to follow the digital route. The seminar started first by the selection of magazines to be published according to their cultural relevance and the academic interests of the researchers involved; then, the digital scanning of complete collections of selected titles, after locating or reconstituting them; and finally, the creation of a database, the publication of one website per magazine and the dissemination of websites at events, news in the media and mailing lists. These websites provided users with open access to the magazines' complete collections, along with the tools to search them over eight indexes, original studies, and a documentary dossier organized by the specialists who edit and curate them. The collaborative work between the Seminar team, the National Library of Portugal, the Mário Soares and Maria Barroso Foundation, the FCT, I.P. the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the National Culture Centre, the Museum of Neo-Realism, the University of São Paulo (USP) and the State University of São Paulo resulted in the creation of "Revistas de Ideias e Cultura (RIC)" Portal. RIC provides a universal and indexed access to the magazines that moulded the thinking and causes of the twentieth century and constitutes a turning point in the diffusion of the periodicals that shaped modern reasons and values.

Research Impact

Research Impact Narratives



In October 2022, the climax of recognition for RIC's impact took place with the Ler+ Award, conferred by the National Reading Plan. This prize is inseparable from the 100,000 users and the 2,300,000 pageviews, between September 2015 and May 2023, 23% originating outside Portugal. A second milestone was also achieved in 2022 with the first six websites of RIC Brazil. They resulted from the interest of senior Brazilian researchers in replicating the model, in 2019, at a scientific meeting at Casa de Rui Barbosa, as well as from the agreement signed between NOVA and USP. Notably, several types of impacts are present, with emphasis on open and friendly access to information, the attraction of institutional partnerships in Portugal and Brazil, and the appreciation of modern cultural heritage associated with research in the humanities and new forms of promoting reading.

The current researchers of the Seminar believe that, today RIC exerts a very significant political and academic impact on the study and community appropriation of the nonconformist legacy of modern Portuguese culture. Furthermore, in 2023, RIC will feature thirty-five websites and the prospect of reaching, in 2030, more than one hundred published websites. This occasion will signify a second climax in the general mapping of contemporary Portuguese culture, which will be furnished with heuristic and hermeneutic navigation instruments allowing users to ask questions and receive answers. Thus, the impact of RIC will follow a classic narratological arc.

"Newspapers made politics and magazines wove culture."

Luis Andrade, in *Público*, March, 24, 2020