

The IStReS Database: Reflections on the Configuration of the Field of Iberian Studies

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ABSTRACT

Firstly, this paper discusses the objectives and methodologies of the IStReS (Iberian Studies Reference Site) project. IStReS (<http://istres.letras.ulisboa.pt>) is an online platform that provides tools for researchers in the field of Iberian Studies, which include a searchable bibliographic database, a *Who's who* of relevant scholars in the field, and frequent news updates about happenings in the discipline. Secondly, the paper presents an analysis of the 1,786 references that are currently included in the database in order to obtain a more detailed image of the status of Iberian Studies today. The results will allow to draw some conclusions on the current configuration of the field.

KEYWORDS

Database, Iberian Studies, Iberian Studies Reference Site, Academic Field, Hispanism.

RESUMEN

Este artículo presenta, en primer lugar, los objetivos y la metodología del proyecto IStReS (Iberian Studies Reference Site). IStReS (<http://istres.letras.ulisboa.pt>) es una plataforma *online* que ofrece herramientas para los investigadores del campo de los Estudios Ibéricos: una base de datos de bibliografía secundaria, un *Who's who* de académicos relevantes para esta área, y una sección de noticias sobre eventos relacionados con la disciplina. En segundo lugar, se realiza un análisis de las 1.786 referencias actualmente incluidas en la base de datos para obtener una imagen más detallada de la situación actual de los Estudios Ibéricos. Los resultados de este análisis nos permitirán extraer algunas conclusiones sobre la configuración de este campo científico.

PALABRAS CLAVE

Base de datos, estudios ibéricos, Iberian Studies Reference Site, disciplina académica, hispanismo.



1. IBERIAN STUDIES AND ISTRES

Although the study of the Iberian Peninsula has a much longer history, Iberian Studies' epistemological, academic and institutional consolidation as a field is a relatively recent occurrence. Its development into a recognized scientific discipline is best understood in the context of the revision and renewal of Area Studies (the multidisciplinary study of geocultural or geopolitical areas, such as South-Asian Studies, Eastern European Studies, etc.) and other supranational disciplines within Comparative Literature (such as European Literature or World Literature). It can also be seen in light of the *spatial turn* in the Humanities during the last years of the 20th century and the well-documented academic and epistemological crisis of Hispanism in the United States –in particular, that of so-called *Peninsular Hispanism* or Peninsular Studies (Moraña, 2005; Epps & Cifuentes, 2005; Santana, 2008; Cornejo Parriego & Villamandos, 2011).

Based on a reconceptualization of Peninsular literatures and cultures, Iberian Studies is a new interdisciplinary field whose impetus comes, in Resina's words, from

its intrinsic relationality and its reorganization of monolingual fields based on nation-states and their postcolonial extensions into a peninsular plurality of cultures and languages pre-existing and coexisting with the official cultures of the state (2013, p. vii).

Current discourse in Iberian Studies –understood here as “the methodological consideration of the Iberian Peninsula as a complex, multilingual cultural and literary system” (Pérez Isasi, 2013, p. 1)– engages with several different geographical regions, academic traditions and disciplinary approaches. Over the last two decades, the field has established itself as an emerging discipline with a diverse and extensive academic corpus that encompasses a variety of objects and methodologies, which tend to emphasize its comparative or relational nature as one of its main specific traits (Gimeno Ugalde, 2017; Pérez Isasi, 2017).

As Resina has noted (2009, p. 92), promoting Iberian Studies as an alternative to Hispanism is charged with political implications, because Iberian Studies are founded on the deconstruction of the historical and epistemological links between national language, culture and history that have shaped academia since the mid-19th century (or even earlier). To some extent, Iberian Studies is an anti-(neo)imperialist reaction to the field of Hispanism, a field that many current scholars consider centralist and conservative in both its politics and its epistemology. Authors such as Joseba Gabilondo (2013-2014) take a step further, arguing that even this alternative paradigm, if it is not developed in an explicitly comparative and non-hierarchical fashion, may end up reestablishing and reasserting the same underlying power relations as previous national and colonial discourses, doing little more than re-appropriating a few token objects from *peripheral* cultures. In our view, however, this criticism appears to be based on an analysis of Iberian Studies in North America, since the field's development in Europe –and

particularly on the Iberian Peninsula— is more closely tied to Comparative Literature and Literary Theory than to a reconfigured Hispanism.

