

PRESENCE AND PERSISTENCE OF CATALAN CULTURAL PATTERNS IN THE KINGDOM OF SARDINIA THROUGH AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PSYCHO-SOCIAL STUDY OF THE 'CORTS'

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ABSTRACT

It is presented a study in its initial phase where the comparison of the Corts, summoned for the Principality of Catalonia and the Kingdom of Sardinia during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, is combined, as a survey methodology, with the field theory and the concept of perception and, in particular, of redundancy, from Gestalt psychology and the psychology of communication, a derivation of Gestalt psychology. To analyse the structural functioning of a society we believe that it is essential to make use of a 'hybrid approach and methodology,' which borrows theories from other disciplinary fields, in order to attempt an epistemological interaction between various disciplines aiming to historical research.¹

KEYWORDS

Corts, Parliaments, Principality of Catalonia, Giudicato of Arborea, Gestalt theory, Perception, Redundancy, Communication theory, XML/TEI.

CAPITALIA VERBA

Curiae, Parlamentum, Principatus Cathaloniae, Iudicatus Arboreae, Doctrina Gestalt, Sensus, Redundantia, Doctrina Communicationis, XML/TEI.

1. Introduction and aims

Herein is presented a study in its initial phase where the comparison of the *Corts*, summoned for the Principality of Catalonia and the Kingdom of Sardinia during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, is combined, as a survey methodology, with the field theory and the concept of perception and, in particular, of redundancy, from Gestalt psychology and the psychology of communication, a derivation of Gestalt psychology.²

This paper aims to demonstrate that the Principality of Catalonia, within the balance of Crown of Aragon, was the dominant state entity, at least in respect of the Kingdom of Sardinia, and as such it naturally established itself as cultural model.³

To analyse the structural functioning of a society (how did it respond to an external entity with the aim of incorporating it? How did introjection mechanism act? And first of all, is it possible to talk about introjection between societies?) we believe that it is essential to make use of a 'hybrid approach and methodology,' which borrows theories from other disciplinary fields, in order to attempt an epistemological interaction between various disciplines aiming to historical research. It is also well known that reality is extremely complex and articulated and, as such, unknowable in a comprehensive and simultaneous approach except for some aspects considered singularly. Always bearing in mind and being aware

1. Used Abbreviations: AAC, Archivio Arcivescovile di Cagliari; ACA, Arxiu de la Corona d'Aragó; ACC, Archivio del Comune di Cagliari; AHCB, Arxiu Històric de la Ciutat de Barcelona; ASC, Archivio di Stato di Cagliari.

2. The Gestalt psychology started developing at the end of nineteenth century as *Gestaltpsychologie* mainly in Germany and then it spread to America and to the rest of the world influencing other branches of psychology and other sciences. The year of birth of Gestalt is anyway conventionally fixed in 1912, when Max Wertheimer, one of leading *Gestalt's* theoreticians with Kurt Koffka and Wolfgang Köhler, published an article on *phi* phenomenon and the crisis of theoretical correspondence between stimulation and sensation, between material level, that is the physical reality, and sensorial level as phenomenal reality. *Gestalt* studies the aspects of perception, memory, reasoning / problem-solving, learning and social psychology. The philosophical assumptions that Gestalt inherits and is based on come from the European cultural milieu of the nineteenth century. Some of the philosophical fathers of Gestalt are usually identified as such: Kant for the synthetic a priori judgement theory by which he attempts a solution to the rift between Empiricism and Rationalism and Brentano for whom the object of psychology is not to see, to remember, to take, but the act itself of seeing, remembering and taking. For an explicative summary of the history of the Gestalt psychology epistemology, see: Legrenzi, Paolo, ed. *Gestalt: Storia della psicologia*. Bologna: Il Mulino, 2003: 105-132. On the Kantian philosophy you can see: Abbagnano, Nicola; Fornero, Giovanni. *Filosofi e filosofie nella storia*, 2 vols. Turin: Paravia, 1986: II, 427-478.

3. When here we mention the concept of cultural model we recourse to the Cultural anthropology field where the concept of culture is the mode according to which in a given place, in a specific period of time, a given group of person more or less numerous and internally structured give response to the nature. Culture is therefore the way to eat, to dress, to live together and to organize themselves socially, to create religious beliefs, features that people has been given themselves in history. While the different cultural models are the effective tested and transmitted realizations of the culture itself of that particular people. Therefore, they represent the distinctive and identity features of a constant human aggregation in a response to nature specific place.



that the “whole is other than the sum of the parts”,⁴ the ultimate purpose of interdisciplinary choice lies in the attempt to figure out from reality the intentions and the socio-structural functioning, in this case from a specific and in many ways known historical reality. It is considered that responses could be closer to the complexity of reality here in issue (and to the way it was actually experienced) by going beyond the usual source analysis, attempting to query them through a plurality of disciplinary points of view. In particular, the aim is to bring evidences and explain them with methodologies *other* than the usual methodological standards used in Historical fields.

In this case, taking as starting point for the analysis the sources (specifically the Acts of the Catalan and Sardinian Parliament, *Corts*), the above-cited theories—field theory, perception and redundancy—can be helpful for the analysis and interpretation of the operating structure that is possible to distinguish, and which appears, even if not well defined, when reading the data source.

The purpose of this work is therefore to provide a validation method in order to verify the relationships between different kingdoms of the Crown of Aragon, namely the Principality of Catalonia and the Kingdom of Sardinia, from an institutional-legislative and socio-political standpoint. By studying the Principality of Catalonia and the Kingdom of Sardinia history we can actually observe similar paths. The Kingdom of Sardinia, founded by the Principality of Catalonia after its conquest, shows Catalan elements. It is not known how the transmission of cultural models was actualised and carried out, such as how they lived and, above all, how both local people and Catalans relocated in Sardinia experienced these Catalan elements. It would be good to do at least a temporal distinction between the experience of the first years of the realisation of the *Regnum* (1324-1355) and that probably more suited to a well-formed kingdom, the Kingdom of Sardinia, by now completely within the interests of the Crown of Aragon as well as a century later (1421). It is supposed that the Catalan elements were imposed. The level of violence by which this process happened can be supposed by knowing the different insurrections that took place in Sardinia. Although, it should be stressed that the fact there were insurrections does not mean that the transmission of cultural models was violent or coercive or somehow aggressive.⁵

4. The phrase “whole is other than the sum of the parts” as the maximum representation of Gestalt psychology, on one hand expresses the philosophical background in which the current psychological at issue developed (the phrase above is against the elementarism, popular in the nineteenth century), on the other hand it synthetically expresses the logic structuring of thought (e.g. an element considered outside the whole has a different meaning when considered in relationship with its belonging set). Already Aristoteles in his work *Metaphysics* referred that a such considered will be different when compared to the sum of the different elements of the same set. He postulated, according to this principle, that mind and body are a unique set. To exemplify the phrase at issue it gives the example of a puzzle, which, when completed, represents a full figure, while the single pieces will be elements with a different meaning when taken out of their place in the design to represent. You can see: Sini, Carlo. *I filosofi e le opere*, Milan: Principato, 1984: 113-114.

