CURRICULUM VITAE

ZOLTÁN BIEDERMANN, PhD

QUALIFICATIONS

**PhD** in History & the History of Portuguese Expansion: January 21, 2006
École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris
Universidade Nova, Lisbon (*doctorat en co-tutelle*)

Supervisors:
Professors Luís Filipe Thomaz (Lisbon), Jean-Claude Waquet (Paris) &
Dejanirah Couto (Paris)

Thesis: “Portuguese Imperial Policies in Ceylon between Maritime Control and Territorial Conquest, 1506-1598”
(Written in Portuguese, long abstract in French)

*Summa cum laude*

**MA** in Social Anthropology, Early Modern History & European Ethnography: 1998
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany

Supervisors:
Professors Thomas O. Höllmann & László Vajda

Thesis: “Soqotra in Early Sources – History and Ethnography”
(Written in German, now published)
Final mark of MA including thesis: 1,36 on a scale from 1 to 6

**BA** in History & Archaeology: 1994, Universidade do Porto, Portugal
Final mark 16/20 (Best B.A. in History in 1994)

FURTHER QUALIFICATIONS

**PCGE** (Postgraduate Certificate of Education) in Higher Education, 2010, Birkbeck, University of London

*Qualification* attributed by the Federation of French Universities, qualifying the holder to teach in Higher Education in France, Paris, 2006
LANGUAGES

Hungarian, German (native speaker)
Portuguese, English, French (reading, writing and speaking proficiency)
Spanish (reading and speaking proficiency, writing fluency)
Catalan, Italian, Dutch (reading fluency)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & PRIZES

2007 – 2008: Post-doctoral Research Fellowship by the Portuguese National Foundation for Science and Technology (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia - FCT)


2006: Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation short grant for research in Spanish archives

2000 – 2003: PhD Fellowship by the Portuguese National Foundation for Science and Technology (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia - FCT)

1997: Volkswagen Grant for the summer course “Ethnographic collections in the eighteenth century” at the University of Göttingen

1995: ZIS grant for a Summer course (Italian language) at Rome

1993 – 1997: BA/MA Fellowship by the National Academic Foundation of Germany (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)

1994: Prize for best BA in History/Archaeology granted by the Engenheiro António de Almeida Foundation, Porto

1993: Prize for junior fieldwork on Sephardic Jewish Communities in Morocco granted by the Franco-German ZIS Foundation for International Cooperation

1992: Grant for junior fieldwork on Sephardic Jewish Communities in Morocco by the Franco-German ZIS Foundation for International Cooperation

1992: Summer course (Spanish language, literature and art), grant by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Madrid

PRESENT APPOINTMENT

Lecturer in Iberian Studies, Department of Iberian and Latin American Studies, Birkbeck College, University of London (from 1 January 2009)
FURTHER AFFILIATION & DUTIES

Researcher (Investigador associado) at the Centre for Overseas History, New University of Lisbon (from January 2009, with previous appointments – this is a formal link I maintain with my previous research centre for the running of joint projects)


PAPERS PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES

- ‘Local, regional and global factors in Portugal’s imperial stance in Sri Lanka’, Empire, Identity and Early Modernity: New Insights from Sri Lanka, Panel at the 125th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Boston, Hynes Centre, 5-9 January 2011 (invitation, College and external funding)


- ‘Negotiating India: Portuguese travel and diplomacy in Hindustan, 1498-1550’, Europe and India in the Early Modern Period, Dublin, Trinity College, 3-4 June 2010 (invitation, fully funded)


- ‘An Empire of Diplomats: Portuguese Strategies in Asia in the Sixteenth Century’, Portuguese Studies Conference, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 22 November 2009 (invitation, fully funded)


- ‘The “Malwana Convention” revisited. Some notes on the transition to Iberian rule’, Perspectives on Sri Lanka’s Historiography, organized by the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies, Colombo, 10-11 September 2009 (invitation, fully funded)

- ‘A conquista de Ceilão: problemas de espaço e poder no período filipino’, Portugal e o Império na Monarquia Católica, New University of Lisbon, Lisbon, 24th of April 2009 (invitation, fully funded)

- 'Os outros Vieiras: Fernão de Queiroz e a profecia jesuítica no Oriente, 1630-1690', António Vieira, Roma e l’universalesimo delle monarchie portoghese e spagnola, Università degli Studi Roma III, Rome, 28th-29th November 2008 (invitation, fully funded)


- 'Mapping the Backyard of an Empire: Portuguese Cartographies of the Persian Littoral during the Safavid Period', Safavid Persia, the Persian Gulf and the Portuguese, Freer & Sackler Galleries, Washington, DC, 7th-9th September 2007 (invitation, fully funded)


- 'The Deeper Roots of a Conflict: Political Transformations in Sri Lanka during the “Portuguese Period” (1500-1650), Annual South Asia Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, 20th-22nd of October 2006


