

Furthermore, Siena managed to preserve even the memory of the historic centre. The main streets Via Banchi di Sopra and Banchi di Sotto that take their name due to the banking activities of the past, gathered in recent decades the principal banks of the city. Even the Palio, of later origin, revives the civic spirit by continuing the use of the Piazza del Campo as meeting place of all citizens living within the walls for political reasons as well feasts.

Slow growth over the last six-and-a-half centuries, as well as the rivalry with Florence, did much to preserve the city's character. But nothing would have been possible to be preserved without conscious land-use planning later. National land-use laws have helped protect the city and province, both within the walls and in the surrounding countryside, towns, and villages. The Siena master plan, adopted just after World War II, that directed high-density growth to a few limited areas outside the walls, and thus protected it, as well as the decision that the pedestrians and the urban structure of the historic center would be the first priority of the plans' focus. Siena has accomplished a goal of modern urban growth management, preserving the historic centre, that gives an example that all the cities should keep in mind.

Notes

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Exploring a Regenerative Structure Integrating Conservation, Remodelling, and Development for Fenghuang Historic Rurban Landscape

Laura Anna Pezzetti* and Li Kun**

Rurbanizing the countryside

China fast development has been recently turning towards villages and towns of the countryside, which in the last decade have been undergoing a spontaneous process of uncontrolled rurbanization.

Since the late '70s, in fact, China's Reform and Opening Policies have brought about tremendous social changes. Whether urban or rural, developing the economy has become the primary goal of social development. In the early '80s, China began the rural economic reform centered on the land system and changed the land from collective management to the household-based land contract system¹. The "No. 75 document" in 1980 and the five consecutive "No. 1 documents" from 1982 to 1986 by the CPC Central Committee² that constitute the policy framework, mainly deal with rural economic and land policies, which promoted the transformation of the planned economy into commodity economy. The "Household-responsibility system" (a system of contracted responsibility linking remuneration to output) replaced the collective economy, thereby enhancing the enthusiasm of peasantry for agricultural production (Zhong, 2017).

While in the process of rapid urbanization a large number of rural people flew to cities, intensifying the hollowing out of rural areas, the modern urban construction industry began to infiltrate into rural areas.

From 1978 to 2013, the urban resident population increased in China from 170 million to 730 million while the urbanization rate increased from 17.9% to 53.7%; the number of cities increased from 193 to 658 and the one of towns rose from 2,173 to 2,0113³. At the end of 2017 China's urbanization rate was 58.52%⁴.

Due to the concurrent cause of land rights in rural areas (China's constitution decrees

that “collectives” own rural land) and the devastating effects of the Cultural Revolution, which have left severe sequelae on Chinese traditional culture and on people’s spiritual concept, the first phase of development has sprawled uncontrolled in villages and town within and around traditional fabrics. As a result, the vitality of traditional morphologies and dwelling types have gradually declined in favor of standardized multistory blocks, with poor constructive quality and energy performances. During the last decades, most rural settlements have already lost their traditional form and structures.

As in the last decades, the historical urban landscape underwent dramatic changes, also in rural settlements the traditional features and heritage are disappearing rapidly. Until now, there are only 4,153 rural villages that have been eligible for inclusion in the “China Traditional Villages”⁵ (CTV) directory in mainland China, accounting for 0.74% of the total number of administrative villages nationwide⁶. Only 252 old towns have been listed in the protection category of “China Historically and Culturally Famous Towns” (CHCFT) since 2003, which accounts for 0.16% of the total number of administrative towns in China. Although those towns have become “Cultural relics’ protection units”, the protection still faces enormous challenges in the context of rapid urbanization.

Since most CHCFT also play the role of regional administrative centre in certain areas⁷, in the last decade in the master plans formulated by each provincial government, under the guidance of the 11th Five-Year Plan and the National Urban System Planning Outline (2005-2020), more and more farming areas around the historical core has been converted to urban residential area.

In the case study of Fenghuang Town⁸, with the promulgation of the “Outline of Speeding up the Development of County-Level Urbanization in Shaanxi Province” (2009) a new process of development started. In 2009, the People’s Government of the town formulated a new Master Plan (2009-2020) that turned 294 hectares of land, including the old town, from rural land to urban construction residential land.