5. On the Kingdom of Sardinia and the conquest, you can see: Casula, Francesco Cesare. *La Sardegna aragonese*. Sassari: Chiarella, 1990; Casula, Francesco Cesare. *La storia di Sardegna*. Pisa-Sassari: Edizioni ETS-Carlo Delfino editore, 1992; Cadeddu, Maria Eugenia. “Giacomo II d’Aragona e la conquista del



Herein, our purpose is to start outlining the operational ways of the realization and the transmission of a cultural model from the Principality of Catalonia toward the Kingdom of Sardinia.

Ultimately, the present study would be set to answer, in forthcoming works, at these questions: which social environments produced the guidelines to export Catalan cultural model. Maybe the environments close to the reigning house or rather the different social classes were eager to profit from economic and human investments carried out in the past. Shortly, who the main actors were, from which districts of Catalonia they came and, therefore, which regions had the power and the socio-political and cultural weight to pursue an international policy based on the installation of a Catalan representative cultural model.

2. The field theory

The field theory is one of the above cited instruments which will be used here to start develop our 'hybrid method.' This theory has its genesis in the European scientific pioneering environment of the early twentieth century, halfway between psychology and sociology. The field theory was developed by Kurt Lewin, a German social psychologist who adhered to the Gestalt psychology. This theory focalizes its attention on social analysis concerning the forces in play and it is used to identify those tending to affect a given situation and establish themselves as model.

Lewin's theory is usually expressed by the following equation: $B=f(P, E)$. This equation explains the fact that the Behavior (B), of the individual or the group, can be represented by a function (f) of interdependent factors such as the Personality (P) and the Environment (E), in which the subject, or the group, lives and interacts. The individual and his environment set up a psychological field, while the group and its environment set up a social field. The field is an entirety made of coexisting facts in their interdependency.⁶

Regno di Sardegna e Corsica". *Medioevo. Saggi e rassegne*, 20 (1995): 251-316; Sánchez Martínez, Manuel. "Contributi finanziari di città e ville della Catalogna alla conquista del regno di Sardegna e Corsica (1321-1326)". *Medioevo. Saggi e rassegne*, 20 (1995): 317-352.

6. Kurt Lewin was born in 1890 in a village in Poland and he died in North America in 1947. He grew up in Berlin where he studied and took his degree in Philosophy remaining in the Berliner academic until 1933, when he emigrated in the United State of America. He developed his theories oriented to the social psychology, focusing his attention and his studies on the field theory, the T-groups, the group dynamics, the research-action. The Lewin's studies are useful to analyse the contingent objects of reality where the observer lives in. Lewin, therefore, talked about topological psychology for its way of representation of the psychic reality of the individual and the group. This expression (topological psychology) meant the spatial condition of the psychic experience, essential element never considered until then. Some of his studies can be found in new editions that collect several of his essays: Lewin, Kurt. *Teoria dinamica della personalità*. Florence: Giunti, 2011; Lewin, Kurt. *La teoria, la ricerca, l'intervento*. Bologna: Il Mulino, 2005.



3. Perception and Redundancy

The perception theory has been developed from the end of nineteenth century to the Sixties of the twentieth century. In the Gestalt psychology environment this theory was initially defined as the action, or the imagine, that is perceived by the sense of sight and that, through neural stimulus and elaboration of the brain, interprets the observed images. Throughout the years, the studies have focused on the enlargement of the perception theory on not only exclusively visual fields. Then, the studies found out that the theory of unification of perception can be applied to every aspect of human life. This Gestalt concept is, in fact, the basis of the relationship of the individual, of groups and of the relationships between them. Shortly and simplifying we can say that, in connection to how the individual perceives himself and the reality, more correctly the environment, he will react. The group acts in the same way, even if in more complex and articulate ways.

A case in point of the concept of perception, in this case 'visual perception,' is offered by the example proposed by the Gestalt theorists of the early twentieth century, who said that when a person looks out at the window immediately sees the objects that form (part of) the view and not the individual elements that structure it (colours, brightness...). According to Gestalt psychology, human beings do not perceive the individual stimulus, but they are inclined to unify the sensorial faculty. Then, the mental processes involving the perception have a global nature and they are well structured. Therefore, mental processes are not a conglomeration of simple elements joined together, but they are elaborated just as included in their totality. It is possible to extend this concept also to groups, as groups and societies have mental process and their working principles are very similar to that of individuals. In fact, groups have sensations and perceptions too and through them respond to the environment.⁷

4. Applications in historical field

The just outlined field theory and the concept of perception and redundancy gave a remarkable theoretical contribution to the evolution of psychology thinking concerning individual and groups. In order to best implement the outlined 'hybrid methodology' it is good to raise a few questions concerning the use of these theories in the historical field and identify the main application methods. The first arising issues are the following: how we can use the theoretical and practical contributions

7. Concerning the initial theories of the Gestalt psychology about the system of perception, we can consult Wertheimer, Max. *Il pensiero produttivo*, ed. Paolo Bozzi. Florence: Giunti, 1997. In the psychology field of communication oriented to the social analysis, we point the study developed at the end of Sixties of twentieth century by a Palo Alto research group: Watzlawick, Paul; Helmick Beavin, Janet; Jackson, Don D. *Pragmatica della comunicazione umana. Studio dei modelli interattivi, delle patologie e dei paradossi*. Rome: Astrolabio, 1971.



in the History field; which elements should be used and/or preferable; how to use them; in which historical context; for which purpose.

To answer these questions and provide an initial procedure for the utilization of these concepts it is useful to divide them and treat the individual elements that make them up in order to ease the highlighting of their use for historical research.

It has been said that we can talk about perceptual unification because the mind, in order to organize within itself the different information coming through the perception from the environment, tends to unify the different information that it accumulates, tending therefore to the unity of meaning. The elements that help the unification of perception are various, the major ones, which can affect the historical investigation, are:

- redundancy (it means the repetition of an element within a repeated pattern with the ultimate aim of making it habitual. In the historical field, for example, it can be noted the redundancy of specific legislative actions);
- proximity (it can be intended both physical and space proximity but also environmental as meant by psychologically Gestalt. This concept, transposed in the historical field, could be understood as the cultural proximity between two population);
- penchant towards closure;
- continuity (the tendency to perceive as unitary the elements which are inclined towards continuity compared to others. In the historical field we can think about a long-term debate concerning the social perception *ante* and *post quem*);
- similarity (similar items and elements are perceived as united);
- meaningfulness (the sets of stimuli that have simplicity, order, symmetry, regularity and stability are perceived as a *unicum*).

The just analysed elements can be used both singularly and in systemic way in order, for example, to corroborate a perceptive unification.⁸

Redundancy is both a useful element to help the realization of perceptive unification and a concept which is unrelated to the Gestalt theory of perception, but which can be found in various branches of knowledge. The psychology of communication considers redundancy as the repetition of behavioural patterns carried out with the aim of affirming a dominant behavioural model. The redundancy is present in linguistic and in informatics and technological fields too. It represents a very important element for the historical analyses because it can be used to highlight an intentional individual or group will, otherwise unexpressed in the sources, which is usually employed to refer to in the historical research.