The IStReS project, a collaboration between researchers on both sides of the Atlantic, was born out of the realization that Iberian Studies found itself in a paradoxical situation: while the field had grown in scope and complexity in both the USA and Europe and begun to develop a solid theoretical and critical corpus (as evidenced by recent publications such as Resina, 2009; Resina, 2013, Pérez Isasi, 2013 and Muñoz-Basols et al., 2017), there was still a need for greater cohesion and dialogue among the different traditions and agents within it. The gulf between North American and European Iberian Studies was particularly striking, there were key differences in their origins, methodologies and objects of study, which lead to diverse and even conflicting definitions of the field itself (Pérez Isasi, 2019). Aware of this paradox, the main researchers conceived the IStReS project as a way to offer specific tools for enhancing the discipline's coherence and strengthening internal dialogue between Iberian Studies scholars. To this end, the project comprises:

- a) a bibliographic database that compiles and systematizes the academic production about the Iberian Peninsula from the last two decades, which have coincided with the establishment of Iberian Studies as an (inter)disciplinary and institutional field;
- b) a *Who's who* section that includes bio-bibliographical profiles of the most relevant scholars who work in the field of Iberian Studies;
- c) a *News* section that offers information on recent publications, conferences, exhibitions and other activities related to the discipline, as well as news about the IStReS project itself.

The following section will briefly describe the methodology used to develop the IStReS platform, focusing on the design and implementation of the database.

2. ISTRES METHODOLOGY, DESIGN AND VISUALIZATION

As mentioned above, the core of the IStReS project is a bibliographic database that includes and organizes the relevant publications in Iberian Studies since 2000. During the early stages of the project, 2000 was established as a chronological starting point for the database, not only because of the year's symbolic value, but also because, in both the USA and Europe, Iberian Studies has consolidated into a field with its own identity over the past two decades. In

later phases of the project, the database's chronological scope will be broadened to include sources published between 1974¹ and 1999.

At this stage, the database is limited to sources concerned with Iberian cultures – that is, with the broad group of practices, objects and institutions that find expression in the literature, music, folklore, theatre, film, television, and so on, of the different territories that make up the Iberian Peninsula. For the time being, the database does not include sources from fields such as Linguistics, Sociology or Political Science, although we have recently begun to incorporate works related to the history of Iberian cultural and political relations (and to Iberianism in particular)².

To be included in the database, publications must also be based in a comparative or relational approach to the study of the Peninsula. In other words, they must involve the study of at least two or more Iberian geocultural spaces (Spain and Portugal, Catalonia and Spain, Galicia and the Basque Country, etc.) or of the Iberian cultural space as a whole. This requirement stems from both scientific considerations –according to our understanding of the field (Resina, 2009, 2013; Delgado, 2013; Olaziregi, 2015; Pérez, 2016), the specificity of Iberian Studies stems from its comparative or relational nature– and practical utility: it clearly defines a subset of academic production that is distinct from (albeit related to) the fields of Basque, Catalan, Galician, Portuguese and Spanish Studies³.

Publications have been drawn from several different sources to create a database that is as comprehensive and inclusive as possible. First of all, we compiled the most relevant collective publications from the last two decades, such as *Reading Iberia* (Buffery et al., 2007), *A Comparative History of Literatures in the Iberian Peninsula* (Cabo Aseguinolaza et al., 2010; Domínguez et al., 2016), *Iberian Modalities* (Resina, 2013), *Looking at Iberia* (Pérez Isasi, 2013) and the *Routledge Companion to Iberian Studies* (Muñoz Basols et al., 2017). Secondly, we gathered publications by members of our scientific committee and scholars in the project's *Who's who* section, as well as publications that those members and scholars suggested. In parallel to these two strategies, we also conducted specialized searches to find bibliographic references related to areas of special interest, such as the intersection of Translation Studies and Iberian Studies or the relations between Galicia and Portugal.

Once the database's general inclusion criteria had been established, the design phase began. However, instead of designing an *ad hoc* database –which would have been more costly

¹ The year 1974 is a symbolic one, as it represents the transition from dictatorship to democracy in Portugal and Spain.