The protection measures of “Chinese Historically and Culturally Famous Towns and Villages”

It is said that the name of the Chinese town of Fenghuang derives from the peculiar shape of its Old Street seen from the Yingpan mountain behind it which, maybe to bring about the end of continuous destructions, determined the name change in Qing Jiaqing era (1796-1820) from Delta of Three Rivers to Mouth of the Phoenix and then, in the Republic of China, simply Phoenix.

Myth, geographical factors and feng shui are intertwined in the decreeing the happiness of the site, southward of the Qinling Mountains. Built at the confluence of three rivers “between mountains and water”, Fenghuang was at the same time paradigm of feng shui principles and a thriving regional inland port since Tang period.

By 624, the strengthening of the equal-field system encouraged the agricultural development and the first of a series of migratory waves from the south (Hubei and Hunan), destined to continue even in Qing dynasty when after a new war (1675) the village would be rebuilt. It would be redefined again at the beginning of the 1800, when at the height of its splendor, some 100 houses will be built and a trail will connect it to Xi’an and to the water road of Jin-Qian⁹.

Since 2010 Fenghuang has been listed in the “Fifth batch of China Historically and Culturally Famous Towns” (CHCFT) which, from 2003 on, has been including in the heritage protection system also those pre-Qing traditional villages and towns that are acknowledged for their historical, artistic and cultural value, their commemorative revolutionary significance or for clear settlement character and traditional costumes¹⁰.

Yet, as the analysis of the case study of Fenghuang Old Town shows, the status of “Chinese Historically and Culturally Famous Towns and Villages”, by attracting unsuitable touristic-commercial development projects, seems surprisingly to constitute another major threat.

For local governments, expanding the tourism market is seen as a route to quickly promote the development of old towns and local economic incomes.

The various conservation and tourism plans reflect a threat that paradoxically looms over the vernacular heritage that has been

designated as CHCFT, after the launch of a troublesome and standardized active protection. This exploitation for tourism, in fact, is not intended to produce enhancement and a new culture to promote a sustainable alternative for economic development, but is focused on a re-historicization of sites based on a “parasite” economic exploitation of cultural heritage.

Following the indications of the Master plan (MP, 2009) prior to the designation, in the two “Heritage Conservation Planning” (HCP 2012 and 2013) the entire Old Road defined as “Cultural relics unit” and coinciding with the “Core Protection Zone”, is destined to commercial functions. The renderings for the Zhashui County Fenghuang Old Town Tourism Development Master Plan (TDP, 2013) show that “preservation” may allow for heavy material substitutions.

The MP also decreed the erasure of every topographical and morphological sign within the supposed control area and foresaw the residential development of all the agricultural fields, which constitute instead an integral part of Fenghuang historical landscape (Council of Europe, 2000).

In the TDP a standardized model of heritage town is promoted, where the rural land is turned from residential development of the MP to the zoning construction area for tourism facilities outside the old town.

The second HCP (2013) enlarged the buffer zone introducing also an “environmental coordination zone”, but did not provide clear guidelines and strategies for the “protection of the relationship between villages and the surrounding mountain and river”¹¹.

Therefore, in the “Zhashui County Fenghuang Town Regulatory Detailed Plan” (DP) compiled in 2013 as well, the flat areas of the river valley northward the old town can still be designated as construction land. As in the TDP the land is destined for tourism facilities, the plot ratio is 1.8, and the building height limit reaches 24 meters. In addition, the protection scope of Fenghuang old town is the same as that of the traditional houses protection scope (Construction control zone) determined by Shaanxi Cultural Relics Bureau in 2003¹².

Given that the achievement of “Regulatory Detailed Planning” is the statutory basis for planning management (MOHURD, 2010), the DP plays a decisive role in the

development and shaping of the urban form in Fenghuang old town.

In short, HCP and TDP do not record any change of direction after the CHCFT designation. Applying to the Old Street only, they ignore all structural, perceptual, cultural, and topographical relationships that link the buildings types to the morphological structure and the latter to its natural and manmade landscape.

The carelessness towards the physical reality of both architecture and cultural landscape does the rest, as it is also shown by current strategies derived from abstract and standardized diagrams.

Despite China has developed a relatively complete heritage conservation system, the comparative analysis of regulations and protection plans shows ambiguities in defining object and contents of protection, over simplification of tools due to the lack of urban analysis, equivalence between enhancement and standardized touristic-commercial development, and the lack of consideration for rural landscape as a component of the town heritage system.

