



BROWN UNIVERSITY
Department of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies

CLEPUL 2010 Report Evaluation

The 2010 Report of the Centro de Literaturas e Culturas Lusófonas e Europeia heralds a dynamic institution, broad in scope but well-divided in six interconnected branches, forming a structure that seems to allow for an impressive output - publications (articles, books and a journal), conferences, colloquia, lectures, seminars for graduate students, plus free courses and multimedia initiatives.

Living far away across the Atlantic, and not being able to participate in most of the above mentioned activities, I can, however, speak comfortably about the Centre in general, basing my evaluation on personal experience since I have attended and participated in a few of the events. I have received and read a significant number of publications, and I was a discussant at the conference on "Iberian and Slavonic cultures in contacts and comparisons". I was a speaker twice, in the Tertulia series, once at a hospital in Setúbal, the other one in Lisbon - and I must reiterate how favorably impressed I was by the number and quality of people attending, something that speaks eloquently of CLEPUL's well-established reputation. I have also followed from afar some of its events, namely the conference in Lisbon on Religious Orders and Congregations in Portugal, widely covered by the media, as well as the conference on "Europe of nations. Myths of origin - modern and postmodern discourses", which took place at the University of Aveiro.

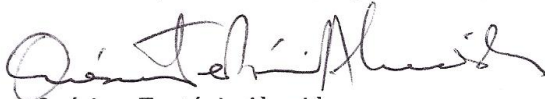
What strikes me most in all these initiatives is the energy that one senses in the air and the synergies one witnesses being generated as people meet and interact. Considering the relatively modest amount of funding the Centre and its projects receive (at least in comparison with similar structures in the United States), it is hard to believe that so much has already been accomplished. CLEPUL is pulled together and actually galvanized by a notable team of leaders that cooperate extremely well, sharing a core set of values that have been inspiring the cohort of researchers and students associated with the Centre. A publication such as the journal *Letras Com Vida* is definitely first-class. The same can be said about the books and papers that have come my way.

I am not sure the Centre will be able to continue with this outpouring of events and publications after suffering drastic cuts in funding from FCT. It is regrettable that this should happen, but apparently it is an unavoidable situation. It is, however, of the utmost importance that the Centre's leaders, as well as its other members, receive a sign that the work being done, in what I gather is the largest and

most productive Humanities Centre in Portugal, is appreciated enough for what it has been able to accomplish and for what it wishes to continue accomplishing.

The tone of this evaluation may sound more like coming from an advocate than from a neutral observer, but I am also a citizen and a scholar deeply concerned with the future of the Humanities in Portugal. I believe that CLEPUL is doing an outstanding job and it should receive unequivocal signs of approval and encouragement translated into proper funding.

Providence, Rhode Island, September 16, 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Onésimo Teotónio Almeida', written in a cursive style.

Onésimo Teotónio Almeida
Professor