² This expansion in the database scope is, in turn, mirrored in the composition of the *Who is who*, which now also includes scholars who specialize in Iberianism or Iberian nationalisms from a historical perspective, such as Sérgio Campos Matos, Xosé Manuel Núñez-Seixas or José Miguel Sardica.

³ The exclusion of publications that deal with only one linguistic, cultural or national area is obviously not due to any judgement on their scientific value. Their inclusion in the database would, however, dilute the specificity and scope of the IStReS project (and of Iberian Studies in opposition with other academic fields), while it would make it immeasurable in terms of size.

and time-consuming given the variety of data that would need to be included— we decided to use the open-source reference management software Zotero as a platform. Zotero offers a set of features that make it ideal for a project like IStReS –it enables users to label data by type (books, book chapters, journal articles, dissertations, etc.), work both online and offline and retrieve information in a variety of bibliographic formats— and it is used as the platform for other databases such as the Linguistic Bibliography of Spanish in the United States⁴.

Zotero also offers a feature that has proven extremely useful for the IStReS project: the ability to attribute *tags* to bibliographic entries. This feature simultaneously broadens the search options available to users and facilitates the extraction and analysis of quantitative data from the database. A set of tags were established and assigned to each database entry to allow for sorting by chronological period, object of analysis (e.g. literature, cinema, theatre, arts), geocultural space (e.g. Spain, Portugal, Catalonia, Galicia), scientific field (e.g. Comparative Literature, Translation Studies) or any other relevant information related to the content of the publication: names of authors, titles of works, themes, keywords, and so on.

This database is delivered to users through a Wordpress-based website⁵. This website is linked to the database using a specific Zotero API, which has been updated and modified to suit the project's needs.

Figure 1. Search interface in the IStReS website.

As figure 1 illustrates, the search interface enables users to search the database by text title and/or author and filter by type of entry. It also allows users to choose how the search results will be formatted: as a table, or in any of the three most widely used bibliographic styles (APA, MLA or Chicago). If users select the table format, they will see a general overview of the main bibliographic criteria (author, title, year, type of publication) and a *+info* column (see figure 2) that can be expanded to reveal complete bibliographic information about any given entry.

⁴ LiBSUS, see: <http://observatoriocervantes.org/bsus/bsus.php>.

⁵ See: <http://istres.letras.ulisboa.pt>.

Book Section	Brad Epps (author) Javier Muñoz-Basols (editor) Laura Lonsdale (editor) Manuel Delgado (editor)	(Inter)National spectres: cinema in mid-twentieth-century Iberia	2017	+info
Book Section	Brad Epps (author) Facundo Tomás Ferré (editor) Isabel Justo (editor) Sofía Barrón (editor)	Los avatares de la evidencia en Morts a la Plaça de Catalunya de Agustí Centelles y Contraataque de Ramón J. Sender	2011	+info
Journal Article	Brad Epps (author)	Writing in accesible language: Benet, Goytisoló, Galdós	2000	+info
Journal Article	Brad Epps (author)	Between Europe and Africa: modernity, race, and nationality in the correspondence of Miguel de Unamuno and Joan Maragall	2005	+info
Book Section	Antonio Monegal (author) Brad Epps (editor) Luis Fernández Cifuentes (editor)	A Landscape of Relations: Peninsular Multiculturalism and the Avatars of Comparative Literature	2005	+info

Figure 2. Basic search in table format.

In the bottom half of the search interface, there is a box that allows users to search the database by tag. This search feature works slightly differently than the one described above: as soon as the user starts typing a given area of interest into the search box, the interface automatically supplies the group of tags that match the chain of entered characters. For instance, if the user types *Basque* into the tag search box, they will see a list of (clickable) tags that include the word *Basque*, as shown in figure 3.

Text: Type of item:

Author:


Show results as:

TAGS SEARCH:
Start to type to see suggestions for tags. Click a chosen TAG to see the results. Please be aware that this field is case sensitive.

Figure 3. Tag search results for Basque.

As already mentioned, the database and its search functions constitute the core of the IStReS project. These tools are likely to be the most immediately useful to researchers in the field of Iberian Studies, but the website includes two additional resources for interested users. The first is a *Who's who* section⁶ that offers information about several of the most relevant scholars in the field, from different academic traditions, with a wide range of specialization and geo-cultural focuses of interest. Each of these profiles includes a recent image of the scholar, a list of their areas of interest, a bio-/bibliographical profile that highlights the scholar's contributions to the field, links to their institutional or personal websites and a list of their publications in the IStReS database (see figure 4).

