

MEDIEVAL HISTORY IN THE CATALAN RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS (2003-2009)

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ABSTRACT

The Catalan researchers in Medieval History during the period 2003-2009 had reached 3,393,339.77 € for research projects and published 1,249 articles, chapters and books, of which only 11.04% were written in a language other than Catalan or Spanish, although most of the authors had an adequate level of internationalization and taking part of the main lines of research's innovation. Researchers must combine research, teaching and the management of its centers. The posts are funded according not research but teaching necessities, and the authorities promote hired places more than civil servants.¹

KEYWORDS

Research, Researchers, Funds, Medieval History, Catalonia.

CAPITALIA VERBA

Investigatio, Investigatores, Pecuniae, Historia Mediaevalis, Catalonia.

This article analyses a host of data —bibliometric, budgetary and others— to analyse the scientific production on the Middle Ages produced in Catalonia between 2003 and 2009, and extracts conclusions about the impact and significance of the research in the field of medieval history from these that aim to be objective.² This work is really the full version of a report requested by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans in 2012, in its concern, shared with the *Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca*, to carry out a critical follow up of the research in Catalonia. That is why an abridged version is included in the report on research into history,³ which is more important as it enables the data to be compared with those from previous periods studied in earlier reports by the *Institut d'Estudis Catalan* ("Catalan Studies Institute"), these being 1990-1995⁴ and 1996-2001.⁵

In accordance with the earlier works, the research in this study focuses on the public universities. More for formal reasons, this perspective has been maintained because although the private universities that have appeared in a Catalonia (Universitat Abat Oliba CEU, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Universitat Ramon Llull) have included studies like the Humanities in their offer, they have yet to develop areas of research into medieval history and have not focussed on the dynamics of seeking and managing resources in their field of research in the same way as the regulated research in public institutions.

Especially rigorous research into the medieval period in Catalonia has been undertaken in various periods, with a certain cadence over the last quarter of the 20th century and stretching into the 21st, denoting an urge for reflection and criticism.⁶

1. Abbreviations used: BP, Programa Beatriu de Pinós; CSIC, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. Institució Milà i Fontanals; CU, Catedràtic d'Universitat; JdC, Programa Juan de la Cierva; RyC: Programa Ramon y Cajal; TEU, Titular d'Escola Universitària; TU, Titular d'Universitat; UAB, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; UB, Universitat de Barcelona; UdG, Universitat de Girona; UdL, Universitat de Lleida; UPE, Universitat Pompeu Fabra; URV, Universitat Rovira i Virgili.

2. The basis for this article is the study of the volume obtained after accumulating a host of data and counting them with numerical precision. Thus, I wish to thank the generous supply of data from my fellows working in the same area, which has allowed me to make a detailed percentual concretion, and also the atmosphere of reflection provided by my Brazilian colleagues which facilitated the writing of these lines from a desired distance found in the Universidade Federal do Paraná and Universidade Federal do Mato Grosso, in spring 2012.

3. Sabaté, Flocel. "Història Medieval". *Reports de la recerca a Catalunya. 2003-2009. Història*, Antoni Simon, ed. October 2014, Institut d'Estudis Catalans. 2 November 2014 <http://www.iec.cat/reports/reports3/Historia0309_definitiu.pdf>: 37-73.

4. Balcells, Albert, ed. *Reports de la recerca a Catalunya. Història*. Barcelona: Institut d'Estudis Catalans, 1998.

5. Balcells, Albert, ed. *Reports de la recerca a Catalunya. 1996-2002. Història*. Barcelona: Institut d'Estudis Catalans, 2005.

6. Aside from sectoral considerations, the overall contribution in the area of medieval history has been undertaken as follows: Batlle, Carme; Ferrer, Maria Teresa. "Balanz de les activitats historiogràfiques referents a l'edat mitjana a la postguerra franquista". *Cuadernos de Historia Económica de Cataluña*, 19 (1978): 321-330; Salrach, Josep Maria. "Balance crítico y perspectivas de la producción historiográfica sobre historia medieval catalano-balear en la dècada 1978-1986". *Studia Historica. Historia Medieval*, 6 (1988): 95-139; Salrach, Josep Maria. "Noves recerques i interpretacions sobre la història medieval general i de Catalunya en particular". *Balma. Didàctica de les ciències socials, geografia i història*, 2 (1995):



Within this dynamic, there was a great deal of research activity in medieval history in Catalonia in the 2002-2009 period, a fact reflected in the number of publications. This links in to other positive factors, such as attracting resources, but also other more doubtful aspects, like the real degree of internationalisation. In all cases, what stands out is the challenges from the institutional research structure and the permanent demands for researchers to adapt to the new formal frameworks.

1. Infrastructure, human and economic resources

Research requires a foundation that cannot be overlooked but requires a detailed analysis to assess precisely what the real capacity of the centres is, the amount of researchers and the funding.

1.1 Universities and CSIC

In the period under consideration, researchers in medieval history in Catalonia were spread around seven research centres of varying size. None of these had its own administrative and organisational units, but in all cases, trying to achieve a conceptual coherence, which was well defined in two centres: the Institució Milà i Fontanals, part of the CSIC, and the UB. In the former, the medievalists share the Department of Medieval Studies with other areas that also study the Middle Ages, a pairing that currently takes the form of a researcher in philology. In the latter, which includes almost a third of all the medievalists in Catalonia, it constituted the Department of Medieval History, Palaeography and Diplomatics together with the teachers and researchers from the area of Historiographic Sciences and Techniques. In the UAB, the medievalists still follow this scheme, further adding various areas that can be included within the 'Sciences of Antiquity', while, in much smaller numbers, in the UdL they are included within the Department of History, in the URV in that of History and Art History, in the UdG in Geography, History and Art History and in the UPF in a generic department of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The immediate consequence is that the structuring into the university departments has little effect on the research task. The researchers, following their respective lines, have created their own synergies from their activities and research projects and the consolidation of the research groups. Significantly, there is no department where the teachers have shared the same research units. This bias is shown by the search by the researchers themselves for transversal formulae to enable them to link researchers from various centres, as well as approaching those in other departments

83-95; Riera, Antoni. "La Historia Medieval en Cataluña (1990-1995). Un balance breve de las últimas investigaciones". *Anuario de Estudios Medievales*, 27/1 (1997): 501-567; Salrach, Josep Maria. "La història de Catalunya, avui. La llarga edat mitjana". *Butlletí de la Societat Catalana d'Estudis Històrics*, 25 (2014): 261-297.



in the same universities who are working on research into the same medieval period in other disciplines. This way, structures with greater incidence on the research have been stabilised, as with the development of the group recognised by the UdL in 2001 and stabilised in 2005 as the Consolidated Medieval Studies Research Group 'Space, Power and Culture', which aims to bring together researchers from different areas (history, art history, philology) who work on similar themes in medieval research in the UdL and the URV, and even more so, in 2008, when the UB created the Institute of Research into Medieval Cultures as its own research centre using a similar formula.

1.2 Other research centres

Apart from the mentioned centres, one must consider the place of the *Institut d'Estudis Catalans*, legally defined by its academic and scientific functions in Catalonia. Without its own researchers, but made up of members from other centres, it promotes and finances research programmes, publications and other action to encourage research into fields that, in the period studied, included medieval history.

Another area is the work of the local and district centres. These have a strong tradition in the Catalan social fabric, a long trajectory of making new contributions to medieval history and, in many cases, sustaining publications, especially district journals full of notable contributions to medieval history. The university training of many of their proponents (generally teachers, cultural managers in charge of such centres as archives, libraries or museums, etc.) ensures the quality of contributions that also contribute powerfully to a territorially balanced knowledge of what the Middle Ages were like in Catalonia with their numerous publications during the period studied. However, they cannot be considered research centres, because this title is reserved for those institutions that not only contribute new knowledge but also participate in an organised international system in scientific working. Nevertheless, we must value initiatives that connect this local work with the university setting very positively, as was the case in the period studied, of the *Coordinadora de Centres d'Estudis de Parla Catalana* ("Coordinator of Catalan Speaking Study Centres"), through scientific meeting and other activities.