The field theory briefly exposed above is a useful instrument in the historical analysis because it allows valuing the potential and the influence of the different social, political and cultural strengths in a specific period or environment.

8. *I principi di Wertheimer hanno il compito di darci delle indicazioni su come si comporta il campo fenomenico* ("The principles of Wertheimer have the duty to give us the indications about how the phenomenal field behaves."). Sambin, Marco. "La psicologia della Gestalt", *Storia della psicologia*, Paolo Legrenzi, ed. Bologna: Il Mulino, 2003: 115-117.



Lewin's theories, correlated to the study of individual psychological field and to the social field, are useful also to try to better define the natural grouping of people and, consequently, better frame them in a social structure and therefore analysing them from an historical point of view, highlighting not already well-known dynamics. This focus on the historical study based on structuring of psycho-social analyses would be particularly successful especially concerning different social stratification which can be found in Sardinia from the fourteenth century up to the first decades of the fifteenth century. In fact, during this period, in Sardinia two State entities meet and collide, *Iudicatus Arboreae* and Kingdom of Sardinia, which carry at least as much culture who, forced by the events of the conquest, coexist and cohabit, at times living even together, until the demise of *Iudicatus* reality.

The analysis here suggested aims to be a key data carried out in structural way.

Addition to the elements of the theory of perception and the field theory is the momentary change of the point of view of the historical analysis: the aim of our research is to try to outline or to foresee the life-experience of individuals and groups in a given moment in history. In this work, the historic moment is the period between the beginning of fourteenth century and the first years of the sixteenth century in Sardinia. According to what previously outlined, the questions that could be seen as problematic headlights are the following: how did the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Sardinia of Catalan origin and descendants act towards the inhabitants in the Principality? And compared to natives of *Iudicatus Arboreae*? How did the perception of the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Sardinia, in its various fringe and social components, change in regards of Principality of Catalonia and the Crown of Aragon in about two centuries (1324-1511)? How did the *Arborensi* perceive the cultural model provided, or imposed, by the Principality in the fourteenth century? And how the Catalan, who were rooted in the island from a century, could experience that in the fifteenth century? In addition, what about those taking part to the conquest? There were differences between the two identified macro groupings? What were the political subdivisions, the cultural and experiential subdivisions, internal to the two macro-groupings?

The analysis allows us to better understand the implementing method of incorporating accomplished by the Principality of Catalonia towards the Kingdom of Sardinia with the explicit aim to bring new state entities into the orbit of the Crown of Aragon. We consider that this process occurs in the Kingdom of Sardinia, and also in the Kingdom of Sicily and, in general, in those State entities with less socio-political and economic power than the Principality.



5. The analysed data sources and what they can tell us

The main contents of this study are the parliamentary meetings held by the Principality of Catalonia and the Kingdom of Sardinia from the end of the thirteenth century until the early sixteenth century.⁹

Although a chronological period of two centuries has been identified, the attention in this work was mainly focused on the analysis of the fourteenth century and the first decade, until the twenties of the fifteenth century. This choice is functionally to the result obtained by the research and the hypothesis presented herein. In fact, we notice that as soon as the Kingdom of Sardinia is reconciled and the *Judicatus* rights of Arborea are acquired by the Crown of Aragon king Alfonso the Magnanimous in 1420, we do not find any issue concerning this Kingdom in the Act of Catalan Parliament neither any reference in the Sardinian Parliaments. We can find only one reference to the Catalan *Corts* after 1420 in the Sardinian Parliaments, which is a chapter court of the Military arm of 1511 stating that the form of convening and running of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Sardinia must be the one adopted in Catalonia.¹⁰ This is a proof of the fact that, in this case, the cultural model proposed

9. In the period from 1350 to 1458 the Parliament of the Principality of Catalonia was summoned in the following years: 1350-1351, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1362-1363, 1364-1365, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1367-1368, 1368-1369, 1370-1371, 1372-1373, 1375, 1376, 1377-1378, 1379-1380, 1383-1384, 1388-1389, 1396-1397, 1406-1410, 1413, 1414, 1416, 1419-1420, 1421-1423, 1429-1430, 1431-1434, 1435-1436, 1436-1437, 1438-1439, 1439, 1440, 1442-1443, 1446-1448, 1450-1453, 1454-1458. We consider this time span because we can find a complete documentation of the Acts of Parliament from 1350; we consider 1458 as an ending term because Alfonso the Magnanimous died in that year. He was the second king from the new Castilian dynasty Trastámara, which marks the transition from medieval to modern era for conception of the power and the institutions. For a detailed examination of the occasions when the Parliament of Principality of Catalonia was summoned during this period, see: Conde, Rafael; Hernández, Ana; Riera, Sebastià; Rovira, Manuel. "Fonts per a l'estudi de les Corts i els Parlaments de Catalunya. Catàleg dels processos de Corts i Parlaments", *Les Corts a Catalunya. Actes del Congrés d'Història Institucional (28, 29 i 30 d'abril de 1988)*. Barcelona: Generalitat de Catalunya, Departament de Cultura, 1991: 25-61. Parliamentary meetings held by the Kingdom of Sardinia were those of 1355, 1421 (1446 and 1452), 1481-1485, 1495, 1497, 1500 and 1504-1511. Regarding the primary sources situation of the Acts of Parliament held by the Kingdom of Sardinia and to its conservation in the various Italian State Archives and in those foreigners, see: Era, Antonio. "Impiego di documenti d'archivio", *Il Parlamento sardo (1481-1485)*, Antonio Era, ed. Milan: Dott. A. Giuffrè, 1955: 15-16; Ferrai, Marinella; Lai, Maria Bonaria. "Appendice I. Fonti documentarie sui Parlamenti di Sardegna conservate negli archivi sardi e spagnoli (1421-1843). Prima indicazione", *Acta Curiarum Regni Sardiniae. Istituzioni rappresentative nella Sardegna medioevale e moderna, Atti del Seminario di Studi (Cagliari, 28-29 novembre 1984)*, 21 vols. Cagliari: Consiglio Regionale della Sardegna, 1986: I, 397-414; Olla Repetto, Gabriella. "La collana 'Acta Curiarum Regni Sardiniae'". *Archivio sardo del movimento operaio contadino e autonomistico*, 47-49 (1996): 75-90; Meloni, Giuseppe. "La documentazione", *Acta Curiarum Regni Sardiniae. Il Parlamento di Pietro IV d'Aragona (1355)*, 21 vols., ed. Giuseppe Meloni. Cagliari, 1993: II, 14-40; Schena, Olivetta. "Analisi archivistica e diplomatica degli Atti", *Acta Curiarum Regni Sardiniae. I Parlamenti di Alfonso il Magnanimo (1421, 1452)*, 21 vols., ed. Alberto Boscolo. Cagliari: Consiglio regionale della Sardegna, 1993: III, 87-102; Oliva, Anna Maria; Schena, Olivetta. "La documentazione", *Acta Curiarum Regni Sardiniae. I Parlamenti dei viceré Giovanni D'usay e Ferdinando Girón de Rebolledo (1495, 1497, 1500, 1504-1511)*, 21 vols., ed. Anna Maria Oliva, Olivetta Schena. Cagliari: Consiglio regionale della Sardegna, 1998: V, 9-27.