Forgetting memory. Re-historicization and the issue of the style

A territorial map dated 1753¹³ shows the contiguous village of Zhou-Jia-Yuan but not Fenghuang inland port. Since in Chinese culture deletions have a meaning, we can assume that the Phoenix was not yet risen from the ashes of the latest conflict; or that its commercial status did not make it noble enough to be the seat of local government.

The events recorded in the gazetteers indicate that the ancient road, as we know it today, dates back only to the end of Qing period, not to mention the work of continuous substitutions and reconstruction à l'identique about every sixty years.

The planned ephemerality¹⁴ of constructions is even inscribed in the technology and in the perishable materials (wood and clay), used continuously until the '70 for all buildings, simple or nobles, up to the walls of li fang and of the city, which were also subject to periodic collapses and reconstructions.

Within the special relationship between memory and canon, the material reality of the building is not destined to survive the one who built it. The old finds continuation in the new, passing down to the future through

the systematic reconstruction of the formal essence, within a circular notion of time and the cyclic return to the ground of materials.

The reality of the current present, however, is no longer that of autograph-reproducibility but that of a serial technique which, erasing the passage of time through the replacement of modern materials, does not become original in one's own but looks instead artifact and inert.

Clarified what is meant by the antiquity of Fenghuang, we need to define what and how to conserve or protect. Analyzing the old-timey pictures dating 1958, it is possible to recognize the urban structure before the settlement's expansion, which was still stuck on 1800s.

The attempt to reconstruct the historical reality starting from the reality of urban facts and of reliable documentary sources reveals concretely the problematic nature of the fracture between material and cultural authenticity – endorsed by the Declaration of Nara¹⁵ and by the loss of hegemony of Western culture – when it comes to define what and how to conserve.

In the protection work of Fenghuang Old Town, there are two major time nodes.

The first is in 2002, when the fourth batch of “Provincial Officially Protected Site in Shaanxi Province” and their protection scope/construction control zone as proposed by the Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau was approved by the Shaanxi Provincial People's Government and officially announced in 2003. “Fenghuang Street Dwellings”, was included in the list of “Cultural relics' protection units”¹⁶. The scope of protection was confined to No.135-433 courtyard buildings in Fenghuang Old Street and the construction control zone was “East to Phoenix Road, west to Yingpan Mountain, south to Shaanxi Silver Mine and north to Shui-Di-Gou River”¹⁷. The “Cultural relics' protection unit” of Shaanxi Province marks that the old town of Fenghuang has officially become a statutory cultural heritage and that the main content of protection are just the courtyard residential buildings.

The second important time node is 2010 when Fenghuang Old Town raised from a provincial-level to a national-level “Cultural relics' protection unit”. In this year, Fenghuang was included in the list of the “Fifth Batch of Chinese Historical and Cultural

Towns and Villages”, jointly announced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and the Ministry of Culture.

In theory, the scope of heritage protection has expanded from the original residential courtyard buildings to the entire ancient town, natural landscape and surrounding environment¹⁸. According to the provisions of the protection regulations, after the approval of CCFT at the county level should have organized within one year the preparation of the “Historical and Cultural Town Protection Plan”. The protection plan should include the following contents: (1) Protection principle, protection content and scope of protection; (2) Protection measures, development intensity and construction control requirements; (3) Traditional pattern and historical style protection requirements; (4) Historical and cultural blocks, The core protection scope and construction control zone of famous towns and famous villages; (5) The implementation plan of protection planning in phases.

However, the People's Government of Zhashui County did not complete the protection plan within one year and, even so far, the plan has not been compiled yet. Since the approved “CHCFT Protection Plan” has legal effect, the failure to compile the plan means that the specific content of the “natural landscape and environment to which the ancient town is connected” has not been formally taken into consideration.

The overall protection of the ancient town has lost its legal basis, and it has left the hidden dangers of the future protection of the ancient town. The “Regulations” are ineffective in the actual implementation process and the local government seems not to fully understand or apply the national heritage protection policy.