1.3 Teaching and research personnel

In the period studied, great stability in the civil service bodies dedicated to research is perceived. At these levels, only one new post was created, in 2005, of a *Científico Titular* in the CSIC, which is a permanent inferior post as a civil servant. In the other cases, the changes were due to personal promotions without increasing the numbers of members of the research bodies. In the higher levels as civil servants—*catedràtics d'universitat* (CU) and *professors titulars* (TU), similar to professors and lecturers, respectively—in 2003, the UB increased the number of professors from



two to three; in the URV in 2008, the change was from three TUs and one CU to two TUs and two CUs, and in 2009, the UdL went from one CU and two TUs to two CUs and one TU, while in 2003, the post of TU in the UPF disappeared when the holder became a CU. Likewise, in 2003, in the CSIC, there was a change from a *científico titular* to a *investigador científico* (a middle permanent researcher post) and in 2009, from *científico titular* to research professor (the highest permanent level in the research centres). There were no changes in the two TUs in the UdG in that period. This shows that the tendency everywhere was to restrict access to these posts: only a single promotion in 2003 in the UB changed a TU from a post of *professor titular d'Escola Universitària*, while in later dates, stabilisation was sought through the formula of permanent contracts in the Catalan system. Some probationary appointments were not consolidated, as happened in the UB in 2003 when the previous holder of an interim post found provisional continuity as a *professor associat*.

The new hired posts (*lector* as an lower and temporary contract; and *agregat*, as a middle and permanent contract) allowed some researchers to be consolidated: in two cases in the UB (one from the temporary *ajudant LRU* and another one becoming first *associat* and then *lector*); two other cases in the UAB (both being previously *associat*, one of them reaching a post of *lector* in 2005 and a post of *agregat* in 2009, and another one earning a *lector* post in 2009) and one in the UPF, who went from *ajudant* to *lector* in 2006. Thus, the contractual graduation, becoming first *lector* and then *agregat*, appears as the preferred path for consolidating researchers in the period analysed.

Research activity has allowed the number of research places to be increased through the programmes of both the corresponding Spanish Ministry and the Catalan autonomous administration (*Generalitat de Catalunya*) for temporary research contracts. This meant that, between 2003 and 2004, the UB was able to enjoy one post for a postdoctoral researcher; in 2007, a researcher from the *Beatriu de Pinós* programme at the UdL was contracted; in 2008, the CSIC won another from the *Juan de la Cierva* programme, and the UdL, another high level one from the *Ramon y Cajal* programme; and that in 2009, the CSIC added a researcher also from the *Ramon y Cajal* programme, as well as another postdoctoral researcher through its own *JADE* programme. These figures not only injected vitality but also facilitated the recruitment of human capital from outside the Catalan research system: the four researchers who filled the most prominent posts (one *Beatriu de Pinós*, one *Juan de la Cierva* and two *Ramon y Cajal*) were from research centres outside Catalonia, three of them, foreign. The opposite of this fundraising is the lack of future perspectives. In none of the cases did the end of the contract lead to continuity with new researchers under the same figure, nor was there any offers to extend the research careers of those affected: during the period studied, the finalisation of the above-mentioned *Beatriu de Pinós* and *Juan de la Cierva* postdoctoral posts led to the holder of the first continuing his research career outside the Catalan system and the other two not finding any possibility of continuing in the world of research.

More irregularly, the obligations of management or specialisation in research that accompany the consolidated researchers enabled the creation of occasional teaching



posts that did not actually progress to research places but rather disappeared, as with the *associats* in the UdL between 2008 and 2009 and the addition of an *associat* in the UdG in 2009 and another in the UPF. In fact, these posts were added to those of *associats* that the UB and the UAB have notably enjoyed in the medieval field. These posts were created in function of the teaching requirements and not the research needs, which usually justify the limited financial resources they receive. However, these were filled by personnel who do research and, with this work, show their desire to contribute to the research career. In all these cases, the mobility and instability of these posts reflects a precariousness that contradicts the stability necessary for good research work. Over the period studied in all the Catalan universities, there were 23 associate teachers in the field of medieval history, of whom 26.08% remained in this situation and 30.48% ended up outside the research system. Among these, 21.74% continued their career through other precarious formulae in the same centre or another university, 4.33% moved outside Catalonia, another 4.33% achieved work in Catalonia but in another field of research and only 13.04% went on to become associates in higher posts in the current university framework, in the same centre and field of research, in all cases as *lector* or *agregat*. The hope that the figure of associate would allow university tasks to be combined with other professional activities was only the case in 10 of the 23 associates, employed in related activities (private universities, technical tasks in the same university, archives, archaeology, political-social management) and mainly —half, or five of the ten— in secondary teaching. This is a misleading formula: almost all these activities require high levels of dedication to activities not related to university research, which is why most of those involved do not view this duality as a complementarity of tasks and, would like the post of associate to be not just a mere complement but a prior stage in their consolidation in the university.

At the same time, the high research activity was reflected in the maintenance of very high numbers of grant holders in five centres, the UdL, UB, CSIC, UAB and UdG, which had 13, 12, 6, 4 and 3 grant holders respectively, in other words, 38 new researchers with provision for their doctoral training in medieval history. However, the difficulty with the later consolidation of these young researchers can be seen in their disappearance from the Catalan university system: of the 25 researchers who concluded their contracts in this period, only nine (six from the UB, two from the UdL and one from the UAB) continued their research careers in the field of medieval history during the period analysed.

The technical-scientific support for research was achieved through the figures of the existing research support technicians in the UB and the CSIC, in the former case with an associate teacher who, in the period studied, combined this role with another job and in the case of the CSIC, there was briefly, between 2005 and 2006, a specific post for this.

So, staffing is not envisaged in function of the research nor the research structures. The modifications respond more to legitimate rights for the promotion of personnel than to the curricular design of the research. Moreover, the evolution of the staff in the universities over the period studied shows the tendency to restrict the number



of teachers and researchers, freeze civil servant posts, promote the hired posts and limit the growth of the research posts. Among other effects, this led to a constant aging of the research staff (see attached table 1), although there was a marked difference between the centres around Barcelona and the other three —the UdG, the UdL and the URV—, which had a younger average. Only the consolidation of a research post in the CSIC in this period slowed down the progressive aging, which will be put to the test when, in the immediately following seven-year period, there will be a need to cover a greater number of retirements.

More evidence is that the number of researchers and their dedication depends on teaching requirements in all centres except the CSIC. In this sense, an increase in the teaching demands is perceived. The evolution of teaching in the same period entered into new curricular designs that required more dedication in all the teaching process and, moreover, a greater distancing between the contents of the teaching and the research. More generalist contents reduced the presence of specialised teaching to attract and lay the bases for future medievalists. The situation led to a veritable duality of tasks for the researcher and teacher, and teaching was seen, not as a complement, but more as a demand difficult to combine with the research task. To compensate for the high teaching loads, only the largest centre, the UB, was able to provide a sabbatical year almost annually for one of its consolidated professors (CU, TU and aggregates), while among the other centres, only the UdG was able to do so, in one case in the 2009-10 course. Moreover, inside each centre, the distribution is unequal, with no direct relation between a lower teaching load and greater scientific contribution, although all the universities adopted systems of internal evaluation that tended to apply a compensatory system to the activity of the researchers and teachers.

It must still be added that the members in all research centres have to fulfil management tasks, either in research or education. The comparative table by centres denotes a generally greater load in small universities, where the work has to be distributed between a smaller of teaching staff.

The contemporary increase in the demands in the forms and evaluation of the research accentuated the contradictions between these triple professional responsibilities: research, teaching and management. However, the research work done by the Catalan medievalists was mainly successful, as indicated by the recognition given to it. 62.5% of the researchers reached the research stretches awarded by the pertinent authority positively (*Comisión Nacional Evaluadora de la Actividad Investigadora* —CNEAI— in the case of the TUs and CUs, and *Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya* —AQU— in the case of *lectors* and *agregats*), which not only implies carrying out a good level of research but also knowing how to adequately orientate its scientific divulgation, in line with the quality parameters required. Then, there are other more specific indicators, like the two distinctions for research awarded to medieval researchers by the *Department d'Universitats, Recerca i Societat de la Informació (DURSI)* of the Catalan autonomous Government during the period studied (one to the UdL between 2000 and 2004,



and another to the UdG between 2004 and 2008), in order to recognize an excellent level of research.