⁶ See: <http://istres.letras.ulisboa.pt/whos-who/>.



Areas of interest: Iberian Studies – Hispanic Studies – Cultural Studies

Ulrich Winter is a Professor in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the Philipps-Universität-Marburg (Germany). He received the PhD in Romance Literature at Heidelberg University. Prof. Winter specializes in European and Comparative literatures, Cultural Theory and Visual Culture. He is a member of the research group MHLU – Historical Memory in Iberian Literatures.

Organizer of the First Iberian Cultural Studies Symposium (20th and 21st centuries) in Germany, Winter has made several relevant contributions to the field of Iberian Studies such as “Memorias asimétricas. La Guerra Civil y la guerrilla antifranquista en la literatura de expresión castellana dentro del contexto ibérico” (2011) and “Asymmetry and the Political: Paradigms for a Cultural History of the Iberian Twentieth Century” (2012). He is the co-editor of several books such as *Casa encantada: Lugares de memoria en la España constitucional 1978-2004* (2005), *Lugares de memoria de la Guerra Civil y el Franquismo: representaciones literarias y visuales* (2006), and *Cruzar la línea roja. Hacia una arqueología del imaginario comunista ibérico 1930-2016* (2017). Lastly, he coordinated the dossier *Posdictadura / posmodernismo. La renegociación de identidades colectivas en la España democrática: entre memoria histórica, cultura popular y cultura política* (2004).

More information: [Institutional website](#)


Ulrich Winter’s publications in the IStReS database:

- Winter, Ulrich. 2011. “Memorias asimétricas. La Guerra Civil y la guerrilla antifranquista en la literatura de expresión castellana dentro del contexto ibérico.” In *Literaturas ibéricas y memoria histórica*, edited by Mari Jose Olaziregi, 8:28–39. RIEV – Revista Internacional de los Estudios Vascos. Donostia-San Sebastián: Eusko Ikaskuntza.
- Winter, Ulrich. 2013. “Asymmetry and the Political: Paradigms for a Cultural History of the Iberian Twentieth Century.” In *Iberian Modalities: A Relational Approach to the Study of Culture in the Iberian Peninsula*, edited by Joan Ramon Resina, 129–42. Contemporary Hispanic and Lusophone Cultures 8. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press.
- Winter, Ulrich, and Antonio Gómez-López Quiñones, eds. 2017. *Cruzar La Línea Roja. Hacia Una Arqueología Del Imaginario Comunista Ibérico (1930-2016)*. Estudios de Cultura de España 37. Madrid / Frankfurt am Main: Iberoamericana – Vervuert.
- Winter, Ulrich. 2012. “Images of Time. Paradigms of Memory and the Collapse of the Novel of Contemporary History in Spain (Cabré, Cercas).” Edited by Luis Martín-Estudillo and Nicholas Spadaccini. *Hispanic Issues On Line – Memory and Its Discontents: Spanish Culture in the Early Twenty-First Century*, no. 11 (Autumn): 12–34. https://cla.umn.edu/sites/cla.umn.edu/files/hiol_11_01_winter_images_of_time.pdf.

Figure 4. Example of a profile in the IStReS Who’s who section.

The third and last feature of the website is a News section⁷ (see figure 5), which is regularly updated with information about publications, conferences and exhibitions related to Iberian Studies and news about the IStReS project itself. Users also have the option of receiving these updates via email through the *Subscribe* box (which appears in the web page’s right-hand column).


Our news



CFP “Beyond borders? New Formulations in Hispanic and Lusophone Worlds”

The Department of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies of University College Cork, with the support of the Centre for Advanced Studies in Languages and Cultures (CASiLaC), organizes the symposium “Beyond Borders? New Formulations in Hispanic and Lusophone...”


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Exhibition “Pessoa: All Art Is a Form of Literature” at the Reina Sofia Museum

The Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid will be showing the Pessoa. All Art Is a Form of Literature exhibit from February 7th to May 7th 2018. The title of the exhibition, “Pessoa. All Art Is a Form of Literature”, is based off of a quote by Álvaro de Campos, one of the most...