The second HCP (2013) distinguishes between old buildings to be “protected” (partly rebuilt after a fire in 1913) and traditional earthen buildings. Yet the latter, although built between the '30s and the Cultural Revolution, are authentic in their physical permanence. Nonetheless, they have been excluded from the “Core Protection Area” and associated with the area of the buffer zone consisting also of multistory generic buildings, sometimes built right into the wings of the courts. This reflects the Statute of CHCFT, where the notion of cultural heritage is still linked

to the problem of the original style of major architectures, here inflected in a vernacular key, and to the restoration of the image which, in the rendering of the CTP (2012) and TDP (2013), is turned into a postcard for tourist consumption, i.e. a “picklock” for a disproportionate real estate development. For the specific characters of Chinese culture and history, even the finding of available documents leaves on the threshold of uncertainty and approximation. We therefore considered crucial to mark the point zero of the town’s status quo in May 2018. This will help to retain the memory of built facts, recording from now on future transformations. Within a month of intensive fieldwork and workshop¹⁹, we have launched a first survey campaign of the founding elements of the settlement, of the building types and their transformations, of materials, construction techniques and landscape character.

Revealing, overwriting and enhancing the latent urban structure

The Ancient commercial Street consists of the continuous front of the narrow-courtyard buildings (窄院 zhai-yuan) where on the Guanzhong type are grafted the Chu character imported by migration. The blind wall is replaced by the wooden surface of the shop, opening completely onto the road, framed between the walls with the “horse head” profile (马头墙 ma-tou-qiang). The fabric, being a palimpsest of architectural information to be deciphered, turned out to be also the keeper of the settlement matrix, which is still readable in the topographical traces.

The latent structure, taking apart the appearances and claiming its own identity, offers a constitutive logic to make sense and improve in an overall system also the components that are spontaneously built and, following the rural regime of land, follow therefore the structure of the Phoenix, allowing for an integrated strategy for conservation, grafting, reconnecting and sustainable development of the urban-rural landscape. To define the strategy of the regenerative structure, the vision must necessarily extend from the street to the historical and agricultural landscape, nowadays already turned into built-up areas by the spread of generic multi-story building. This latent structure could be revealed only through the survey and mapping of the

morpho-types, the graphical reconstruction of all the buildings in the Old Street, the topographic comparison between the fragments of the crops’ walls and the positions of the traditional and modern buildings, the old-timey pictures and the agricultural parcels that have just been erased for the construction of the new provincial road.

This clarifies that the correspondence between the plot and the building type is generative of an original radial-strip structure converging on the top of the mountain where the ancients recognized in the village’s form the deployed wings of the Phoenix in flight. The structure used to stretch from the courtyards to the backyards vegetable gardens, continuing as far as the fields until the wall (now destroyed) along the River where it finally opened like a fan and reverberated in an ideal triangulation with the top of the mountains.

In our reading, therefore, there are not just only the parallel scopes of the Old Street, the “control area” and the “development area”. Similarly, we do not consider confining protection only to the buildings of the Street because of their ancient foundation.

We recognize, instead, the diverse morphologic scopes to be explored along the radial and in the dialectics between preservation-transformation, especially within the so-called control area whose complexity, presence of vegetable gardens, walls, traditional buildings and strategic importance for reading the urban structure constitutes the true asset to reestablish morphological relationships

in a spontaneous and varied urban fabric.

The potential of the back yards thus emerges, as well as the need for calibrated grafts to ensure their continuity of use. Avoiding cutting other estranged plazas and new streets, that would compete with the old core, but activating instead some exploration paths within the radial tissue, in synergy with the Old Street, the courtyard houses and new grafting can double the active front to generate new economic activities and support a mixed residential-hospitality use.

Aside from the main courtyard buildings, that unfortunately looks the less authentic ones, the survey delved into six radials, selecting four areas-problem that could be representative of as many themes and sections of landscape units, to start the first experimental design proposals.

The themes related to the morphological strip have been identified as conservation-graft-mending; lacuna and rewriting; transformation of unauthorized building; new building prototypes and rural landscape recovery.

Conclusion

Paradoxically, the authentic character of Fenghuang is today under the threat of the status of CHCFT that, instead, should protect it. To prevent the transformation of Fenghuang in the umpteenth themed-set village for the xiangchou²⁰ where one pays the ticket to enter and where people play a phony pastoral idyll, it is essential to preserve wherever possible the residential use and the commer-



Figure 1— Photo of Fenghuang old town captured by UAV, 2018.5.

cial-production functions of interest to the Community.

At the same time it is necessary to promote a form of development consistent with an idea of sustainable tourism, avoiding the total consume of land and the plundering of the Community's true resources, which are irreproducible and authentic.

