

Workshop: Portuguese presence in Goa in digital perspective

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Digital Humanities in the understanding of Goan Vernacular Architecture

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This paper discusses the finished doctoral research work on Goan Vernacular Architecture where the use of ethnographic methodologies, and methods, such as digital photography, enabled the assessment of new knowledge on this type of house regarding architectural issues such as daily life, construction methods, and building materials. By being on-site, the observation of people in their sociocultural setting and the hand metric drawings produced in this environment, where symbols, rituals, and shared meanings were recorded, found in the desktop research stage the relevant tool of the digital photography to understand and explain this culture, framed by theoretical research.

The Portuguese History of Goa and Digital Humanities find here a link as the study of the Portuguese heritage and past in the Goa region firstly presents a gap in knowledge regarding Portuguese influences on traditional architecture, and secondly, through the use of digital humanities methods, new research perspectives of such shared past between Portugal and Goa, as common cultural heritage, have been revealed.

However, besides the fact this research contributes to deepening the knowledge of the Portuguese presence in Asia and of the legacy that still remains in this territory, there is a concern about how to best preserve and make useful the thousands of images captured in digital formats. This workshop might well be an opportunity to establish a relationship between historical and scientific groups of Goa and Portugal to join efforts to disseminate and mostly preserve what is now this digital heritage.