The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture, the MA & PhD Program in Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies and Theory, the Department of Portuguese, and the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives announce a lecture

Progress and Scientific Idealism in Eça de Queirós (*A cidade e as serras*) and Jules Verne (*Les tribulations d’un chinois en Chine*)

by Prof. Sérgio Paulo Guimarães de Sousa
University of Minho

This lecture will be in Portuguese.

Prince Henry Society Reading Room at the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives (UMass Dartmouth Claire T. Carney Library Building)

Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 5:00 PM

Free and open to the public.
Pizzas and gingle ale available.
Parking lot 13.

Abstract. In his novel *A cidade e as serras* (1901), Eça de Queirós introduces a peculiar protagonist who makes an equally peculiar life-changing decision. Jacinto, a Portuguese millionaire living in Paris, leads a tedious existence despite being surrounded by everything that the latest technologies of his time could provide. Quite unexpectedly, Jacinto decides to leave Paris and all of his gadgets behind for simple country life in Portugal. Although this celebrated character has been extensively studied by scholars, to date he has not been discussed in parallel with Jules Verne’s Kin-fo, the Chinese millionaire who is the protagonist of *Les tribulations d’un chinois en Chine* (1879). In comparing Jacinto and Kin-fo, a number of important coincidences emerge, such as their shared passion for technologies and a Schopenhauerian tedium they both experience. Given these parallels, it is possible to postulate that Verne’s earlier novel might have influenced Queirós when he was writing *A cidade e as serras*.

Sérgio Paulo Guimarães de Sousa is Assistant Professor of Portuguese Literature at the Universidade do Minho, Portugal, and the current Luso-American Foundation / Michael T eague Visiting Professor at Brown University. He is the author, co-author or co-editor of twelve books, among which *Literatura e cinema* (2003), *O último Eça: O romance e o mito* (2003), and *Figuras do herói: Literatura, cinema, banda desenhada* (2013).

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