10. It was requested that the parliamentary practice of the Kingdom of Sardinia was normalized according to the Catalan custom, as there wasn't a precise model to follow in the past, the conclusion of the works



by the Principality of Catalonia was the one to be followed concerning the practise to undertake for the performance of political and institutional meetings.

In the Acts of the Catalan *Corts* we often find a forceful interest of the Principality toward the Kingdom of Sardinia. Sometimes the Kingdom is mentioned as an issue for the Principality to be solved, other times as a kingdom needing rescue or oppressed by the *iudex* of Arborea, considered as a villain. There are, in the Acts, also some Parliaments in which it is legislated and are engaged-in procedures intended not only to manage a ‘capricious’ kingdom, but also to put in place various strategies to plant a cultural model which implies a dependency relationship with the Principality. In several chapters court, during the dissertation presented by the Catalan members of three Staments, there are episodes in which it is developed an identity memory mechanism, through which it is highlighted and claimed a felt and effective cultural belonging feeling of the Kingdom of Sardinia towards the Principality of Catalonia.

In details, the *Corts* of the Principality of Catalonia that interest in some way the Kingdom of Sardinia are convened during the years and with specific reasons as following:¹¹

1305: it is the first Catalan Parliament that appears the lettering *rex Sardinie et Corsica* in the titling of the sovereign. The Kingdom of Sardinia and Corsica was nominally created in the 1297 by Pope Boniface VIII to try to resolve the issue of the war of the Sicilian Vespers. The *Regnum Sardiniae et Corsicae*, this is the complete name, was granted as perpetual fief to the sovereigns of the Crown of Aragon, and these would have to conquer it to gain possession. Actually, the birth *de iure* of the Kingdom dates back to the beginning of the conquest of the Sardinian territory by king James the Just, which occurred in 1324.¹² It should be noted, however, that

was delayed involving participants’ detriment. In this manner, by adopting the Catalan style, it was intended to eliminate errors of forms normalizing the legislative institute of the *Regnum* according to a dominant model. [...] *se haian celebrar e prosseguir juxta lo still y pratica de Cathalunya*. (“[...] have to be held and continue according to the style and practice of Catalonia.”) See the fourth chapter of court issued by Military arm in 1511 and edited in *Acta Curiarum Regni Sardiniae. I Parlamenti dei viceré Giovanni Dusay...*: V, 726.

11. The issue of the Acts of the Parliament of the Principality of Catalonia was published by the *Real Academia de la Historia* in the edition project of the Parliaments of the Kingdoms of Aragon, Valencia, and the Principality of Catalonia. The project took shape in the edition of the Acts of only *Corts* of the Principality of Catalonia held from 1064 to 1479. This remodelling project, *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragon Y de Valencia y principado de Cataluña*, consists of twenty-six volumes and was published between 1896 and 1922. For synthesis of the initial project see: Fita, Fidel; Oliver, Bienvenido. “Prólogo”, *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón y de Valencia y principado de Cataluña publicadas por la Real Academia de la Historia*, 27 vols., Bienvenido Oliver, ed. Madrid: Real Academia de la Historia, 1896: I, V-XX.

12. According to a proposal of Pope Celestine V, in the attempt to put an end to the issue of the Sicilian Vespers James the Just, king of Aragon, and Charles II of Anjou, king of Naples, stipulated a peace treaty in Anagni in 1295. According to the agreement Charles obtained the Sicilian throne, James’ excommunication was revoked and granted him the newborn Kingdom of Sardinia and Corsica as perpetual fief. On the Treaty of Anagni and the expansionism towards the Mediterranean area offered to the Crown of Aragon by the terms anagnine you can see: Salavert, Vicente. *El tratado de Anagni y la expansión mediterránea de la Corona de Aragón*. Saragossa: Imprenta Heraldo de Aragón, 1952). The



a period of eight years occurred, 1297-1305, before we can find reference to the 'Kingdom of Sardinia and Corsica' appellation.¹³

1323: it is the first Catalan Parliament summoned for issues concerning the *Regnum*. The titling is as following *Super generali Curia quam dominus Rex ordinavit celebranda in Cathalonia in civitate Barchinone pro negociis Sardinie et Corsice instanti festo Sancte Marie Magdalene proximi mensis Julii anni Domini M.CCC. vicesimi Tercii*¹⁴. The text here related from the edition of the Acts continues, after the convening of the archbishop of Tarragona and the members of the three Estates, with a communication to convened people about the forthcoming acquisition of the Kingdom of Sardinia.

1349: In the Acts we can find the warning about the fact that the Kingdom of Sardinia is under threat and needs help. The king addresses

*als Universitats de les ciutats e viles reals de Cathalonia per rahó de la creença per lo dit Senyor com[ana]da al dit en Bernat en les letres quel Senyor Rey tramet a les dites Universitats per lajuda molt necessaria que ha mester per socorrer el regne de Serdenya qui esta en gran perill.*¹⁵

He specifies that *com aquests affers del dit regne de Serdenya sien a ades pus perilloses, de les quals ajudes lo dit Senyor novellament havia scrit a les Universitats damunt dites*.¹⁶

The situation in which the Kingdom of Sardinia goes through is, in the opinion of the sovereign, more serious than the Valencian and Castilian contingent problems, so it is more urgent to intervene there. The seriousness of the island status is the fact that Marianus IV, *iudex* of *Iudicatus Arboreae* from 1347, since the first years of his government, provides signals of intolerance towards the Catalan-Aragon. However, the most important worry was caused by the Doria family behaviour. In fact, the king Peter the Ceremonious advised that *de Auria...rupto vassallaggii vinculo quod Nobis servare illesum*. Hereinafter, just sketching a war —we think he can relate to the pitched battle *Aidu de turdu* in 1347,— he affirms *totum dictum Sardinie regnum est*

documentation related to the nominal feoffment by Pope Boniface VIII of the *Regnum Sardiniae et Corsicae* is in: Tola, Pasquale. *Codice Diplomatico della Sardegna*, 2 vols. Sassari: Delfino, 1985: I, 456 (doc. No. 138).

13. This fact can be seen in relation with the end of the Vespers war, which occurred in 1302 by signing the peace treaty of Caltabellota. James the Just from now takes seriously to realize materially the Kingdom of Sardinia and Corsica.

14. *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*: I, 272.

15. "in the Councils and the royal council towns and cities of Catalonia according to the power our lord the king has given said Bernat through the letters that the Lord King has sent to said Councils for the very economic assistance to save the kingdom of Sardinia that was in great danger. He specifies that as these affairs of the said kingdom of Sardinia are currently more dangerous, of the mentioned economic help said Lord had again written to the Councils mentioned above". *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*: XII, 397.

16. "as these affairs of the said kingdom of Sardinia are currently more dangerous, of the mentioned economic help said Lord had again written to the Councils mentioned above". *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*: XII, 397.



in tam evidenti periculo positum.¹⁷ For this reason, the king requires *auxilio et subsidio celeri*.

