



# FRONTIERS OF HUMANITY AND BEYOND

TOWARDS NEW CRITICAL  
UNDERSTANDINGS OF BORDERS

## P14 - CROSSING FRONTIERS BETWEEN THE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE HISTORY OF LAW: LEGAL ASPECTS OF BUILDING PRACTICES

### ORGANISER

**Sandra M. G. Pinto** (Portugal)

CHAM - Centre for the Humanities of NOVA FCSH

### ABSTRACT

Throughout history, building activity has been regulated by legal rules that restrained and constrained the form of buildings, urban spaces and built environments. Legal rules also mediated the interactions between promoters, builders, supervisors and users. There is already noteworthy literature concerning old building regulations created by central, local or corporations' powers, embracing different approaches, times and geographies. Conversely, the study of the enforcement of those rules has earned less attention from researchers presumably due to the lack of documentary sources, since many building practices were unwritten. This panel aims to gather different approaches on building practices framed by legal rules, promoting an interdisciplinary dialogue between architecture, society, agents and law and thus blurring the boundaries between two disciplinary areas only apparent unrelated: the history of architecture (including the history of urbanism) and the history of law. Of particular interest are studies supported by written sources such as building permits, building contracts, and building disputes records. Issues to be addressed can include, among others: building permits procedures; clauses of building contracts; contractors' obligations and liabilities; building disputes between builders, between clients and contractors or between neighbours; settlements or verdicts in building-disputes resolution; resolution of illegal building works or of litigious constructions; inspections and appraisals; construction judicial experts or other related actors; formal or informal institutions. The geographical scope includes Western civilization regions (Europe, as well as former European colonies). The chronological range covers medieval and early-modern periods, although exceptionally the long nineteenth century can also be included as a transitional period between old and contemporary practices.

**Sandra M. G. Pinto** is a contracted researcher at the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, NOVA University of Lisbon, doing her research at the CHAM – Centre for the Humanities (since 2019), where she also developed a postdoctoral research (2013-2019). She is an architect (2002) and holds an MSc degree (2007) and a PhD degree (2012) from the University of Coimbra. Her main research interests include the history of architecture and urbanism, history of building regulation, construction history, history of urban cartography and urban heritage, focusing on the Portuguese territory of the Iberian Peninsula between the twelfth to the nineteenth centuries. She co-edited, with Terry R. Slater, the book *Building Regulations and Urban Form, 1200-1900* (Routledge 2018), and she has several articles and book chapters published. For more information see ORCID iD: 0000-0002-7367-3148, Ciência ID: F91C-7250-0210.