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Call for Papers – Encounters, Rights, and Sovereignty in the Iberian empires

The Call For Papers is now open for the International Conference “Encounters, Rights, and Sovereignty in the Iberian empires, 15th-19th centuries”, which will take place at the University of Evora (Portugal), on the 24th and 25th of May 2018. Focused on the colonial...

[read more](#)

Figure 5. IStReS News section.

⁷ See: <http://istres.letras.ulisboa.pt/#news>.

In addition to this News section, the website also offers some relevant information about the database (its design, user instructions and the Creative Commons license for use) and the project (its objectives, methodology, scientific committee, team, etc.), as well as about our dissemination activities and findings. Additionally, there is a *Contact* section through which users can send suggestions or corrections for the database or get in touch with the web designers or project leaders about any other issue related to the site or project.

3. THE ISTRÉS DATABASE. AN ANALYSIS OF ITS COMPOSITION

In this second part of the article, we will present and analyze a set of quantitative data extracted from the IStReS database⁸. The aim of this section is twofold: it intends, on the one hand, to obtain a more detailed image of the current state of the project, and identify possible biases, limitations and omissions; and, on the other hand, to determine whether the composition of the database reflects the configuration of the field of Iberian Studies itself. The quantitative analysis was carried out by using Zotero tags to conduct specific searches in the database. We established six parameters for the analysis of the IStReS bibliographic corpus: geocultural space, compared geocultural spaces (two-by-two), historical period analysed in the publication, scientific area and the main language in which the publication was written⁹.

A dominant trend can be observed among the geocultural areas studied in the publications (see figure 6): more than half of the references currently included in the database deal with the Spanish/Castilian geocultural space, followed by the Portuguese, Catalan and Galician geocultural spaces¹⁰. The Basque space is clearly underrepresented in the database, with only 112 entries. The tag *Iberia*, which is used to identify references that either deal with pan-Iberian phenomena or do not specify which Iberian geocultural area they analyze, appears in 303 entries.

⁸ When we finished this article (January 2019), the analysis was based on the 1.786 references currently catalogued in the IStReS database.

⁹ For statistical purposes, when more than one language is used in a specific document (particularly in the case of collective edited volumes), only the principal language is counted.

¹⁰ In assessing these statistics, it should be taken into account that, according to our corpus criteria and research methodology, each item in the database can have more than one tag. For instance, a single entry on bilingual Portuguese theater of the Golden Age is labeled with at least these tags: *Spain, Portugal, Literature, Theater, Theater Studies, Bilingualism, 16th century, 17th century, Spanish language and Portuguese language*. This also explains why the sum of the entries in the statistical analysis (Figs. 6-9) is higher than the total number of references in the database.