1354: the Parliament is entitled *Super negocio concessionis facte domino Regi per syndicos Universitatum et civitatum villarum Cathalonie in auxilium viagii Sardinie in Parlamento Barchinone celebrato*.¹⁸ We notice that the Parliament held in 1354 was summoned to gather supports for the next travel to Sardinia that king Peter the Ceremonious would have shortly undertaken. The letters of convocation are dated January 30, it is known that the king was in Sardinia at the end of June and remained there until the beginning of September 1355, after having completed the work of the first Parliament of the Kingdom of Sardinia, summoned in the first months of 1355. In order to better frame this travel, please remember that the declaration of war against the Catalan-Aragon and the Kingdom of Sardinia by the *iudex* of Arborea Marianus IV is dated 1353. Moreover, this war concludes the alliance between the two State entities of the island, Kingdom of Sardinia and *Iudicatus Arboreae*, which lasted for over twenty years.¹⁹

1355: in this Parliament the king informs the Catalan majors that the *iudex* of Arborea and Matteo Doria do not behave as good vassals. And so the king *fa executió de justícia contra lo dit Jutge e En Matheu Doria e lurs bens ab osts e ab gents de cavall e de peu*.²⁰ Besides, it is sought and received a funding of “*vi milia libres barchinoneses, de les quals se servesca en pagar sevents e companyes qui lan servit e vuy lo servexen*”²¹ in the Kingdom of Sardinia.²²

1366: the Parliament is entitled *Capitula facta super dono sive subsidio concesso in sucursum Regni Sardinie in parlamento celebrato Barchinone per universitates civitatum*

17. During the battle of *Aidu de turdu* in 1347 the Doria troops hardly defeat Catalan-Aragon's. See: Casula, Francesco Cesare. *La storia di Sardegna...*: 425-426.

18. *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*: XII, 443.

19. About the *iudex* Marianus IV, the war between the Kingdom of Sardinia and the *Iudicatus Arboreae*, and the trial for felony see: Casula, Francesco Cesare. *La storia di Sardegna...*: 347-356 and 426-429; Cioppi, Alessandra. *Battaglie e protagonisti della Sardegna medioevale*. Cagliari: AM&D, 2008: 83-91; Gallinari, Luciano. “Alcuni ‘discorsi’ politici e istituzionali nello scontro tra Pietro IV d’Aragona e Marianus IV d’Arborea”, *Sardegna e Mediterraneo tra Medioevo ed Età Moderna. Studi in onore di Francesco Cesare Casula*, Maria Giuseppina Meloni, Olivetta Schena, eds. Genoa: Brigati, 2009: 149-184. About the travel of the king Peter the Ceremonious in Sardinia see: Meloni, Giuseppe. *L’Italia medioevale nella Cronaca di Pietro IV d’Aragona*. Cagliari: Edizioni Della Torre, 1980.

20. “applied justice against the said *iudex* and Matthew Doria and their property by the host and armed men on horseback and footsoldiers”. *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*: I/2, 477.

21. “6,000 Barcelonan pounds, which he used to pay servants and armed companies that have served him and now serve him”. *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*: I/2, 478.

22. In 1355 the trial of felony against the Arboreas and Matteo Doria starts and it will end in 1393. Until now the already edited three volumes are Armangué, Joan; Cireddu, Anna; Cuboni, Caterina, eds. *Proceso contra los Arborea*, 3 vols. Pisa: ETS, 2001: I; Chirra, Sara ed. *Proceso contra los Arborea*, 3 vols. Pisa: ETS, 2003: II and III. In 1355 the first Parliament of the Kingdom of Sardinia were convened and the peace of Sanluri took place; peace lasted ten years. See: *Acta Curiarum Regni Sardiniae. Il Parlamento di Pietro IV d’Aragona (1355)*, ed. Giuseppe Meloni. Cagliari: Consiglio regionale della Sardegna, 1993; on the peace of Sanluri see: Tola, Pasquale. *Codice Diplomatico della Sardegna*, 2 vols. Sassari: C. Delfino, 1984: I, 769-773 (doc. No. 103).



*et locorum Regalium Cathalonie anno a nativitate domini M CCC LXVI.*²³ Peter the Ceremonious asks for help to the Royal Estate and exposes the serious problem of security for the Kingdom, threatened by the vassal of the king, the *iudex* of Arborea. There is a moment of identitarian memory, aimed to remember the huge resources employed until then, which would have been completely lost if there wasn't the required help to restore the order in the Kingdom of Sardinia. Dealing directly with the Kingdom of Sardinia the chapter of court XII (the king is requested to abolish the ordinance —established for the Kingdom of Sardinia— concerning the inheritance only for knights, and to extend it to all citizens. It is also required that the constitutions issued by a *Cort* of the Kingdom of Sardinia are suppressed by a *Cort* of the same Kingdom), XIII (it is requested that the cities and the royal villages pay the royal right and not be exempt, as it happens instead. If this carries on, it will be difficult to ensure the defence in terms of economic), XIV (it is an exhortation of the Royal Estate to charge both the other two Estates and the kingdoms of Aragon, Valencia and Majorca for the expenses required for the extraordinary management and the defence of the Kingdom of Sardinia), XVI (it is specified that the money must be exclusively used for the defence of the Kingdom of Sardinia. This money should be used for the journey that Pedro de Luna would have with *CCCC homens a cavall et ab M servents et ab V galeas*)²⁴ and XVII (we note that the guaranteed money for the defence of the Kingdom would not be bestowed if the *iudex* of Arborea renounced to his warlike intentions). In 1365, the truce signed in 1355 in Sanluri was broken, this Parliament is an involved and worried political-economic response to the contingent problems.

1367: What is said in this Parliament is very interesting to better understand the policy developed by the Arboreas and the Catalan-Aragoneses: in fact, this Parliament is mainly focused on the defence of the Kingdom of Sardinia from the continuous attacks carried on by the *iudex* of Arborea and Brancaloneo Doria. The *iudex* of Arborea got the ownership of six galleys by which he meant to attack the island territory owned by the king. For this reason the mayors and the councillors of the Catalan cities are recalled and invited to take into account the urgent need emphasizing the issue that the danger in which the Kingdom is, affects the person of the king and his crown, his subjects but, above all, the people of the Principality.

1368: in this Parliament it is reaffirmed that the island, in which the Kingdom of Sardinia belonging to the king headquarters, is occupied by the *iudex* of Arborea, a vassal of the king. It is stressed that the Kingdom needs urgent protection. This defense is calculated in *Mille Quingentorum equitum et octo mille peditum et decem galearum armatarum*. Economically were *necessarie CCCC. XXV Mille libre*.²⁵

1371: one hundred and fifty thousand florins are required to shelter the Kingdom of Sardinia.

23. *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*: III, 421.

24. "400 men on horseback and with 1,000 servants and with five galleys". *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*: III, 428.

25. *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*: III, 11.



1372-1373: during the meetings of the Parliament, it is reminded that the state of the conquest and the security of the Kingdom of Sardinia is long-standing and awkward. A loan for an expedition is granted with cost statement of two years for repayment. The Parliament grants a loan of thirty thousand florins, which must be exclusively used to shelter Alghero, Cagliari and other places staying under the royal jurisdiction. That amount is also necessary for the galleys already located in Sardinia and for those to be added to.