- 'Representations of the Sri Lankan Space in Portuguese Texts and Maps of the Sixteenth Century’, Sri Lanka – Portugal, 500 Years, org. by Jorge Flores for the Centre Culturel Calouste Gulbenkian, Paris, 16th to 18th of December, 2005 (invitation, fully funded, honorarium)

- 'As redes sociais de Fernão Mendes Pinto em Portugal’, Fernão Mendes Pinto e a Peregrinação, org. by Jorge Alves for the Fundação Oriente, Lisbon, Arrábida, 20th to 22nd of October, 2005 (invitation, fully funded)


- 'Urban Growth in a Time of Changing Policies: Colombo and the Portuguese, 1518-1656’, International Seminar on Portuguese Factories, Fortresses and Settlements in India with Special Reference to Cannanore, org. by K. S. Mathew for the Kannur Institute for Research on Social History, Kattampaly, Kannur (South India), 20th to 24th of February 2005 (invitation, fully funded)
- ‘Portuguese Diplomats and Diplomacy in Asia in the 16th Century’, *Colonialism and diplomatic relations in Asia, 1500-2000*, org. by Jurrien van Goor and the Department of History of the University of Utrecht (Netherlands), Utrecht, 2nd to 3rd September 2004 (invitation, fully funded)


- ‘A Vanishing Maritime Influence: Iran and Socotra in a Time of Portuguese and Ottoman Expansion’, *The Silk Route of the Seas: From the Persian Gulf to the China Seas*, org. by the Austrian Academy of Science, Vienna, 20th to 21st February 2004 (invitation, fully funded)

- ‘Smart, Strong and Stubborn: Elephants from Ceylon in the 16th and 17 Centuries’, *Produção e comércio de mercadorias raras*, org. by the Oriente Foundation Lisbon, Arrábida, 7th to 8th November 2003 (invitation, fully funded)

- ‘Making War for Money – Luso-Lankan relations in the early 16th century’, *XIth International Seminar on Indo-Portuguese History*, org. by the University of Goa, Goa, 21st to 25th September 2003 (invitation, fully funded)

- ‘A China de João de Barros e o imaginário imperial joanino’, *D. João III e o Império*, org. by the Center for Overseas History and the Portuguese Catholic University, Lisbon, 4th to 8th June 2002 (invitation, fully funded)

- ‘Índios e Indianos na obra de João de Barros e Pero de Magalhães Gândavo’, *Xth International Seminar on Indo-Portuguese History*, org. by the Hydrographical Institute of the Brazilian Navy, Salvador da Bahia, 5th-9th December 2000

**Other Lectures and Public Presentations (selection)**

- ‘Krieg und Frieden im Garten Eden: die Portugiesen in Sri Lanka’, talk given at the occasion of the opening of the exhibition “Ivories from Ceylon” at the Museum Rietberg, Zurich, 28th November 2010 (invitation, fully funded)

- ‘Territorialisation de l’Empire portugais en Asie: de quoi parlons-nous?’, guest lecture at the Hispanic seminar, EHESS, Paris, 13 January 2010 (invitation, fully funded)

- ‘Urbanism, cosmopolitanism and the troublesome temporalities of Portuguese Asia’, presentation at the ILAS Research Seminar, Birkbeck, 26th May 2009

- Moderation of a roundtable discussion at the workshop Projecto de edição dos Comentários de don García de Silva y Figueroa, New University of Lisbon, Lisbon, 8th April 2008

- ‘An Empire of Diplomats: The Portuguese Network in Asia, 1500-1650’, History Lecture of the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Group, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, 28th February 2008 (invitation, fully funded)

- ‘João de Barros, the Decades of Asia and the wider context of Renaissance Cosmography’, Research Seminar, Department of Portuguese Studies, Oxford, 12th February 2008 (invitation, fully funded)

- ‘How an Ocean Shaped an Empire: The Indian Ocean and the Portuguese Networks in Asia during the Early Modern Period’, The Annual Maritime History Lecture Sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Arts and Letters, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia, 12th April 2007 (invitation, fully funded)

- ‘A fundação do Estado da Índia em 1505’, held at the Jornadas Henriquinas (“Science for Teachers Programme”), Lagos, Portugal, 10th November 2005 (invitation, fully funded)

- ‘Entre o sagrado e o profano: o negócio dos elefantes de Ceilão, séculos XVI-XVII’, held at the Seminar on The Circulation of Commodities in the Early Modern Age, New University of Lisbon, 24th March 2004

List of Publications

Titles under Preparation

- Mutual Conquests: Portugal, the Habsburgs and the Making of Early Colonial Ceylon, 1500-1600, under preparation for 2011.
  [Revised and adapted English version of the PhD thesis]

- A aprendizagem de Ceilão. A presença portuguesa no Sri Lanka entre estratégia talassocrática e conquista territorial, 1506-1598, Lisbon: Centro de História de Além-Mar, under revision for 2011
  [Revised version of the Portuguese original of the PhD thesis]

