

Suzanne Daveau and the history of Portuguese Geography

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Resumo: Practicing the history of a scientific discipline has, in addition to the personal gratification of the researcher who practices it, numerous scientific and pedagogical advantages: the first consist in the understanding of the most solid lines of the disciplinary tradition and the conceptual refinement sustained throughout this same evolution; the second, by demonstrating that in all periods of disciplinary history the scientific product carried out in research and reproduced in teaching is strongly permeated and in inseparable articulation with other areas of social life — everything leads us to believe, therefore, that something similar is happening in the epistemological present in which we now live, therefore forcing us to a critical vigilance that could, at first sight, be unnecessary but which the movements of crisis and establishment of theories, discourses and practices in the course of the evolution of the discipline prove to be more than adequate. 2. For a long time, social sciences, and also their history, privileged ‘time’ in relation to ‘space’, thus configuring ‘histories of science’ rather than ‘geographies of science’. The ‘geo-epistemological’ manifesto of the ‘Belfast School’ is now more than established, so it is not necessary to present it here in much detail, but only to identify the evaluation of Suzanne Daveau's historiographical work based on some structural levels of a ‘geo-epistemology’ thus conceived: i) morphology locates the origin and indicates the nature of the discrete data that constitute the ‘data’ of a research program; ii) through the consideration of theoretical regionalization, it is inferred how discrete points of information are, by the research program, made coherent sets, models or projections; iii) social topography characterizes the entire sum of institutions (people, universities, state agencies, publishers...) that are called upon to give shape to research programs, in order to iv) identify the main concretions of moral-scientific identity and the way they evolve over time, according to scale. 3. Suzanne Daveau was born in Paris in 1925. She graduated from the Sorbonne University, in this city, the same school to which she would submit her doctorate. She taught at the University of Besançon between 1950 and 1952, returning briefly there later. For almost a decade she has taught and researched at the University of

Dakar, carrying out intense fieldwork in West Africa, especially in Mauritania. In the mid-sixties she came to live and work in Portugal, becoming, through teaching at the University of Lisbon and research at the Center for Geographic Studies, probably the most important 'Portuguese' geographer in the second half of the 20th century. Suzanne Daveau's historiographical work is extensive and of mandatory consultation for certain periods in the History of Geography in Portugal, especially the beginning of the Modern Age and the years of affirmation of post-War university Geography.

Palavras-chave: "History of Geography"; "Suzanne Daveau"; "Theoretical regionalisation"; "Social topography"; "Moral geographies"

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