1379-1380: the king of the Crown of Aragon asks help to achieve an expedition planned to restore the order, which was subverted by his vassal the *iudex* of Arborea, in the Kingdom of Sardinia. The Kingdom of Sardinia risks being lost. The Estates approve the expedition and its aim. The other kingdoms of the Crown of Aragon are urged to participate in the cost of expedition. It is reminded moreover to the king to take care of the other kingdoms of the Crown as he deals with the Kingdom of Sardinia. The ecclesiastical and royal Estates lend fifty thousand Barcelonan liras to protect the Kingdom of Sardinia. This amount will be returned by the Principality and individual Catalan people. The king is required to summon *Corts* in every realm, including the Kingdom of Sardinia. The military Estate provides a loan of one hundred and fifty thousand Barcelonan liras to protect the Kingdom of Sardinia.

1400-1401: the Parliament approves various chapter of court which plan the organization of the institutional and political-administrative life of the Kingdom of Sardinia.²⁶ It is established to restore the two old governors instead of the only existing, reinstating the old order. It is also required that barons and nobles cannot play this role, that it is impossible to appoint a replacement except for cases of real need. These roles must be five-year. It is stated that problems occurred because of a wide jurisdiction from the governors of the Kingdom. Therefore, it is required that these wide jurisdictions are downsized as they were in the past times. It is also required that the governors are supported by some city councilmen of Cagliari and Alghero in their offices. The governors' and *vegher* appointments should have been under sovereign jurisdiction. There is the attempt to put a legislative stop to the nepotism denying the possibility to be appointed as *vegher* if *algun qui sia domestich familiar o parent o acostat del dit Governador*.²⁷ High officials of the Kingdom were excluded from trades because they mainly had previously abused. It is required that

26. See: Ferrer, Maria Teresa. "Barcelona i la política mediterrània catalana: el Parlament de 1400-1401", *XIV Congresso di storia della Corona d'Aragona (Sassari-Alghero 19-24 maggio 1990)*, *La Corona d'Aragona in Italia (secc. XIII-XVIII)*, 5 vols., Carlo Delfino, ed. Sassari: ETS, 1995: I, 427-444. See also: Olla, Gabriella. *Studi sulle istituzioni amministrative e giudiziarie della Sardegna nei secoli XIV e XV*. Cagliari: Edizioni AV, 2005: 13-40, 107-120 and 183-261; Gallinari, Luciano. "Nuevas hipótesis sobre la relación familiar entre Brancaleone Doria y el futuro juez de Arborea Mariano V en las fuentes de finales del siglo XIV". *RiMe. Rivista dell'Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea*, 11-1 (2013): 191-232; Gallinari, Luciano. *Una dinastia in guerra e un re descurat? i giudici d'Arborea e Giovanni I re d'Aragona (1379-1396)*. Cagliari: Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea, 2013; Gallinari, Luciano. "Brancaleone Doria ¿fallido juez de Arborea?", *Tra il Tirreno e Gibilterra. Un Mediterraneo iberico?*, Luciano Gallinari, Flocel Sabaté i Curull, eds. Cagliari: Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea, 2015: 547-599.

27. "see if anyone is family member or relative or close to the said governor". *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*, 1901: IV, 381.



the office of the general *Bailia* of the Kingdom of Sardinia is abolished and that it is split according to the rules of the Governor's office. In the cities of Cagliari and Alghero the offices of *Saliniere* are entrusted to local citizens and not to foreigners. The chapter of court IX states that messengers or mayors of the cities of Cagliari and Alghero can show up and take part to the General *Corts* and *encara particulars del Regne de Mallorques o del principat de Cathalunya*.²⁸

1412: in this Parliament it is asked to help either accomplished and ongoing challenges, such as the conquest of the Kingdom of Sardinia that, due to delays, cause a feeling of triple shame: to the Principality, in regards to the sovereigns and to the Crown. This in the king's *proposicio*:

*la segona que per vosaltres nos sia donada manera e ajuda per quitament de nostre patrimoni, perque nos puscam mils fer la justicia e viure segons nostre stat requie, car no havem voler de viure de remissions e transaccions injustes ne so bornacions com no haiam acostumat viure de tals coses ni semblant. E en aço deveu considerar les grans missions que havem fetes tro aci e axi mateix soportam ara, ço es la conquesta de Cerdenya, que ab tanta desonor de aquest nostre regne e series de Nos e Nostra Corona, sino si providia segons se pertany.*²⁹

The battle of Sanluri took place in 1409, although without ratifying the final capitulation of the resistance led by last Arborea *iudex* William II of Narbona-Bas. We have to wait until 1420 to assist at the transfer of right on the territories belonging to the *Iudicatus Arboreae* in favour of the Kingdom of Sardinia³⁰ for one hundred thousand florins.

1414: the *proposicio* talks about the sovereign debt towards the *Corts*, justifying it by the costs for the numerous and expensive past missions to conquer the Kingdom of Sardinia. In a chapter we can find out an explicit request about the fact that there must be only Catalan in the leading position of the Kingdom.

28. "Courts and still private individuals of the kingdom of Majorca or of the principality of Catalonia". *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*, 1901: IV, 383.

29. "the second that for you that you give us some way and help to repay the debt that burdens our heritage, because we can do justice better and live according to what our status requires, as we have not wanted to live from unfair remissions and transactions nor extortion, as we are not used to living by such behavior or similar. And that we should consider the great missions that we have done until here and so still enduring it now, that is the conquest of Sardinia, that with such dishonour to Us and Our Crown, but rather acting as one should". *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*, 1907: XI, 19.

30. About the last stage of existence of the *Iudicatus Arboreae* see: Gallinari, Luciano. "Guglielmo III di Narbona, ultimo sovrano di Arborea, e la guerra dei cent'anni". *Medioevo. Saggi e rassegne*, 18 (1993): 91-121; Conde, Rafael. *La batalla de Sent Luri. Textos y Documentos*. Oristano: S'Alvure, 1998; Gallinari, Luciano. "Gli ultimi anni di esistenza del Regno giudiciale d'Arborea: riflessioni e prospettive di ricerca". *Medioevo. Saggi e rassegne*, 25 (2002): 155-190; Sini, Giovanni. "Sanluri, una villa di confine nel periodo tardo medioevale". *Quaderni di studi e ricerche*, 1 (2008): 115-134; Sini, Giovanni. "Elia de Palmas. La professione di diplomatico ecclesiastico durante un periodo di mutamento a cavallo tra XIV e XV secolo". *RiMe. Rivista dell'Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea*, 12 (2014): 107-136; Sini, Giovanni. "Reflections on the socio-political and cultural transmissions at the end of the Giudicato of Arborea. Identity-based resistance and(re)construction of historic memory?", *Sardinia from the Middle Ages to Contemporaneity. A case study of a Mediterranean island identity profile*, Luciano Gallinari, ed. Oxford: Peter Lang, 2018: 101-116.



