

Career Development Plan - Year 1

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BRIEF OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH PROJECT AND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS EXPECTED :

The tentative title of my research proposal is “Portuguese timber imports from the Baltic in the early modern period: An evidence from the Sound Toll Registers.” The basic object is to use the Sound Toll Registers (STR) to find out how much timber did Portugal import from the Baltic in the early modern period. The timeline of the enquiry is 1669-1800; the reason being that the STR provides us with the destination of the ships passing through the Sound only from 1669. The STR can provide us data as far as direct imports from the Baltic are concerned. There is no data in the STR about the re-exports of goods, for example, from London or Amsterdam to Portugal. Therefore, other historical sources will have to be consulted in order to find the re-exports to Portugal. One of the sources may be the data related to Portuguese foreign trade available in the archives in Lisbon. Second source may be the Dutch Notarial Archives available in Amsterdam, and these would give us information about the commercial contracts drawn between the Dutch merchants and merchants from other parts of the world in the early modern period. An investigation of these contracts would help us in finding out the commodities in which the merchants traded.

LONG-TERM CAREER OBJECTIVES (over 5 years):

1. Goals:

At the end of my term with the ForSEADiscovery Project in February 2017, I would like to apply for Doctoral Research. Most likely it would deal with some aspect of maritime history in the early modern period.

2. What further research activity or other training is needed to attain these goals?

So far in my career, I have focused on the maritime trade in the Indian and the Atlantic Ocean in the early modern period. This project is helping me in understanding the dynamics of trade in the Baltic regions as well. This would broaden my horizon about the maritime trade in the early modern period, and therefore, would help in strengthening my application for Doctoral Research at the end of this project.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES (1-2 years):

1. Research results

Anticipated publications:

At least one article in peer reviewed journal is expected to be published at the end of the project.

Anticipated conference, workshop attendance, courses, and /or seminar presentations:

- A 10 minute power point presentation will be done at the mid-term report of the project in Madrid, Spain (17-18 December 2015).
- Confirmed participation in ForSEADiscovery Workshop on Dendrochronology and Wood Anatomy to be held in Wageningen, the Netherlands (9-11 December 2015).
- Attended a training course on "Application of Geographical Information System (GIS) to Maritime History and Nautical Archaeology" in Madrid, Spain (13-16 October 2015).
- Attended 6th Sound Toll Registers Online Conference in Antwerp (22-23 October, 2015).

2. Research Skills and techniques:

Training in specific new areas, or technical expertise etc:

As a part of this project, I am using STR to complete my research. I have been working on MS Access in the past couple of months, and hope to improve my skills over time.

3. Research management:

Fellowship or other funding applications planned (indicate name of award if known; include fellowships with entire funding periods, grants written/applied for/received, professional society presentation awards or travel awards, etc.)

I will apply for Doctoral Research in various institutes around the world.

4. Communication skills:

In addition to English, Hindi and Punjabi, I can understand basic Dutch, and can read eighteenth century Dutch as well. At present, I am acquiring palaeographical skills in seventeenth century Dutch, and this would help me in undertaking research in Dutch Notarial Archives.

Other professional training (course work, teaching activity):

I hope to present my work in the History Department Seminars in the University of Groningen, and this would help in improving my presentation skills. Also, the critical comments received from the faculty members during the presentation would certainly help me

in polishing my arguments further. I have attended the Departmental seminars in the University, and hope to continue it in future as well.

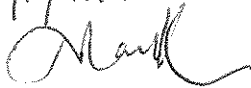
5. Anticipated networking opportunities

I attended my first intensive training course in Geographic Information System (GIS) in Madrid in October 2015. As a result, I got an opportunity to interact with members of the ForSEADiscovery Project. I am in touch with some of the fellow researchers, and am getting useful help from them in my research. During the STR Conference at Antwerp, I interacted with some of the historians who are using STR for their research. I also discussed my research plans with them, and hopefully will be in touch with them in future as well.

6. Other activities (community, etc) with professional relevance:

I am trying to establish contact with the historians who are working on Portuguese economic history, and this would help me in enhancing my understanding of the Portuguese trade in the early modern period.

Date & Signature of fellow

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