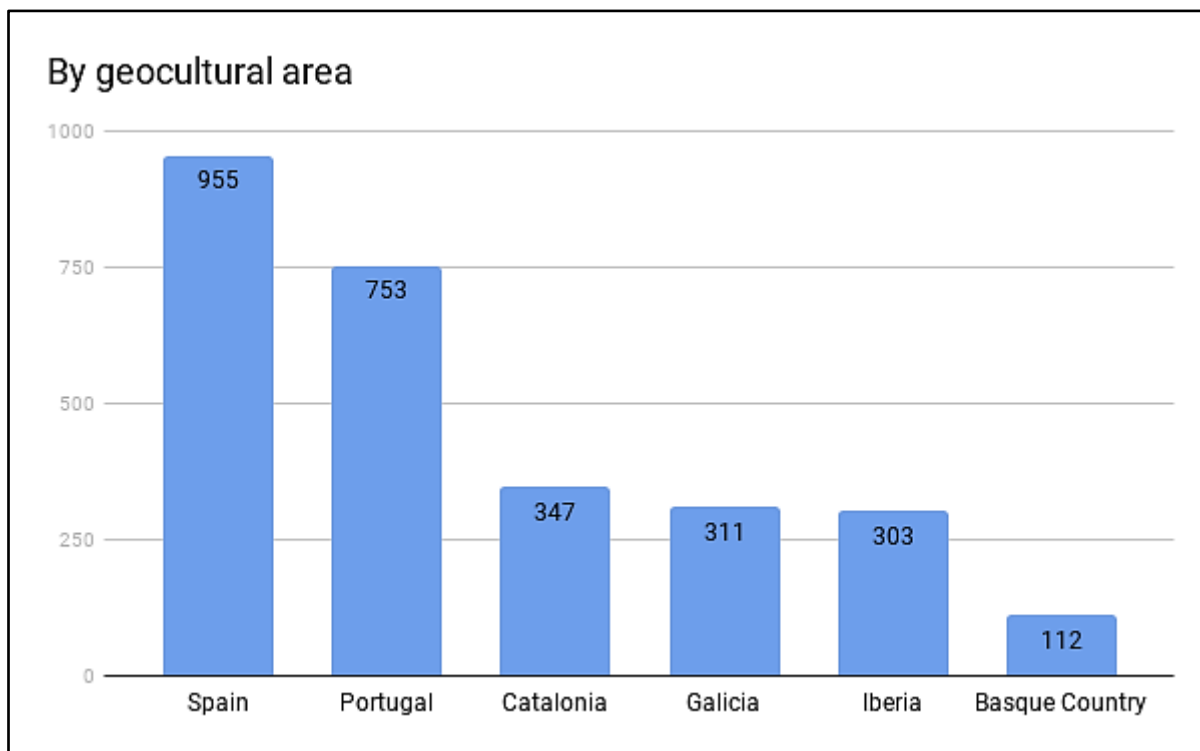


Figure 6. Number of entries by geocultural area.

When the database is sorted by compared geocultural spaces (two-by-two), a very similar hierarchy emerges (see figure 7).

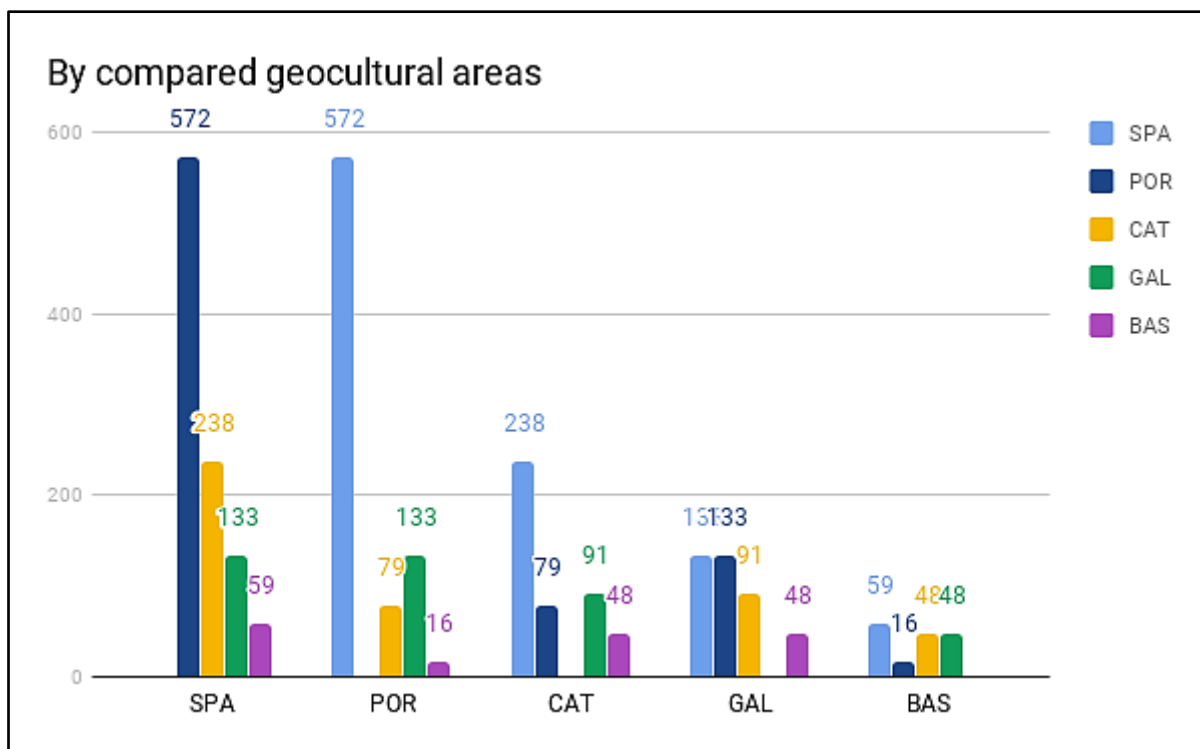


Figure 7. Number of entries by compared geocultural spaces.

