

CHORAL

RESEARCHPROJECT *(max. 5 pages)*

APPLICATION FORM TO REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR JOINTLY SUPERVISED DOCTORAL THESIS

TITLE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Urban networks y societies between Navarra and Bearn (XIIe-mi XVe s.)

SUPERVISORS

From recruiting University	First name	LAST NAME	University	Department
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5 main KEYWORDS

Middle Ages. Navarra. Bearn. Urban society. Prosopography

ABSTRACT (250 words max.)

Noble and aristocratic society has been strongly studied in Navarra and Bearn. This proposal is interested in cities and urban elites, their family and business networks (artisan elites, larger-scale merchants, transporters, specially between Spain and France), their systems of legitimation and representation, their involvement in politics (in the town, but also in the service of the Kingdom of Navarra or the Viscounty of Bearn, church...), frameworks of sociability and the relevance of more neglected sectors, such as women in the urban world. The chronology would start from the end of the 12th century, where we have the first reasonable documentary pieces, and would reach the central years of the 15th century, until the beginning of civil struggles in Navarra, understanding that social phenomena must be addressed over the long term, and before the Viscounts' accession to the throne of Navarra. In Navarra, although the Pamplona case and, in part, that of Olite, are more worked on, the centers of Tudela, Estella and Sangüesa have not received attention. San Juan de Pie de Puerto is also very little known from this perspective. Tudela, in particular, presents municipal archives of great importance and scarcely worked within the framework of long-term investigations focused on its political society. In Bearn, the towns are often smaller than in Navarra, but belong to the same cultural unit ("Pays de Fors"). The towns selected are mainly Morlaàs, Orthez, Oloron, Lescar, Pau, but also Sauveterre-de-Béarn and Nay for their commercial function. They have never been studied for their urban elites society, their networks in Bearn, with Navarra or other regions (Aragon, Toulouse, Bayonne, Guyenne and England).

Research aims and methodology

It is worth distinguishing a general objective and other more specific. The central objective is to identify and characterize these urban societies, their personal and commercial relationships, and their links with local powers.

Among the specific objectives, and based on a prosopographic methodology, the available documentation (legal and normative documentation, as well as practical writings, notary registers in particular) would be analyzed in order to reconstruct the personal, family and possible faction networks, as well as the oligarchies inherent to them. Special attention will be paid to the feminine element, often marginalized in

this type of analysis, and which specific research has identified as an essential aspect of the social construction of the urban world. As essentially commercial centers, in principle, the contacts and commercial contexts and their exchange networks will be analyzed, which reach the south of France, and specifically the Béarnais and Toulouse markets.

Relevance and added-value of the proposed research in relation to the current state of knowledge

Apart from the work with aspects not previously worked on for a period of time like this, and for ultraPyrenean connections such as those proposed, it is relevant to point out the integration of the most recent currents of historiography in relation to the articulation of power - in this case urban - their systems of representation and identity, the reception of royal or viscomtal interests.

Interdisciplinary nature of the research together with the alignment with the CHORAL programme and complementarity expertise of the teams

The interdisciplinary nature is given by the interaction of areas of History, History of Art, History of Law, Anthropology and the appropriate management of the archives and its documents.

Output plan including publication and dissemination activities

The main output would be the completion of a doctoral thesis, susceptible to publication. It is understood that other articles in reference journals will be published. The prosopographic database would be prepared for open access from an institutional platform. General outreach activities, focused in a general public, may be carried out throughout the period of development of the thesis, as well as participation in doctoral or researcher seminars or colloquiums.

Estimated schedule

24 months: archives, bibliography, prosopographic database

12: writing and discussion