A final reflection is the unequal relationship between medievalists and palaeographers. The latter are not included in any of the statistical calculations and reflections in this report, given that they make up a specific area of Historiographic Sciences and Techniques. However, their work is very close to that of the medievalists, which is illustrated by their proximity in the organisational structure. They are found sharing departments with the medievalists in the UB, UAB, UdG and URV. The greatest presence was in the UB. In the period studied, there were two promotions from TU to CU (2004 and 2009), the retirement of two CUs (2003 and 2008), the continuity of one TU and the incorporation of a new TU in 2003; as well as the use of hired post to consolidate teachers: with the condition of *agregat* it was possible to consolidate an *associat* in 2006 and a *titular interi d'escola universitària* in 2009, while four new posts for *associats* were generated, one in 2006, two in 2008 and one in 2009. In the UAB, the post of CU was maintained, as well as that of an emeritus CU, and two TUs were generated, one in 2003 and another in 2009, cutting out their precedent posts: respectively, one *ajudant* and one *associat*; and also having a grant holder since 2007. Finally, the TUs in this area of Historiographic Sciences and Techniques in both the UdG and the URV remained stable.

Table 1. Number of researchers by centre

UB	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CU	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
TU	9	9	8	8	8	8	8
Acting TU	1						
Acting TEU	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Agregat</i>		1	1	1	2	2	2
<i>Lector</i>			1	1	1		
<i>Associat</i>	4	4	4	4	2	3	2
<i>Ajudant</i>	1	1					
Postdoc.	1	1					
Grant holder	5	5	3	5	4	5	5



UAB	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CU	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
TU	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<i>Agregat</i>					1	1	1
<i>Lector</i>			1	1	1		1
<i>Associat</i>	4	4	4	5	5	4	5
Grant holder	1	1	1	1	2	2	3

UdG	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
TU	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<i>Associat</i>		1	1	1	1	1	2
Grant holder	3	3	3	3	3		

UdL	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CU	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
TU	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
<i>Associat</i>							4
RyC					1	1	1
BP					1	1	1
Grant holder	7	8	6	6	5	3	4
Research technician							1

URV	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CU	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
TU	3	3	3	3	3	2	2

UPF	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CU	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TU	1						
<i>Lector</i>				1	1	1	1
<i>Associat</i>	1	1	1	1			1



CSIC	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Research professor	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
<i>Investigador científico</i>	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
<i>Científico titular</i>	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
RyC						1	1
JdC						1	1
Post- Doctoral (JADE)							1
Grant holder	2	2	3	5	3	4	3
Research technician			1	1			

Table 2. Average age of stabilised researchers*

	2003	2009
UB	53.17	58.83
UAB	52.4	56.3
CSIC	54.25	52.75
UdG	41.5	47.5
UdL	43.7	49.7
URV	48.25	54.25
UPF	58	64

*CU, TU, AGREGATS (CSIC: PROFESOR DE INVESTIGACIÓN,
INVESTIGADOR CIENTÍFICO, CIENTÍFICO TITULAR)



Table 3. Average number of credits taught by the stabilised professors-researchers*

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
UB	21.83	18.58	21.33	17.2	15	12.84	13.50
UAB	13.64	17.40	18.25	20.30	20.18	20.16	20.12
UdG	24	21.75	22	21.25	20.50	20.35	20.50
UdL	18	16.6	20	17.66	21.66	21	15.66
URV	16.25	14.95	16.32	18.75	17.50	16.25	18.50
UPF	12	12	12	12	12	12	12

*CU, TU AND *AGREGATS*. 1 CREDIT = 10 HOURS TEACHING.

Table 4. Proportion of the management load of the centre (2003-2009) *

UdG	4.50
UdL	4.33
URV	3.50
UAB	2.18
CSIC	1.87
UB	1.33
UPF	0.90

*OBTAINED FROM THE TOTAL NUMBER OF YEARS WITH A POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF CONSOLIDATED RESEARCHERS (CU, TU AND *AGREGATS*).

1.4 Research groups, projects and agreements

The researchers accepted the research project as the basic element of their work. Only 4% worked outside research projects, another 2% participated occasionally and the remaining 94%, participated permanently in the competitive research projects.



Interdisciplinarity beyond the Middle Ages from a thematic and chronological point of view was a target in 11.11% of the projects. In the rest, the projects basically focussed on the medieval period, although they still included collaboration from other areas of knowledge dedicated to the study of the medieval History. Moreover, a certain transversality was also sought by gathering researchers from different centres around common research subjects. Thus, 22.22% of the researchers participated in projects led from other universities. The same figure enables us to think that the majority of the remainder participated in projects in the same centres. In a similar sense, a strong stability is perceived regarding the Lead Researcher or Principal Researcher (PI). Of the 23 researchers who appear as PI in projects in the 'National R+D+I Plan' awarded by the Spanish ministry during the period analysed, in 16 there was previous or posterior continuity in leading similar research.

The majority resort to the projects requested in the 'National R+D+I Plan', drawn up by the Ministry of Science and Technology in 2003 and, from 2004 on, by the Ministry of Science and Research (MICINN) is notable. In this framework, 31 projects in the medieval history research centres were managed during the period analysed. At the same time, the researchers also participated in public calls and won research projects called by the IEC, foundations and autonomous governments that issue this kind of call. It is also notable that the researchers excelled in capturing an important number of research grants, which meant the possibility of carrying out mobilising activities, such as scientific meetings and excavations. In most cases, these were competitive calls, although specific agreements must be included under the same heading.

At the same time, a willingness to internationalise can be perceived. Three universities (UdL, UAB, URV) led competitive research projects won in calls that required joint working with international teams, either through the programmes of the MICINN (*integrated actions*) or the Catalan autonomous government (*ACI*, and *Batista Roca programmes* awarded by the *Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca – AGAUR*). In the same sense, we must also add the agreements between the CSIC and research centres in Italy and Morocco. In contrast, the little participation in calls from the different European research organisms (especially the European Science Foundation —ESF—, European Research Council —ERC— and the European Commission —EC—) is surprising. In the period studied, only 12.74% of the researchers (from the UB, UAB and UdL) were part of research projects approved by European organisms, and there were only two projects led by Catalan universities (UAB, UdL).

Very closely associated research was undertaken from the area of historiographic Sciences and Techniques, which would add three projects from the National R+D+I Plan in the UAB and one in the UB, as well as one project by call from the same UB, as well as three grants won by the UB and six by the UAB.

The generalisation of the system of research projects places the participation of medieval research in the usual parameters for current scientific production. Moreover, it means that the researchers accept that they have to dedicate part of their research time to the bureaucratic work needed in drawing up, presenting



Table 5. Projects led by catalan research centres (2003-2009)

	European calls	State calls (National R+D+I Plan)	International projects (Integrated, international agreements, PBR etc..)	Research calls from regional entities (Autonomous Governments)	University calls	Calls by the IEC and foundations	Projects, grants and agreements for complementary activities to research (meetings, excavations)
UB	-	10	-	2	-	4	64
UAB	1	4	2	-	5	1	24
CSIC	-	7	2	-	-	1	9
UdL	1	5	4	-	-	1	68
UdG	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
URV	-	3	1	-	-	-	21
UPF	-	-	-	-	-	-	1



and managing projects, especially because they do not normally have qualified personnel available to do these tasks. Furthermore, the orientation of the research is evidently conditioned, not only thematically but also formally, because short research projects—in general three years—, with few financial resources, that require coherent working plans between various researchers to be drawn up and demand the publication of scientific results in the same period of execution, tend to lead to a sum of smaller contributions rather than research that can combine the depth of study with a wider overview.

The habit of team working that denotes the importance of the research projects matches the increase in the structuring into research groups. During the period studied, only 3.34% of the researchers did not belong to a consolidated research group (SGR) approved by the *Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca* (AGAUR). 6% of the teaching staff were included in chronologically transversal consolidated research groups and led from outside the medieval field. Notable among these were those led by anthropologists: the Social Anthropology Group at the URV and the Food Observatory (ODELA) at the UB. While the former led to a certain abandoning of the research lines promoted through medieval history, in the latter, a recognised line of research from medieval research into the history of food was coupled fruitfully into its line of work. The other medievalists congregated in groups led by medievalists, although these were also open to interdisciplinary inputs.