*LXXXII milia florins. E ultra les dites quantitats per supplir e satisfer a moltes e diverses coses tocants honor de la Corona real e gran profit e utilitat de tots nostres regnes e terres e per la recuperacio del nostre regne de Cerdenya, cerca la qual los dits notres predecessors han treballat e disposat ells e sos vassalls e bens a diversos perills e dampnatges [...].*³¹

1416: Parliament has an important involvement for the Kingdom. There are mayors and councilmen of Cagliari with a plea for help the Kingdom of Sardinia. In their request, they appeal to the identity memory of fathers who, with huge human and economic losses, believed in the Sardinian enterprise and they pursued. There are also two chapter of court directed to legislate on the Kingdom. In chapter XXI it is required that there are only Catalan in the leading position of the Kingdom; while chapter XXXV states that the office of the *Conservator* of the Kingdom is to be abolished because its task is already carried out by others officials and it is therefore wasteful and unnecessary. These *ordinacions* are not approved by the king, even if in chapter XXXV, which talks about the Parliament convened for the Kingdom of Sardinia in 1421, we see that there is legislative redundancy as the office at issue was already abolished. Regarding the request of Catalan people in leading position of the Regnum, we may find, in fact, that the praxis was that. Moreover, about a fifteen people are present and active during the parliamentary proceeding and they will also take part in the Parliament convened by the Kingdom of Sardinia which was held in Cagliari in 1421.³²

1419-1420: in the *proposició* ("legal proposition"), the king announces the Kingdom of Sardinia and Corsica, in constant revolt, was finally brought into obedience to the Crown. This information reached the ears of the sovereign thanks to whistle-blowers, who enjoy the honour and loyalty of the king. The king ordered some provisions and asks for advice to the three Estates. It is established that the jurisdictional offices, harbourmaster's offices and castles are entrusted to natives Catalan. The motion already proposed in the *ordinaciones* ("ordinances") in 1416 is presented again to solicit the abolition of the *Conservador* ("great curator") office, which was considered as unnecessary and wasteful. Please note that the office of Governor must be assigned to native Catalan, otherwise the office is revoked, as for Bernat Centelles. It is also prohibited to take on the double office of Governor and Viceroy.³³

31. "LXXXII thousand florins. And, also the said quantities to supply and satisfy many and varied things regarding the honour of the royal Crown and great profit and utility of all our kingdoms and lans and for the recovery of our kingdom of Sardinia, about which our said predecessors have worked and had, themselves and their vasals and assets in various dangers and damages [...]". *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*, 1907: XI, 345.

32. Concerning the Catalan Parliament celebrated in 1416 and the redundancies legislation of 1421 Sardinian Parliament see: Sini, Giovanni. "Alcune note sul Parlamento del Principato di catalogna tenuto nel 1416". *RiMe. Rivista dell'Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea*, 6 (2011): 7-24.

33. Most of the Acts here analysed are stored in the Archive of the Crown of Aragon in Barcelona. We examined the following archival documentation: ACA. Cancilleria. *Procesos de Cortes*. reg. 29; AHCB. Consell de Cent. 16, 43. For the Parliaments held in 1305 and in 1323 see: *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*: I/1, 194 and 272-277. The editions of the *Corts* convened in 1349, 1354, 1416 and 1419-1420



Regarding the *Corts* held for the Kingdom of Sardinia those we want to report for their Catalan influence are as follows:

1421 (1446 and 1452): it is the second Parliament of the Kingdom and the first one since the Kingdom is completely pacify and unified *de iure*. It presents different elements of legislative and people redundancy when compared to the Catalan Parliament held in 1416, as previously reported.

1504-1511: it is considered an important Parliament as, in a chapter of court of the military Arm held in 1511, it is stated that the parliamentary meetings convened for the Kingdom of Sardinia had to be occurred according to the Catalan manner. This in order to avoid drawbacks of formal defects and delays in works, as happened until then. It is explicitly stated that the cultural model to comply with was the Catalan one, not merely for imposition but rather for necessity and institutional and formal superiority.³⁴

The comparative analyses of some of the parliamentary meetings summoned and held for the Principality of Catalonia and the Kingdom of Sardinia further highlighted the proximity, the continuity of the actions, the similarity, the exchanges and the common interests between the two State entities also testify by the people redundancy in the *Corts*.

We think it could be relevant to notice the presence of legislative and human elements that we call here 'redundant.' This expression, as mentioned above, is borrowed from the technological and psychological environment. In the technological field, it generally refers to the addition and/or the repetition of parts to increase reliability of a process. In the psychological field, simplifying the concept,

are available in *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*, 1908: XII, 1-52, 66-69, 197-207, 295-352, 395-399 and 443-453. The one held in 1355 in: *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*, 1899: I/2, 474-481. Those of 1366, 1368, 1371 and 1372-73 are published in: *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*, 1900: III, 10-15, 192-245 and 421-445. The one in 1367 in: *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*, 1899: II, 448-455. Those of 1379-1380 and 1400-1401 in: *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*, 1901: IV, 481. Those of 1366, 1368, 1371 and 1372-1373 are published in: *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*, 1900: III, 10-15, 192-245 and 421-445. The one in 1367 in: *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*, 1899: II, 448-455. Those of 1379-1380 and 1400-1401 in: *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*, 1901: IV, 189-219 and 318-397. Those of 1412 and 1414 in: *Cortes de los antiguos reinos de Aragón...*, 1907: XI, 18-19, 305 and 344-347.

34. We examined the following archival documentation: ACA, Cancillería, reg. 2671, 2784, 2795, 2632 and 2637; ASC. Antico Archivio Regio. *Parlamentari*. reg. D7 and K5; ACC. Sezione Antica. vol. 4/1 and 5; AAC. Diversorum. vol. 2. For the publications you can also see: Boscolo, Alberto, ed. *Acta Curiarum Regni Sardiniae. I Parlamenti di Alfonso il Magnanimo (1421, 1452)*, 21 vols. Cagliari: Consiglio regionale della Sardegna, 1993: 105-215; Oliva, Anna Maria; Schena, Olivetta, eds. *Acta Curiarum Regni Sardiniae. I Parlamenti dei viceré Giovanni Dusay e Ferdinando Girón de Rebollo (1495, 1497, 1500, 1504-1511)*, 21 vols. Cagliari: Consiglio regionale della Sardegna, 1998: 281-805. Concerning the Parliaments and *Corts* reunions during the Medieval period see: Schena, Olivetta. "Funzione e composizione della commissione degli 'examinadors de greuges' nei Parlamenti del Regno di Sardegna (secc. XV-XVI). Prime note". *RiMe. Rivista dell'Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea*, 13/2 (2014): 9-29; Oliva, Anna Maria. "Le commissioni per il donativo nei Parlamenti del regno di Sardegna tra tardo Medio evo e prima Età moderna". *RiMe. Rivista dell'Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea* 13/2 (2014): 31-51; Martí Sentañes, Esther. "Procuradores y consejos asesores de las ciudades reales en las Cortes catalanas y en los parlamentos sardos del siglo XV". *RiMe. Rivista dell'Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea* 13/2 (2014): 53-85; Sini, Giovanni. "Aspetti assembleari del Braccio ecclesiastico durante il XIV e il XV secolo nel Principato di Catalogna e nel Regno di Sardegna". *RiMe. Rivista dell'Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea*, 13/2 (2014): 87-115.