Forthcoming Work

  [A preliminary study of prophetic activities in Portuguese India, based on the life and visions of the Jesuit Pedro de Basto, as narrated and interpreted by the Jesuit Fernão de Queiroz, 1630's to 1690's]

  [A micro-analysis of the political process that led to the Habsburg administration’s decision to initiate the official conquest of Ceylon]

  [A critical study of the path that led to the Portuguese-Spanish project of conquering Ceylon over the sixteenth century]

  [Two-page summary of Portuguese large-scale mapping in the eighteenth century]

  [A traditional survey of Portuguese maps depicting the Persian littoral, with a brief discussion of their role in the development of imperial ambitions in Portugal and Persia]
[Two-page article on Portuguese small-scale mapping in eighteenth century Asia]

[Comparative essay on the anthropological concepts of Barros, the Portuguese court humanist, and Gândavo, an early “historian” of Brazil]

**PUBLISHED WORK**

**Books**

[A selection of one hundred European maps of the Gulf, analysed in the context of European expansion in the region and the evolution of early modern mapmaking]

[History of the island of Soqotra in Yemen, with a focus on the contacts between Soqotran Christians and Arab, Iberian, Dutch and English travellers and missionaries between 1500 and 1700; revised MA thesis]

**Journal articles**

[A triangular analysis of Portuguese, Spanish and Lankan political conceptions and attitudes during the beginnings of European imperial expansion in the region]

[A comparative study of the urban structures of two colonial port cities controlled by the Portuguese, and later by the Dutch. Pleads for a complexification of traditional categories of analysis beyond the paradigms of national historiographies]

[ Presentation of the earliest Portuguese regional map of Ceylon, now in Madrid]

- ‘Uma erva de muitas virtudes: o aloés de Socotorá na mira de viajantes e botanistas desde a Antiguidade até à Època Moderna’, in Revista de Cultura de Macau, 21 (2007), pp. 28-46
[Essay about the historical botany of Soqotran aloes, from Antiquity to the nineteenth century]
[Analysis of the anthropological concepts underlying Barros’ Renaissance descriptions of Asia]

[Critical edition/translation of a German copy of a Portuguese letter, now lost, containing the first peace treaty between the Portuguese and an Indian kingdom]

[Selected chapters of the MA thesis on Soqotra, adapted and translated into Portuguese]

Book chapters


[General overview on Portuguese cities in Asia in the mid-1500’s]

- ‘Introduction’ (with Dejanirah Couto, Jean-Louis Bacqué-Grammont & Mahmoud Taleghani), in Historical Atlas of the Persian Gulf (listed above), 2006, p. 31-37


  [A reassessment of the Sri Lankan transition to Iberian rule, especially the so-called “Malwana Convention, reconsidered in the light of recent studies on the Cortes de Tomar and the transition of Portugal to Spanish rule]

  [Prosopographical study of the Portuguese traveller’s ties with military orders and noble families in continental Portugal, namely through the Order of Santiago]

  [Essay on the origins and development of a West-East frontier in Southern Arabia between the Portuguese and Ottoman spheres of influence]

  [Brief survey of the morphological and toponymic data in Portuguese maps of the Straits of Hormuz]

  [Article dealing with the mental/spatial framework of early Portuguese activities in Ceylon]

  [General overview of the Portuguese impact in Ceylon, with a focus on diplomacy and art]

  [Presentation of the Atlas project and discussion of the methodological issues involved]

  [General survey and attempt at a systematization of Portuguese diplomatic activities in Asia]

  [Analysis of the beginnings of the Portuguese presence and early military activities in Ceylon]

Produtos raros no comércio marítimo/ Produits rares dans le commerce maritime/ Selten Waren im Seehandel (South China and Maritime Asia, 15), Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag & Lisbon: Fundação Oriente, 2005, p. 141-167

[Article on the elephant trade and its implications during the Portuguese and Dutch periods]


[Essay on the global historiographical framework in Barros’ chronicle, with a focus on China]

Catalogue entries


Book reviews (selection)


- ‘Le Voyage de Ludovico di Varthema en Arabie & aux Indes Orientales (1503-1508)’, by Paul Teyssier et al. [Editions Chandeigne, 2004], in Oriente, 17 (Spring 2007), p. 120

- ‘Zheng He. Images & Perceptions. Bilder & Wahrnehmungen’, by Claudine Salmon & Roderich Ptak (eds.) [Harrassowitz Verlag, 2005], in Oriente, 17 (Spring 2007), p. 120-123


- ‘Gloire des princes, louanges des dieux’, by Joep Bor & Philippe Bruguière [Paris, Musée de la Musique, 2003], in Oriente, 6 (August 2003), p. 121-123

- ‘Hum Curto Historia de Ceylan - Quinhentos anos de relações entre Portugal e o Sri Lanka’, by Jorge Manuel Flores [Lisbon: Fundação Oriente, 2001], in Oriente, 4 (December 2002), S. 118-120