Thus, it can be considered that the research groups recognised by the AGAUR structure the research in medieval history. Significantly, the number of consolidated research groups increased, although this did not affect the lack of stability in the research structure. Three consolidated research groups were recognised in the three calls in the period studied: 2001, 2005 and 2009: the 'Medieval and Postmedieval Archaeology' Research Group at the UB and two groups in the CSIC: the 'Feudal Income and Taxation in Late Medieval Catalonia Group' and the 'Research Group of the Catalan-Aragonese Crown, Islam and the Mediterranean World'. This was extended in 2005 with the participation of a group based at the UdL, the 'Consolidated Medieval Studies Research Group Space, Power and Culture', which was validated in 2009, and, from this call on, with the incorporation of two other groups from the UAB- 'Occupation, Organisation and Defence of the Medieval Territory' and 'Agrarian Archaeology in the Middle Ages'. Then, in both the 2005 and 2009 calls, two more groups from the UB were added, one on gender studies with a wider chronological range, but led from the medieval field and well consolidated thanks to deep experience in the previous years —'Duoda Project. Virtual Library Duoda'— and another that evolved from an initial one orientated towards pedagogics in 2005, ('Taedium. Research Group on Medieval History and Innovation in University Teaching'), towards a specific orientation on texts in 2009: 'Research Group in Medieval History: Sources and Studies', leaving the previous focus in an internal educational section, recognised by the same university.

With 32 members in the biggest and eight in the smallest, the average number of researchers in the consolidated research groups was 16.37 and in all cases, these



Table 6. Members of consolidated research groups

GROUPS 2009 (by order of financing)	Researchers from the same centre	Informal links to the centre*	Researchers from other Catalan centres	Researchers from related Catalan centres (museums, archives...)	Researchers from other Spanish centres	Researchers from foreign centres
Medieval Studies Space, Power and Culture (UdL)	15	6	6	3	1	1
Medieval and Post-medieval Archaeology (UB)	5	1	2	3	2	5
Project Duoda - Virtual Library Duoda (UB)	3	3	1	1	3	0
Feudal Income and taxation in Late-medieval Catalonia (CSIC)	3	3	8	0	0	0
Occupation, Organisation and Defence of the medieval territory (UAB)	3	0	2	2	1	0
Medieval History. Sources and Studies (UB)	10	0	0	0	1	1
Agrarian Archaeology of the Middle Ages (UAB)	4	2	0	0	5	2
The Catalan-Aragonese Crown, Islam and the Mediterranean World (CSIC)	5	4	2	1	2	8

* THEY APPEAR FOR BEING INVOLVED IN RESEARCH WORK, EITHER PRE-DOCTORAL OR POST-DOCTORAL, OR COLLABORATIONS BY RETIRED PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE THE OFFICIAL RESEARCH STRUCTURES.



were clearly inter-university, looking for synergies in the transversal themes chosen as common denominators, which also covered researchers from outside the scientific system. It was not laboratories that were added but rather individual researchers, often from different centres, including some from outside the Catalan research system with a clear bid to include foreign researchers, and the common denominator of working on similar themes. The dispersion inherent in this structure highlights the need to establish formulae of scientific connection between the members, while leaving a reflection open about the difficulties of management and regarding the ideal conditions for the correct and cohesive working of a research group.

While aiming to graduate the groups, the pertinent organism —AGAUR— awarded little initial generic grants to those who were most highly rated, who thus became financed groups. These were very limited donations, which could be increased for because being classed as ‘consolidated’ was taken into consideration when awarding new grants. Similarly, the different research centres tended to complete the generic grants in policies that, likewise usually establish a grading of the rest of the internal groups.

Table 7. Classification of consolidated research groups

	UB	UAB	CSIC	UdL
2003. Consolidated research groups	1F		2F	
2005. Consolidated research groups	3 N		2F	1F
2009. Consolidated research groups	2F 1N	1F 1N	1 F 1N	1F

GROUPS: F: FINANCED N: NOT FINANCED

The members of the area of Historiographic Sciences and Techniques also participated with interest in working in recognised research groups, again showing their proximity to medieval research through the presence of members of this area of knowledge in two of the consolidated research groups led by medievalists in the UB. More specifically, in 2009, in the same SGR call, the UAB obtained the rating of emerging Singular Research Group (GRS) for the group led from the area of Historiographic Sciences and Techniques.

The composition of the research projects and research groups shows a contradiction in the policy of the centres, because the dynamic of transversality shown by the researchers, tending to seek thematic groupings that enable coordinating researchers from different centres, is contradictory to the policies of the universities, which tend to reward projects and research groups in the same university. Thus, on the other hand, given the small size of most centres, viability seems difficult unless there is



movement towards large groups that do not take into account the specialisation in history medieval, or that, to the contrary, prefer very small groups.

In any case, the dynamic of the same researchers dedicating time and energies to participate in public calls by structuring projects, joining groups, research grants and promoting agreements, leads to results in obtaining financing with which to develop the research tasks and activities. The sum of the resources acquired in the period studied was €3,393,339.77, with €1,959,827.83 corresponding to projects and €1,433,511.94 to various types of aid. These amounts were distributed very differently across centres in function of their initiatives. On one hand, the bulk of the global figure leads to the question of whether an investment of that size has brought scientific and social reversibility, in other words, whether the research projects and activities (excavations, scientific meetings, etc.) were untenable without financial help and if this has generated palpable results, especially in the form of publications, which mean a significant advance in our knowledge of medieval history. On the other hand, the wide diversity of projects and activities financed by these amounts over the seven-year period mean an average of €484,762.81 per year to be shared among all the centres and initiatives, which links in to complaints from researchers about the little money available for their respective projects and initiatives. All together, this leaves room for reflection about how to achieve greater efficiency from the investment in research.

Table 8. Resources obtained

	Research projects and finance for research groups	Complementary actions, grants and agreements	Total centres
UB	€705,135.52	€392.464,87	€1,097,600.39
UAB	€152,960.00	€137,081.00	€290,041.00
CSIC	€379,006.00	€85,831.08	€464,837.08
UdL	€480,021.20	€603,807.59	€1,084,828.79
UdG	€181,220.00	€0.00	€181,220.00
URV	€61,485.11	€145,324.64	€206,809.75
UPF	€ 0.00	€ 69,002.76	€ 69,002.76
TOTAL	€1,959,827.83	€1,433,511.94	€3,393,339.77



1.5 Doctorates and masters

The small size of most universities and the changes in the study plans that were applied during the period studied affected the system of training new researchers. Nowhere were there specific doctorate and master's courses leading to a doctorate in medieval history on offer, although both the UB and the UAB drew up combinations with neighbouring chronological periods. In the former, until 2005, there was a common doctorate course, *Medieval and Modern world: Recent lines of Research*, shared with Modern History and in the latter, there were three successive doctorate programmes: *Archaeology and Ancient and Medieval History* (2002-2005); *Archaeology, Ancient and Medieval History and Historiographic Sciences and Techniques* (2004-2006); *Research in Ancient and Medieval History* (2005-2008). The UB had the master's in Medieval Cultures, shared with the other areas of research into the medieval period, especially the philological ones, while from 2007, the UAB adopted the master's in Sciences of the Antiquity and the Middle Ages, as part of the programme Cultures in contact in the Mediterranean.

In the UdG, there was a doctorate programme in Humanities and Culture, that gave way to the master's in initiation in research in Humanities: History, Art, Philosophy, Language and Literature in the 2008-2009 course. With its 60 credits, this offered an itinerary of 30 credits on Culture and Society in the Medieval Epoch. In contrast, in the period studied, there was no specific training in the UPF, UdL or URV. However, in the latter, from 2003, there was a medieval presence in the master's in Classical Archaeology and, starting in 2004, in the master's in Mediterranean Cultural Studies. From 2009, the initiation in research in medieval history in that centre was orientated towards the 60-credit master's in Historical Societies and Political Forms in Europe, which included training in medieval history, although without its own specific itinerary.