Current development and revitalization projects not only are illiterate in the urban composition or cosmetic like a caricature or a movie set, but mostly they are deceptive without innocence as they mask their consequences behind the unrealistic special effects of the renderings.

Those standardized tourist facilities, which are incompatible with the character of villages and towns as well as with their surrounding natural or rural landscape, will disappoint soon the new growing expectations of quality, authenticity, culture, and beauty. Even the prospect of a corrective in the future by means of demolition and rebuilding is not viable nowadays, both for the extent of the phenomenon and because the modern materials could no longer "go back to Earth". Unused and unusable, the remnants of overestimated quantity of low-quality building would remain instead on the field, leaving local Communities to deal with the total loss of available land and a devastated natural and cultural landscape.

Notes

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1 . By 1956, China realized agricultural cooperation, i.e. the abolition of private ownership of land and the realization of public ownership. Since the implementation of the policy of agricultural cooperation, the collective management system of agriculture has been implemented. The enthusiasm of farmers' production has been suppressed for a long time, and the development of agricultural productivity has been slow. In September 1962, the Eighth Plenary Session of the Communist Party of China formally adopted and promulgated the Revised Draft of the Regulations on the Work Regulations of the Rural People's Commune, which stipulates that the ownership of rural homesteads has changed from being owned

by individual rural family to being owned by the collective.

2 . Document No. 1 refers to the first document issued by the Central Committee of the CPC every year. Since the Central Committee of the CPC continuously issued the Central Document No. 1 on agriculture, rural areas and farmers from 1820 to 1986 and from 2004 to 2018, the document has now become the proper term for the Chinese government to attach importance to rural issues.

3 . Source: the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; State Council of China. (2014) Urbanization Plan for 2014-2020. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2014-03/16/content_2640075.htm

4 . Source: the Xinhua News Agency. (2018) China's urbanization rate rose to 58.52%, releasing new kinetic energy. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2018-02/04/content_5263778.htm

5 . China Traditional Villages refer to the villages which were formed earlier, have abundant traditional resources, have certain historical, cultural, scientific, artistic, social and economic value, and should be protected. Since 2012, the Chinese government has started to organize the selection and publication of the list of China Traditional Villages. So far, four batches have been announced.

6 . Administrative village means formally village-level divisions in China, serve as a fundamental organizational unit for its rural population (census, mail system). By the end of 2016, there were 559,186 administrative villages in China, data source: China National Bureau of statistics.

7 . The lower administrative unit of the county.

8 . Shaanxi Provincial People's Government Document No. 21 of 2009.

9 . Cfr. Office of Publicity, Education, Culture and Health. s.d. Guide of Fenghuang Town, Fenghuang Town.

10 . Cfr. Selection Measures of China Historically and Culturally Famous Town and Villages, issued by Ministry of Construction and State Administration of Cultural Heritage in 2003.

11 . According to Article 40 of the "Requirements for the Compilation of the Planning of Historically and Culturally Famous Towns and Villages Protection (Trial)" issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and State Administration of Cultural Heritage in 2012: "Protection measures for landscape environment, such as topography, rivers and lakes, farmland, native landscape, natural ecology, etc., closely related to famous towns should be proposed"

According to Article 21 of the "Regulation on the Protection of Famous Historical and Cultural Cities, Towns and Villages, State Council" issued

by State Council of the P.R. China in 2008: Historically and Culturally Famous Towns should be protected as a whole, maintain the traditional pattern, historical features and spatial scale, and must not change the natural landscape and environment with which they depend.

12 . In 2002, the fourth batch of Shaanxi cultural relics protection units and their protection scope and construction control zone proposed by the Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau were approved by the Shaanxi Provincial People's Government and officially announced in 2003. The "Fenghuang Street Dwellings" in Fenghuang Old Town was included in the protection units list. The objects of protection are No.135~433 residential buildings in Fenghuang Old Street; the construction control zone is "North to Phoenix Road, south to Yingpan Mountain, east to Shaanxi Silver Mine Residential Community, and west to Shui-Di-Gou River".

13 . Map of Whole Zhen'an County Territory, source: Nie Wei, Editor. Zhen'an County Records (All)[M]. Cheng wen Press Co., Ltd, 1969.

14 . Cfr. A.F. Wright, 'Symbolism and Function: Reflections on Chang'an and other Great Cities', *The Journal of Asian Studies* (pre-1986), XXI, 4, August 1965.

