

THE GLOBAL PERIPHERY

ARMANDO DE LACERDA

AND THE COIMBRA

EXPERIMENTAL PHONETICS

LABORATORY (1936-1979)



Quintino Lopes

THE GLOBAL PERIPHERY

ARMANDO DE LACERDA

AND THE COIMBRA

EXPERIMENTAL PHONETICS

LABORATORY (1936-1979)



CENTER FOR
HISTORY OF SCIENCE

THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

CONTENTS

- 9 **Experimental Phonetics, Linguistics and Engineering in the 1930s**
Francisco de Lacerda
- 17 **The laboratory, materialities and the History of Science**
Maria de Fátima Nunes
- 21 **Reviving the memory of Armando de Lacerda and his laboratory**
Paulo de Lacerda
- 27 **Introduction**
- 31 **PART I**
A pioneer of Experimental Phonetics
- 41 **PART II**
**“At Coimbra, the Portuguese [...] have the best
phonetics studies unit that [...] exists in Europe”**
- 53 **PART III**
Beyond “scientific excellence on the periphery”
- 71 **PART IV**
The international dimension of Armando de Lacerda’s research school

97	PART V Other paths and scientific networks
115	PART VI The rural environment as a laboratory
125	PART VII Scientific ethos
133	PARTE VIII Resistance, resilience, resentment and (the erasing of) memory
141	Epilogue
145	Acknowledgements
147	Notes
155	Sources and references
165	Image Credits
169	Index



“In the Faculty of Letters of the University of Coimbra is a superbly installed and very well equipped Laboratory of Experimental Phonetics. [...] Credit is due [...] the Laboratory’s genial Director, Dr. Armando de Lacerda”.

Francis M. Rogers (Harvard University), 1955¹.

“Le prof. Lacerda est lui-même l’inventeur de nombreux appareils de mesure et d’enregistrement, et son laboratoire, fondé en 1936, est sans doute le meilleur d’Europe”.

Pierre Van Bever, 1953².

“Le but d’un séjour [...] au Portugal serait [...] de faire des études [...] dans le laboratoire phonétique de l’Université de Coimbra. Pour moi ceci serait d’autant plus intéressant que la Suède manque de laboratoire comparable à celui de Coimbra”.

Göran Hammarström (Uppsala University), 1950³.

SERIES

Contributions to the History of the
Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences; 49

TITLE

THE GLOBAL PERIPHERY
Armando de Lacerda and the Coimbra
Experimental Phonetics Laboratory (1936-1979)

AUTHOR

Quintino Lopes

INTRODUCTORY TEXTS

Francisco de Lacerda
Maria de Fátima Nunes
Paulo de Lacerda

CONSULTANTS

António Almeida
Elisabete Pereira
George Brock-Nannestad
Jacyra Mota
Maria Filomena Gonçalves
Sue Nogueira de Lima Verde

COVER IMAGE

Armando de Lacerda at the University
of Bonn Phonetics Institute (1932).
Credits: Museu da Ciência da Universidade
de Coimbra

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Nuno Pacheco Silva

ISBN

978-91-7190-189-7

ISSN

0081-9956

DATE

2023

This publication has been peer reviewed.

The Instituto de História Contemporânea (Institute of Contemporary History, University of Évora Unit) receives national funding from the FCT – Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia under projects UIDB/04209/2020 and UIDP/04209/2020. Research for this book was also funded by the FCT under projects 2021.00906.CEECIND and 2022.06811.PTDC (Phonetics Laboratory: Coimbra – Harvard. Rethinking 20th-century scientific centres and peripheries, PHONLAB).

The Infraestrutura de Coleções Científicas Portuguesas (PRISC.pt) was used in the production of this book.

PUBLISHER

**CENTER FOR
HISTORY OF SCIENCE**

THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

© Quintino Lopes; Caleidoscópio – Edição e Artes Gráficas, SA



MUSEU DA CIÊNCIA
UNIVERSIDADE DE COIMBRA



FACULDADE DE LETRAS
UNIVERSIDADE DE
COIMBRA