This disparity in training shows no direct relation with the number of grant holders undergoing doctoral training, which was very high in one centre without a specific training plan (UdL) and in another which, given its research focus, lacked the capacity to draw up its own study plans (CSIC). Similarly, the most specialised training, offered by the UB and the UAB, corresponded to a very uneven number of grant holders.

The contribution of the Spanish ministry to financing doctoral grants stands out -30.76% of the total, higher in the case of the CSIC because its legal framework impedes it from participating in the calls from the autonomous government (*Generalitat de Catalunya*). However, the latter, carried the greatest weight with 46.75% of the total. Four of the universities awarded doctoral grants (17.95% of the total), with a third of these from the UB and the UdG. Moreover, both the CSIC and the UdG managed to add doctoral grants from foundations and specific agreements.



Table 9. Financing of doctoral grants

	Autonomous Government (Generalitat)	Ministry of the Spanish Government	The own research centre	Foundations and Agreements
UB	4	4	4	0
UAB	1	2	1	0
CSIC	0	4	1	1
UdL	12	1	0	0
UdG	1	0	1	1
URV	0	1	0	0
UPF	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	18	12	7	2

The capacity to channel specific and qualitative research training in medieval history in the context of the new teaching framework that was just coming into effect at the end of the period analysed, was a challenge that will undoubtedly continue to condition the viability and quality of the research in the future.

1.6 Specialised journals

The research journals, in the current competitive context, are an indicator of quality through their function of attracting researchers from other centres who choose this means to spread their research. Various Catalan scientific journals channel research into the medieval period, which is published in the respective journal, together with texts about other historical periods. In a much more specific way, two research centres have dedicated journals on Medieval History: *Acta Historica et Archaeologica Mediaevalia*, linked to the UB since 1980, and *Anuario de Estudios Medievales* from the CSIC, which has been running since 1964. While the latter adapted to the new indicators of quality, becoming an international reference in the period studied, the former continued without incorporating the indicators currently required by the agencies for the evaluation of the quality of scientific journals. In 2007, in this new framework, the UdL added *Imago Temporis Medium Aevum*, a new journal specialised in medieval research.



Table 10. Journals

	Acta historica et Archaeologica Mediaevalia	Anuario de Estudios Medievales	Imago Temporis Medium Aevum (2007-09)
Internacional diffusion (DICE)	4.5	35.25	1.5
% Internationalisation of contributions (DICE)	17.86	18.6	48.72
Open to external authors (DICE)	NO	YES	YES
External evaluation	NO	YES	YES
LATINDEX	16	33	33
ERIH	-	INT2	W
ANEP	-	A	A
CNEAI	-	16	15
ANECA	-	19	18
CARHUS	C	A	C
Quartile (In-Resh)	4 th	1 st	4 th
Experts Opinion (Resh)	-	5.7	0.68
Databases	6	11	11

2. Scientific production

2.1 Strong research lines

The so-called crisis of history, that led to the publication of explicit reflections all over the world in the last decade of the 20th century, coincided in Catalonia with the end of decades in which the activity of the historian had felt challenged by demands for social and identity revision and that, one way or another, could influence the hermeneutics applied to the heuristics. Thus, not by establishing a rupture with the earlier phases, but rather by showing that it had assimilated contributions from earlier stages, in the first decade of the 21st century, research into medieval history



could move on to seek new lines. In the period analysed, medieval history research catalysed an important revision, with methods very attentive to the sources and work concerned with renewing the central axes. This change is exemplified by the fact that the explicative approaches in the medieval history part of the 'Història de Catalunya', directed by Albert Balcells published in 2004, and with numerous later reeditions, are very different from those in all earlier general histories.⁷

On one hand, the adoption of 'power' as a leading vector enabled political history to be resumed, steeped in social history and reconsidering the institutional structures of the Crown of Aragon and specifically Catalonia, while being able to revise not only the structure of government but also how the different social groups fitted together and how the determining discourses of political justification were managed. The relation between vigorous urban societies and a jurisdictionally fragmented surrounding under a weak monarchy imposed a specific institutional and social design. The binding agreements between cities and towns (*carreratge*), the popular militia (*sometent*), the actions of the jurisdictional officials, the behaviour of the estates in the courts, the role and actions of the Church in its diversity, the articulation of the 'land' in the permanent Diputation of the Courts (*General*), the weight demanded by the country's capital, the narrative and scenography of royal power, the currency in the game of power, etc., are some of the pieces that were fitted into a new perspective that gave more value to an institutional and social architecture based on the concordance of all the pressure groups, according to the late medieval political, social and economic vigour.

This approach found different points of intersection with the prolongation of the notable task carried out in the previous decade by the historians concentrating on the study of royal finances, especially how these fit in with the municipal administration, a work that opened an enriching window for the analysis of the role of public debt in institutional, social and economic relations, and towards the revision of its impact on urban society, both for the tax burden and its distribution, and for the ramifications in the relations between urban nuclei and the rural surroundings.

This is where it links with specific studies on a late medieval rural society affected by the relation with the towns, the jurisdictional fracture and evolution of feudal domains with the taxation and social consequences. It was possible to review important issues, from land ownership to the resizing of the true meaning of the so-called bad uses (*mals usos*), especially, the *remença*.

The relation between society and power led to the revision of another central point, the economic, from attending to the same social experience, whether by knowing the interior of the bourgeois home, the routes followed by goods, the analysis of maritime transport and the road network, exploitation of natural and artisan resources, slaves routes, the land market, or the amount of credit, as well as analysing the behaviour of all aspects of families on different levels of the social

7. Sabaté, Flocel. "Catalunya Medieval", *Història de Catalunya*, Albert Balcells, ed. Barcelona: L'Esfera dels Llibres, 2004: 101-334.



strata. The sum of these lines allowed a more accurate and coordinated view of what really happened in the epoch studied, which encouraged measuring, reviewing and resituating old common elements, such as the supposed long late-medieval crisis.

The combination of political, military, social and economic vectors in the Late Middle Ages refers to the revision of the external projection of Catalonia, revising its relations with the other kingdoms on the Peninsula or, even more so, looking outward across the Mediterranean, either towards the trade with the East, the area of Italy or the western sectors. Thus, better knowledge was acquired about the mechanisms of influence on Sicily and even more so, on Sardinia, renewing our knowledge about the relations with North Africa and, notably, with Granada, which then led to reflections about the interests at stake in the dealings, economic and social, with ideological otherness in the context of a common Mediterranean.

The introduction of new social vectors enabled approaches initiated in previous decades to continue to be fruitful, with the revision of the cultural and social function of food in the different social groups, or the wide range of gender studies seeking to capture the many aspects relating to women. The desire to reunite people with the reasons for their behaviour opened innovative ways to access the axiology and beliefs, including the search through the private libraries of the Barcelonan bourgeoisie, to a revision of spirituality, female mysticism and the role of writing. It is a question of defining the elements around which society, in its different social groups, unifies its own identity, generates a memory and justifies it through a specific ideology. In that sense, the consolidation of society under a confident and excluding Christianity draws attention towards the inassimilable minorities, namely, Jews and Muslims. The mutual encounter —or the mutual disagreement— was also studied during the expansive collision, especially in the 12th and 13th centuries.

The study of the society through its shortcomings led to the analysis of aspects linked to breaches of rules, the breakdown of social order, the definition of evil that must be punished (heresy, sorcery, delinquency, criminality...) and the actions of the justice, as well as society's behaviour towards adversity, either natural calamities or shortages and famine. Progress continued in this latter aspect about the problems of supplying the towns and cities, while also stretching the chronological range towards the central centuries of the Middle Ages. In all cases, the aim was to measure the effects on the economy and, notably, the response of society to the difficulties, thus enabling comparisons between the different social groups and the exercise of their inherent power.

The attention given to the central centuries of the Middle Ages supplied new points of analysis about the evolution social, attentive to revising the property market, land tenure, the establishment of links of dependence, the levies charged or the progressive territorial articulation on all its different levels and contents. This is the way that finalised revisions that had already been announced in the previous decade, while relating the family structures, the seignories, the function of the town's markets and the generation of justificatory values, with the help of the Church, the claim for royal consolidation, the assumption by the nobility and receptivity among the peasantry. The bourgeoisie that emerged as a new specific



group during these same central centuries demanded their social place was analysed in new societies, such as Tarragona, Tortosa or Lleida, helping to better understanding the urban societies starting. The religious orders that expanded in this context, like the Cistercians, the military orders or the Premonstratensian canons, enjoyed a specific perspective in this analytical framework.