15 . ICOMOS (1994) *The Nara Document on Authenticity*

16 . The fourth batch of cultural relics protection units in Shaanxi Province have 7 categories and 158 sites, 7 categories are: ancient sites, ancient tombs, ancient buildings, cave temples and stone carvings, important modern historical sites, modern representative buildings, and other.

17 . Provincial Government Office. (2003). No. 38: Notice of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Government on the announcement of the fourth batch of Shaanxi Provincial Officially Protected Site.

18 . According to Article 21 of the "Regulations on the Protection of Historically and Culturally Famous Cities, Towns and Villages"

19 . Directors Professors Laura A. Pezzetti and Li Yueyan; scientific committee Dean Liu Jiaping, former Dean Liu Kecheng, Professors Lei Zhendong, Ren Yunying; teaching: Laura A. Pezzetti, Nora Lombardini (Politecnico di Milano), Li Yueyan, Ma Long, Cui Xiaopeng (XAUAT); in cooperation with Shangluo County Local Government, Zhashui County Local Government, Fenghuang Town Community, Fenghuang old Town Architectural Heritage Protection Management Committee.

20 . Chinese term indicating nostalgia for the rural countryside.

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Brazil, Landscape at Northeast. Minor Historical Centers and Historical Territories

Gabriella Restaino*

Brazil "Nordeste"

The occupation of the territory in north-eastern Brazil with the arrival of settlers in the sixteenth century, took place along the coast and through ancient trails that internalized in the region. This process created a specific spatial configuration of the landscape and the terra incognita. The new cities and the development of villages along these paths, generated a particular landscape and a new urban and territorial design; it is possible to recognize even today, historical features of the shape and of the structural elements as well as the intangible traditions of great cultural relevance.

Studies of the last 50 years, allowed the formation, in Europe, of a body of literature mainly specialized in the field of architecture and urbanism. Recently, these studies are focused on the historical development related to cultural, territorial and urban landscape, especially in Brazil.

This study aims to investigate and describe the historical development of the region of ancient Pernambuco and Alagoas, and the cultural landscape from the pre-existing traces and signs that can still be found in the grounds of historical colonization and migration in north-eastern Brazil. Furthermore, seeks to identify the meaning and the value in relation to the protection processes, increase and transformation underway or proposed. The study aims to reach "reconstitution" of the rules of the historical structure of the territory and of the principal settlements, their evolution and the relationship with the current contemporary landscapes.

The result may be the activation of a new interest in the cultural heritage of the cities of foundation/construction of the XVI century and the migration territories and for research into the conservation and restoration of landscape, territorial and urban heritage of colonial origin; because Brazilians and Europeans can together think of a possible future for territories and cities of the Northeast Brazil as UNESCO Heritage.

Today, the picture requires a robust critical review because a huge bibliography and an extraordinary amount of documentation largely unprecedented continues to be collected, analysed and interpreted. One of the main reasons for this is the wide dispersion of the documentary corpus in multiple archives, public or private, civilian or military, in and out of Brazil. They form true "warehouses" of memory or lost history, or simply forgotten, scattered in Europe, Italy and abroad. They may be share on a "Multimedia Archive" on-line.

In general it is possible to believe that offer the people the opportunity to tell and share, one with the other, the memory contained in the historical documents, can provide solutions to the problems of the world, for the integration and sharing of different cultures. This is the proposal of a "New Cultural Citizenship".

Consideration on the ancient territories and the cities of Nord-Est Brazil through the cartographic sources

The relationship between history and toponymy, based on ancient cartography, has drawn the attention of many scholars since a long time; the importance of localizing the names of places and historically analysing them, as well as the need of grounding the linguistic and historic analysis on wide and systematic catalogues, has lead part of the research onto the individuation of toponyms, gathered by historic cartography, in addition to other documentary sources, and then compared to the modern and contemporary cartography. For this reason, in this work of research, cataloguing and territorial analysis, I wanted to document the substance of the examined territory of the "Nordeste", in particular of Pernambuco e Alagoas through the historic cartographic documents related to various ages, that could become a starting point for further research on the same region.

The study of historic toponymy within the territory can help to throw light upon the ancient urban fabric; indeed, by identifying and placing some significant toponyms, also through the morphological (both orographic and hydrographic) references shown on the maps, it is possible to reconstruct the whole historic road system (primary and secondary axis and directrix).