it refers generically to the repetition of behaviour patterns carried out with the aim of making them common. This repetition of the pattern or the structure would confirm the infiltration of a practice and the rewarding of relevance, for those who put in place, to the object. In our case the object is the Kingdom of Sardinia, while those who realize the redundant action are the Catalan social classes presumably belonging primary to the military and royal Estates. We are aware that the use of the expression is rather unorthodox in the historical scope and specifically when related to humans. However, we use this expression and its relative concept because it expresses into image circular action of multiplication of the exchange actions with the aim to optimize and get perfectly functioning the assimilation process between two State entities as the Principality of Catalonia and the Kingdom of Sardinia. According to the theory of perception, some phenomena tend to the unification of perception in cases such as proximity, similarity, continuity, penchant towards closure and meaningfulness. It is possible that the Crown of Aragon put in place a process of unification of perception toward the kingdoms that incorporated, which basically would simplify the social inclusion in the Crown. In fact, as we previously observed, phenomena respecting the condition above mentioned tend to converge. We can probably say the same thing concerning the process put into effect by the Crown against the Kingdom of Sardinia. The Crown, and more precisely the Principality of Catalonia, carries out a process of unification of perception and structural redundancy regarding some institutions, practices and people to put more and more in their interest the Kingdom of Sardinia.

6. Prospects of study and amplification of the study with XML/TEI of the Acts

This study, as already stated, is in its starting phase. In fact, it should be opportune to develop such studies from theoretical and methodological aspect, in a perspective of potential interdisciplinary in the historical analysis. The field theory applied to the dynamics of various elites is an aspect that is worth being examined in depth. Such study would be useful to improve the modalities of analysis of the social forces in the field.

It would be opportune to examine the Acts of the parliamentary meetings here treated to infer possible redundancy of people between the Principality of Catalonia and the Kingdom of Sardinia. It is highlighted that there are redundancies in the Parliaments of the first decade of the fifteenth century, it is not known from the studies carried out so far if the same had happened even in the period before and after.

To complete the comparison of certain legislative action carried out by the Principality of Catalonia towards the Kingdom of Sardinia it would be worth checking the documentation produced by the Kingdom of Sardinia as they were accepted and eventually implemented such laws. This study would involve the



extension of spectrum of sources to analyse to the entire production carried out by the Kingdom of Sardinia, except for the legislative one as already in analysis.

Parallel to this and connected to the comparative study of the Legislative Institute of the Crown of Aragon, it would be useful to put in place the coding and mark-up of the entire documentation relating to the Acts of parliamentary meetings held in the various kingdoms of the Crown from the beginning to the end of the Institution itself, which took place in modern times. This work should be carried out through the use of meta-languages and international standards of digital encoding text. To reach this purpose we think about making use of XML/TEI.³⁵ The aim of a work as impressive and ample as this, stands in the necessity to have a reference tool for scholars in order to relate institutional structures or part of them, to search persons, laws or whatever and compare them with further elements of different Acts of other kingdoms of the Crown of Aragon chosen by the individual scholar from time to time, in the aim of maximum search customization. In this way, we could have a flexible instrument for quick comparative and cross research. The amount of resulting cross data would be considerable and, certainly, they could face researches that are currently limited or take several years to collect the data and to accomplish the comparison phase obtained by the analysis of the sources. This would lead to a highly customizable tool for the scholar, a tool that would accelerate the research on a wide range of information obtainable from an extreme chronological and territorial span, which is the span of life and rootedness of the institution of the *Corts* in the various kingdoms of the Crown, from their starting to their end.

Finally, the data extrapolated through this coding and mark-up of the text of the Acts would be available for analysis through the 'hybrid methodology' referred to in this study are shown the basics. In this way, you might be able to have a complete, as far as human and subjectively possible, and comprehensive concept of the political-institutional reality through the legislative aspect of the social relationship between the different kingdoms of the Crown of Aragon.

The digitalisation of the historical sources is nowadays considered as a current fact. The coding and the mark-up of sources in the humanities is getting specialized and it requires its own coding which depends on sources you plan to scan. It would be desirable to create a specific encoding dedicated to the peculiarities of the legislative source in order to reach the aims here proposed concerning the parliamentary Acts. In this work we would apply skills and knowledge from different disciplines

35. The references on the procedure to put into effects are traced in several papers published by the writer: Sini, Giovanni. "Gli strumenti informatici di collaborazione nella ricerca e nello studio della Storia: prospettive e mutamenti". *RiMe. Rivista dell'Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea*, 2 (2009): 173-92; Sini, Giovanni. "Informatica umanistica. Appunti e riflessioni sullo stato dell'arte e individuare prospettive", *Sardegna e Mediterraneo tra Medioevo ed Età Moderna. Studi in onore di Francesco Cesare Casula*, Maria Giuseppina Meloni, Olivetta Schena, eds. Genoa: Brigati, 2009: 363-392. See also: Sini, Giovanni. "La circolarità virtuosa della conoscenza, riflessioni per un'introduzione / The virtuous circularity of knowledge, considerations for an introduction". *RiMe. Rivista dell'Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea*, 1/1 n. s. (2017): 5-24; Sini, Giovanni. "Digital Humanities models practices for History", *Teaching and Valuing the History of Sardinia. Reflexions, Experiences and Best Practices*, Esther Martí, ed. Cagliari: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche-Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, 2017: 87-105.



as computer science, XML/TEI programming, expertise in history, especially that concerning the Crown of Aragon parliamentary meetings.

7. Conclusions/results

The study here presented has a strong interdisciplinary approach, which arises from the belief of the writer that the reality, both the present and the past reality, can be understood only by the subjectivity of the individual scholar which is subservient to the use of methods and methodologies from different disciplines that converge on the sole purpose of trying to understand (taking all together) the reality, object of the analysis. The latter being pluralistic and multi-facet, it is necessary to turn to different tools to get an analysis as humanly possible complete. In this study we try to approach to a drawing-up of a alter manner of interpretation of the past through the use of the theories and the concepts borrowed from Gestalt psychology and communication. We think we have here put down the basis for a future broad and hopefully coral work where we could explore and refine the theoretical assumptions generated by the 'hybrid methodology' to reach a better utilization of this methodology for historical aims.

At the moment we can only make a partial consideration on the results because we consider impossible to propose an interdisciplinary structural analysis model through a single work.

The present work has anyway achieved its goal in placing elements of analysis of the human reality typical of other disciplines in the historical research, not yet used for this aim until now. This work also provided the occasion to glimpse the freedom that, probably, existed in the participating to the different Parliaments of the kingdoms of the Crown of Aragon. It is assumed that there were several elites belonging to a small number of families, which were more or less close to the royal house. Some exponents had the opportunity, and maybe the assignment, to participate to the parliamentary meetings of different kingdoms. Moreover, it has been noted that the Principality of Catalonia firmly legislated for the Kingdom of Sardinia until the first decades of the fifteenth century. The taking in charge of the political-institutional and economic functioning of a kingdom added in royal Union (the Crown of Aragon) through the Catalan *Corts* seems to be a common practice of the fourteenth century. This habit seems to be dissolved at about the end of the fifteenth century.