When asking about the values that united the society in the central centuries, a deeper insight is required into the interpretation of violence, understood as an element of the system, revising the contents of such concepts as war and peace and how they fit into the evolution of feudalism. This conceptual revision also facilitated a better understanding of the political workings, including the relation with the Occitan and Provençal surroundings.

The revision of the Early Middle Ages has delved into the importance of writing and its function. Moreover, a more balanced view between the different counties, as well as the evolution of the frontier, was also achieved. Thus, in itself this developed a whole new explicative vector. It was a frontier with two sides to consider, which reached new perspectives through studying the Andalusian areas, using a methodological renewal, while hoping to obtain new answers from the amalgamation of varied and scattered sources.

The legal, social and political perspective attempted to renew research into the Carolingian period, raising questions about beliefs and the public notion, as well as the projection over the territory in all its aspects. The Hispanic comparative of this early-medieval society and the Visigoth roots were also subjected to careful review through the profiling and analysis of royal power, the structure of the aristocracy, the role of the Church and the existence of dissidence in a religious form.

Half the consolidated research groups in 2009 made allusion to the physical space: two define themselves as groups of 'archaeology', another including the word 'space' in its name and the last invoked 'medieval territory'. From very different outlooks, space, territory and landscape have become the subject of study, affecting the full chronological range and with very different results. The territory must be seen as a mirror on the society and thus, to show its institutional structure or reflect the disputes that take place in it, space offers a political and social portrait, either in its urban (even domestic) interior or in a progressively anthropomorphised rural landscape.

The issues inherent in the sources impose prudence on some archaeological deductions, especially when the territory or the landscape is analysed around chronologically distant realities and which are insufficiently proven due to the same heuristic difficulties. In other cases, the archaeological work should be aimed at going beyond descriptive studies towards solid contributions. Progress was also made in the comparative perspective, clearly shown in the work by the consolidated research groups in medieval archaeology, acting in one case in Yemen and another in the north of Castile and the Basque Country, with the corresponding bibliographic contributions.

One way or another, archaeology showed its vitality among Catalan medieval research, as also shown by the appearance of a specific series of books in the UdL.



Correspondingly, there were proposals for a methodological or conceptual renewal. A research group passed along a specific interpretive framework from the study of the role of water in agriculture and, from there, to a social, economic and political structure of the Muslim society, towards a more comprehensive agrarian archaeology. There were studies into archaeology from other fields that, especially through systematic prospection, opened paths with which to penetrate into the least known parts of Andalusian society, seeking alliances with tools like toponymy and reviewing territories that had previously drawn little attention (dry-land areas, frontiers, etc.) and reinterpreting the territorialisation from such aspects as defence, which again, demands prudence in the deductions.

These approaches to Islamic society, and especially the Andalusian, are complemented with those done from the study of coinage, with all it signifies, not only economically, but also fiscally, socially, politically and institutionally. In a very different way, Islamic society was also studied from the foundations and discourses of power in periods like the Omeya, or from a penetration into the thought to catch the values and axes of identity in such aspects as gender and otherness.

In all cases, the research was enriched by the ongoing supply of sources, usually added from variable and chance ways, a task that became an intersection between historians, palaeographers and local scholars, all highly profitable through increasing the sources in circulation. A specific task of the research and study of private archives was added, while many of the archives open to the public improved access to unpublished sources, thanks to the computerisation that also enabled access to the sources through Internet.

2.2 Doctoral thesis

During the period studied, twenty-eight doctoral thesis were defended, 71.42% of which were defended in the UB. Three of these PhD students were from abroad and completed their training in the UB. All these PhD were directed by 14 supervisors (an average of two theses for each supervisor), which indicates a certain concentration in the leadership of research, also regarding training. Two thirds of these theses were about the late medieval period, and the rest on the central or early Middle Ages. They innovated in very varied aspects, although we can highlight the study of the territory as a mirror on society in the different periods (the transition from the classical world, the Andalusian society, the county landscape, the transformations with the conquests of the 12th and 13th centuries or the structure of the late-medieval rural society), linking to the workings of the market, craftwork production and distribution, trade routes and supply of the late-medieval city, with all their implications for urban government and social behaviour. The concern for the identity of late-medieval society clarified aspects like religiosity in female expressiveness or the bourgeois experiential axes, facilitating the revision of urban growth, either in the relations of power expressed in the settings like the courts, or in the imposition over the rural surroundings in such aspects as the



remença. Except for very specific cases, the research focussed on the Catalan case. Formally, all seem to have had the same value, as they received the highest rating, four of them with honours.

With the progressive reform of education, the doctoral thesis is fitted into a very specific calendar. The reality, however, appears different: most theses are defended at dates much later than that of the ending of the doctoral grant. Of the 25 doctoral grants finalised in this period, only eight (30.76%) led to the defence of the doctoral thesis the following year. In the majority of cases in the period studied, the PhD Dissertation was done by students who let several years pass between the end of the doctoral grant and the defence of the thesis. The condition of doctoral grant holder appears as the habitual path: only 11.53% of those who earned a doctorate did so without having previously enjoyed a doctoral grant.

The doctoral thesis does not conclude with the end of the period of the doctoral grant because of the difficulty of fitting the research into a rigid and regular model of ‘*cursus honorum*’ in university education, in which the pre-doctoral phase is immediately followed by the defence of the thesis and the move to postdoctoral posts. However, the most worrying are the cases in which enjoying a grant does not culminate in the defence and approval of the respective doctoral theses, in that it leads to fears of a waste of the investment in training and a failure of the training process itself.

Table 11. Grants and doctoral theses

	Doctoral grants finalised (2003-09)	PhD Thesis defended
UB	8	20
UAB	1	3
CSIC	3	(defended in the UB)
UdL	10	2
UdG	3	2
URV	0	1
UPF	0	0
TOTAL	25	28



2.3 Publications. Bibliometry

During the period studied, the Catalan medievalists published 1,249 pieces. 55.8% of these works were in the form of chapters in books and 31.46% as articles. The high volume of small-scale publications through chapters in books or articles concords with the contemporary directives in research and is coherent with the research projects. However, the places chosen for scientific diffusion are usually closed and generally distant from leading publications. Thus, a gap is generated between the quality achieved in the research and the ways of diffusion, which are mainly closed and rarely abroad.

The books reflect the same scientific dynamic, with a high presence of compilations and compendiums beside works that culminate fully complete research.

Table 12. Bibliometry

UB					
	Total	Percentage			
Books	25	5.43%	3	12%	Same institution
			21	84%	Spain
			1	4%	Abroad
Books, editor	27	5.86%	6	22,22%	Same institution
			16	59.25%	Spain
			5	18.51%	Abroad
Chapters in books	234	50.86%	13	5.55%	Same institution
			185	79.05%	Spain
			36	15.38%	Abroad
Articles	174	37.82%	17	9.77%	Local
			142	81.6%	Spain
			15	8.62%	Abroad
Total	460	100%			



CSIC					
	Total	Percentage			
Books	10	4.01%	4	40%	Same institution
			5	50%	Spain
			1	10%	Abroad
Books, editor	12	4.81%	4	33.33%	Same institution
			5	41,66%	Spain
			3	25%	Abroad
Chapters in books	158	63.45%	12	7.59%	Same institution
			117	74.05%	Spain
			29	18.35%	Abroad
Articles	69	27.71%	15	21.73%	Local
			48	69.56%	Spain
			6	8.69%	Abroad
Total	249	100%			

UAB					
	Total	Percentage			
Books	21	12.5%	1	4.76%	Same institution
			19	90.47%	Spain
			1	4.76%	Abroad
Books, editor	8	4.76%	2	25%	Same institution
			5	62.5%	Spain
			1	12.5%	Abroad
Chapters in books	93	55.35%	4	4.30%	Same institution
			74	79.56%	Spain
			15	16.12%	Abroad



Articles	46	27.38%	15	32.60%	Local
			27	58.69%	Spain
			4	8.69%	Abroad
Total	168	100%			

UdL					
	Total Total	Percentage			
Books	18	8.03%	4	22.22%	Same institution
			14	77.78%	Spain
			0	0%	Abroad
Books, editor	20	8.93%	2	10%	Same institution
			18	90%	Spain
			0	0%	Abroad
Chapters in books	140	62.5%	3	2.14%	Same institution
			127	90.71%	Spain
			10	7.14%	Abroad
Articles	46	20.53%	11	23.91%	Local
			29	63.04%	Spain
			6	13.04%	Abroad
Total	224	100%			

UdG					
	Total	Percentage			
Books	8	12,12%	1	12,5%	Same institution
			7	87,5%	Spain
			0	0%	Abroad
Books, editor	1	1,51%	0	0%	Same institution
			1	100%	Spain
			0	0%	Abroad



Chapters in books	27	40,90%	4	14,81%	Same institution
			16	59,25%	Spain
			7	25,92%	Abroad
Articles	30	45,45%	23	76,66%	Local
			7	23,33%	Spain
			0	0%	Abroad
Total	66	100%			

URV					
	Total	Percentage			
Books	2	5.40%	0	0%	Same institution
			2	100%	Spain
			0	0%	Abroad
Books, editor	4	10.81%	0	0%	Same institution
			4	100%	Spain
			0	0%	Abroad
Chapters in books	18	48.64%	0	0%	Same institution
			15	83.33%	Spain
			3	16.66%	Abroad
Articles	13	35.13%	3	23.07%	Local
			10	76.92%	Spain
			0	0%	Abroad
Total	37	100%			

UPF					
	Total	Percentage			
Books	3	6.66%	0	0%	Same institution
			3	100%	Spain
			0	0%	Abroad



Books, editor	0	0%	0	0%	Same institution
			0	0%	Spain
			0	0%	Abroad
Chapters in books	27	60%	1	3.70%	Same institution
			24	88.88%	Spain
			2	7.40%	Abroad
Articles	15	33.33%	1	6.66%	Local
			11	73.33%	Spain
			3	20%	Abroad
Total	45	100%			

Table 13. Publications from all the research centres in Catalonia

	Total	Percentage			
Books	87	6.96%	13	14.94%	Same institution
			71	81.60%	Spain
			3	3.21%	Abroad
Books, editor	72	5.76%	14	19.44%	Same institution
			49	68.05%	Spain
			9	10.50%	Abroad
Chapters in books	697	55.80%	37	5.30%	Same institution
			558	80.05%	Spain
			102	14.65%	Abroad
Articles	393	31.46%	85	21.62%	Local
			274	69.72%	Spain
			34	8.65%	Abroad
Total	1249	100%			



2.4 International projection of the research

The Catalan medievalists participate in the research in the international points of reference: 77.42% of the consolidated researchers (CU, TU and aggregates) participated actively in congresses or scientific seminars abroad during the period studied, and a fifth of them (20.30%) had spent longer than a month in foreign research centres (see table 14).

Moreover, the 'cursus honorum' incorporated a postdoctoral stay abroad. In the period analysed, five researchers won post-doctoral places in foreign universities, two of these were from the UAB, two from the UdL and one from the UB. In three cases, this was financed by the Spanish ministry, in one, by the mobility programmes of the autonomous government of Catalonia (*Generalitat*) and the last, thanks to European financing (Marie Curie programme). In line with their research and in coherence with the Catalan medievalist tradition, three chose French universities, and the other two went to Italian centres. Significantly, on finishing their two-year stays, two returned to the university of origin (UAB, UdL), two found posts in other Catalan universities (UdL) and one remained in the same foreign research centre. The ability to recover the researchers trained abroad is a clear benefit for the Catalan university system, for both the training received and the contacts made. However, although four of the five who went abroad during the period under study returned (and the other one is still in the research system although in another country), in all cases, they are on temporary contracts with the consequent uncertainty about the future.

These strategies enabled the links between national and foreign researchers to be reinforced. In fact, the close relation is seen in many ways. One is the existence of outstanding foreign researchers whose research is focussed on the Catalan theme, often maintaining a permanent relation with Catalan medieval research. In the period analysed, a long list of authors made important contributions. These included Thomas N. Bisson, Jeffrey A. Bowman, Damien Coulon, Paul Freedman, Christian Guilleré, Adam Kosto, Damian Smith and Michel Zimmermann.

This mutual relationship is shown by the fact that the lines of research of Catalan medievalists harmonised well with the central axes of the international research. However, the subjects of this research focus on the home territory, and only rarely made comparative studies with other areas. Nevertheless, the scientific production of Catalan medieval research tended to be well represented in the international indexations. A large part of the research by Catalan authors was in recognised databases like *Medioevo Latino*, *Regesta Imperii* and especially the *International Medieval Bibliography*, with this latter benefiting from a specific agreement between the CSIC and the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Leeds through editing the *Repertorio del Medievalismo Hispánico*.

The transmission of the research directly to international forums, through foreign publications was a little used resource: Catalan medievalists only published abroad 3.21% of the books, 10.5% of the scientific direction of books, 14.65% of the chapters in books and 6.65% of the articles. Even more rarely used



are languages with greater scientific weight. 57% of the publications used the language of the country (Catalan), followed by 31.95% in the official language of Spain (Spanish). In contrast, only a marginal 3.60% were published in English, the language that has imposed itself as an international scientific *lingua franca*. French, the language traditionally of reference in medievalist training in earlier decades, was somewhat more widely used, although still marginally: in 4.72% of the publications. The other natural area of reference for traditional Catalan medieval research, Italy, only generated 2.4% of publications in that language. It is evident that the writers were overwhelmingly addressing a Catalan, or at the most, Hispanic scenario.

The contradiction was also very clear, as mentioned above, in the research projects: a notable presence of projects that required international partners—four projects in the UdL, two in the UAB, one in the URV and one in the CSIC—contrasted with the scant participation in European projects, with only two projects led from Catalonia (UAB, UdL).

To sum up, more than a lack of internationalisation, there was a dysfunction, because milestones achieved in some fields clashed with shortcomings in others: the researchers participated in international congresses and seminars, some of them making study trips and stays in leading research centres and with international contacts that, nevertheless, contrasted with the real lack of presence in international scientific publications.

Table 14. Participation in international activities

	Active participation in congresses and seminars abroad*		Research stays of longer than one month in foreign research centres*	
	Total	Percentage by researcher	Total	Percentage by researcher
UB	51	4.63	2	0.18
CSIC	23	4.60	1	0.20
UAB	21	3.81	2	0.36
UdL	58	19.33	7	2.33
UdG	12	6	2	1
URV	3	0.75	0	0
UPF	2	2	0	0

* CU, TU AND AGREGATS



Table 15. Languages used in the publications

	Catalan	Castilian	English	French	Italian	German
UB	229	184	18	19	15	4
UAB	91	68	11	5	5	0
CSIC	134	86	11	11	8	0
UdL	174	31	3	16	2	0
UdG	35	4	0	5	0	0
URV	22	15	2	0	0	0
UPF	27	11	0	3	0	0
Total	712	399	45	59	30	4
Percentage	57.01%	31.95%	3.60%	4.72%	2.40%	0.32%

2.5 Professionalisation and social projection of the research

The regulated research system requires complete professionalisation and even a very rigid *cursus honorum*. However, there are four fields that lead to both the transfer of contents and an intersection of objectives: the initiatives of the local and district study centres that are so deeply rooted in the Catalan social fabric; the initiatives by local, district, provincial or regional entities that resort to historical references to organise social and civic acts of commemoration; the promotional activities of cultural institutions like museums and archives; and even commercial initiatives run by publishers, for both books and periodical publications.

In some case, this intersection worked in benefit of the research, and in others, it focused in the transfer of contents. Thus, initiatives outside the framework of research itself facilitated the organisation of scientific meetings that combined the diffusion and transfer of contents on one hand with the scientific benefit on the other, while showing that the combination of initiatives of varied origins could generate benefits for both sides, in other words, for diffusion and for research. In other cases, the direct intervention of the researcher was seen as a transfer of contents, either through public talks or publications outwith the scientific media. 33.92% of researchers published in local or district journals or in magazines with historical and cultural contents. Around a third of researchers participated in popular publications, with a variable intensity that in one case became a notable preferential option. Moreover, the social function of medieval history also facilitated a relatively reiterated presence of researchers in the media either the press, radio or television, which in some cases became very habitual.



This participation in various levels of contact enables the outlook of the researchers towards divulgation to be shown. It can be argued that the transfer of contents became a coherent target with the regular link of professional historian as a civil servant, sustained by public funds, it thus being coherent that this should lead to a transfer of contents. Moreover, the fact that two thirds of the researchers did not participate in this kind of publications is related with the prudence that the work of the researchers requires. Certainly, the high specialisation of each of the duties the researchers are involved in —research, teaching and, in some cases, management—, with their regulated demands, hinders the addition of a fourth duty, so that an increase in transfer of contents can be in detriment of the research itself. Thus, it is worth establishing different frameworks of collaboration that facilitate contact, assessment, circulation of publications, etc., thus combining the efforts of the various parties involved.

2.6 Congresses and seminars

In principle, conferences and seminars should become meeting points to catalyse research, and, as specialized meetings, the resulting publications should become reference works. However, the standardisation of research values decreases the valuation of publications from conferences, which could have influenced the unequal interest researchers have given to these meetings. In any case, Catalan researchers continued to believe that the scientific meetings generate a useful debate and, thus, worked to organise this type of meeting at different levels. Three types of gatherings prospered in the period studied: those stabilised annually; those organised by research groups in function of their activity and the ones that arose with commemorations.

In the first category, the stable meetings, must be highlighted. This was the case of the ones organised by the UdL in Balaguer, with the 7th to the 14th editions organised consecutively between 2003 and 2009, bringing together international specialists about 'Power in the Middle Ages', 'The Space of Evil', 'Balaguer 1105: Crossroads of Civilisations', 'Nature and development: the Environment and the Middle Ages', 'Utopias and alternatives of life in the Middle Ages', 'Ideas of Peace in the Middle Ages', 'Identities'. In 2005, a specific meeting on archaeology was added, and this became an annual event after the second edition in 2007, meeting in Algerri and Lleida and focussing on medieval archaeology in 'Reflections from the Practice' (2005), 'The Transformation of the Medieval Muslim frontier' (2007), 'The Prospection of the Territory' (2008) and 'The Dry-land Areas' (2009). All these meetings became regular and their minutes were later published. In another format, but also bringing together leading researchers favouring opening for reflection, the medievalists in the UdG organised seminars stretching all through the 2004-2005 academic year, and this continued annually, reaching the sixth edition in the 2009-2010 course.

Among their occasional meetings, the two consolidated research groups in the CSIC held a series of high-quality scientific meetings in line with their research: 'The Way of Saint James and Catalonia' (2003), 'The Catalan-Aragonese Crown and



its Mediterranean Surroundings in the Late Middle Ages' (2003), 'Negotiating in the Middle Ages' (2004), 'Public Indebtedness, Monarchy and Cities in the Hispanic Kingdoms (14th-16th centuries)' (2008); 'City and Hospital in Western Europe (13th-18th centuries)' (2009). Similarly, two research groups in the UAB organised meetings orientated around their respective lines of research: 'Lighthouses of Islam. Ancient Beacon Towers of al-Andalus' (2006) and 'For an Agrarian Archaeology. Perspectives of Research in Hispanic Medieval Societies' (2008). For its part, the UPF organised seminars summing the medieval and modern perspectives —'Public Notaries and Social History in Medieval and Modern Catalonia' (2003).

At the same time, the use of the public administrations made of the commemorations invites caution about these claims, even more so when the scientific media sometimes responded with repetitive actions more than with innovative ideas. However, these civic demands can, at the same time, stimulate research. In this vein, we can highlight the commemoration of the birth of James I organised by the Institute of Catalan Studies in 2008, with a very wide range of events throughout the year, in sessions in Barcelona, Lleida and Girona, as well as the meetings further afield in Palma de Mallorca and Gandia.

3. Conclusions

During the period analysed, it can be considered that 14.28% of Catalan researchers in medieval history did not do research, but rather the management and transfer of knowledge. This figure rises to 21.87% if we restrict it to the consolidated teaching staff (CU, TU and *agregats*), bearing in mind that 57.14% of the latter percentage were in an age band of those nearing the end of their working life (aged over 60). The opposite side of these figures indicates however, that a very large proportion of the researchers' —85.72% of all levels of researchers and 78.13% of the consolidated ones— carried out true research, although at very different work rates, in other words, working creating and renewing knowledge.

This was the work of the medievalists distributed, in a very fragmented way, around seven research centres (CSIC, UB, UAB, UdL, UdG, URV and UPF), with the researchers themselves, for coherence in their work, establishing a network of connections by sharing research projects and consolidated research groups. There was no overall coordination or global research plan, although the sum of the various synergies offered a very coherent and complete whole, centred on the various fields and chronologies of the history of Catalonia, with a clear predominance of the Late Middle Ages. Except in the earliest medieval period, the researchers focused on their own country, with other geographies being tackled from the Catalan perspective. The lines of analysis adopted paths of renewal, with transversal vectors like space, territory, power, spirituality, writing, the ruptures of the social and natural order, etc. Through this focus, they contributed to a hermeneutic renewal with which to analyse a growing heuristic contribution, reaching a veritable —and necessary—



renovation of our knowledge of medieval Catalonia. This revision did not mean a rupture but appeared more as the fruit and evolution of the ways begun in earlier years, to the point that some vigorous lines of research showed an ascending path that continued innovations begun in the previous period through the study of taxation, food and diet, gender, mobility and relations in the Mediterranean, the exercise of jurisdiction, etc...

This renovation took the form of a rather large number of scientific products: 1249 titles. This was in line with the bibliometry that the regulation of research is currently submitted to. There was a dominance of chapters in books, a true reflection of a more traditional work in the Catalan Medieval research than the submission of articles to be evaluated and published that is imposed nowadays, and which is in second place. This format, coherent with the lines of evaluation that currently promote the publication of articles in prestigious journals more than in books, did however, bring with it a atomisation of scientific reflection, especially if this did not culminate, at some moment, in works of scientific recapitulation. By making an overall overview of the academic work, one could doubt if what is published is read and absorbed, and if it is processed to obtain a common historiographic discourse or whether, in contrast, each one focuses on registering the contributions produced in their own specific field of work. Publications under formats inviting a deeper reflection linked to analytical monographic studies would enable more conclusive results to be achieved, which would contribute to avoiding the fragmented vision and, at the same time, clarifying and offering new research clues to follow for an essential global understanding of the medieval history of Catalonia. The lack of reflections of that type does not show up the shortcomings of the researchers, but more the weakness of the scientific system that was being imposed.

The renewing work of many researchers shows the necessary fragility of the academic frontiers with other areas that also study the Middle Ages, be this from literature, art history or the history of philosophy, among others, as well as the transversalities added by palaeography or archaeology. Thus, another challenge is open, whose solution, through new bridges of collaboration, is linked to the stimuli for the future of the Medieval Ages research.

To promote their research, the majority of Catalan researchers chose means of diffusion and languages that denote a Hispanic projection, far from the international scientific circuits. However, this contrasts with the evident knowledge of the lines of international research and even notably with their participation in these through the active presence in congresses and international activities of 77.42% of the consolidated teaching staff.

Research enjoyed good health to judge from the contributions and dynamics of the work produced. That is why it draws the attention even more that this production was aimed especially at internal consumption, neglecting the presence in the international media despite the researchers being in contact, at the same time, with international research. The high volume of scientific production and the conceptual wealth of its contents were achieved despite the majority of research personnel having to combine their work with teaching and sometimes with



management. In fact, research was subordinate to teaching, insomuch as the staffs of the centres were designed in function of the latter and not for reasons of research. Moreover, there is the apparent paradox that there is no direct relation between a lower teaching load and greater scientific production. The model of stabilisation is currently changing, with a preference for contractual consolidation (*lector, agregat*) rather than the civil servant system. However, the unstable mobility in the lower levels of the teaching staff and the hesitant replacement of the upper levels produces uncertainty, to which we must also add the challenge of training a good reservoir of young medievalists through the new educational plans that were implanted in the final years of the period studied here.