In this case, sources that compare the Spanish and Portuguese geocultural spaces (572 entries in the database) clearly dominate the corpus, and there is a large gap between these sources and the second most common set, i.e. those that compare the Spanish and Catalan cultural spaces (238 entries). As regards the Galician space, it is worth mentioning that there are

as many studies relating it with the Portuguese space (133 entries) as with the Spanish one (133 entries). There are obvious historical, linguistic, cultural and academic reasons for this result, but there could also be a slight bias in the data, since the database includes a significant number of publications by the research network Galabra¹¹, which is specifically interested in relations between Galicia and the Lusophone countries.

When analysed according to chronological period studied, the database reveals a distribution that justifies the accusation of presentism that is often made against Iberian Studies (and literary and cultural studies in general) (Delgado, 2013, p. 48; Gimeno Ugalde, 2017, p. 4). As figure 8 illustrates, the corpus is clearly skewed towards the 20th century (studied in a total of 760 entries, which account for more than half of the 1,465 references currently gathered in the database), followed by the 19th century (291 entries) and the 21st century (206 entries). The centuries that make up the *Golden Age* (16th and 17th centuries)¹² are also quite evenly represented (126 entries for the 16th century and 132 entries for the 17th century), while the Middle Ages (62 entries) and the 18th century (32 entries) receive much less attention in this corpus. This result could reflect a gap that should be addressed in the future by carrying out specific bibliographic searches and consulting with the researchers in the *Who's who* section who specialize in these periods (or with other scholars not yet included in it).

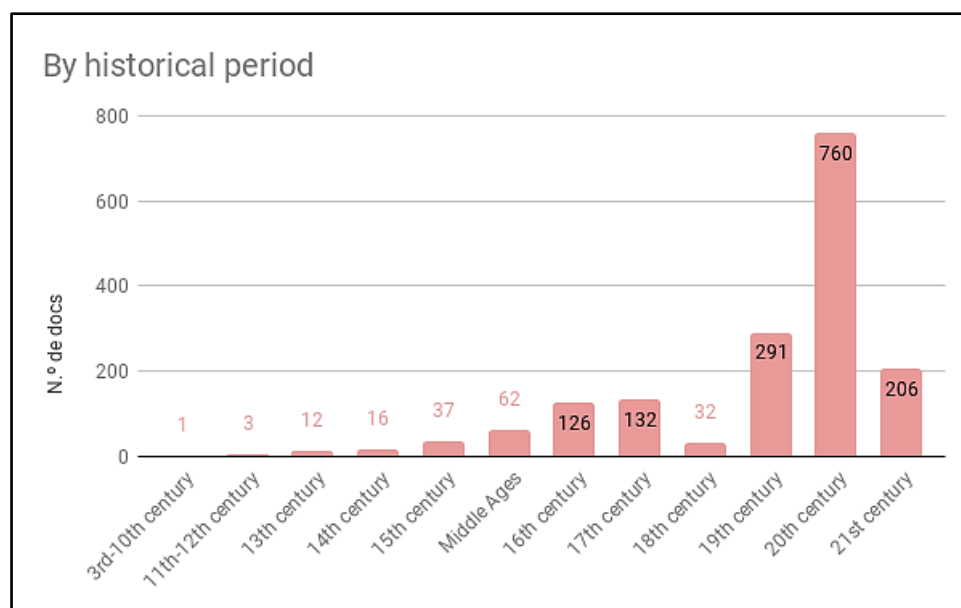


Figure 8. Number of entries by historical period studied.

¹¹ See: <https://redegalabra.org/>.

¹² It worths noting that the 16th and 17th centuries also coincide with the period of the Dual Monarchy (1580-1640), when Spain and Portugal were ruled by a common dynasty—a period in which Spanish–Portuguese bilingualism was common among the educated elites, particularly in Portugal, and literary and theatrical exchanges between the countries were therefore frequent (Rodrigues, 2000; Fernández García, 2004; Serra, 2008).

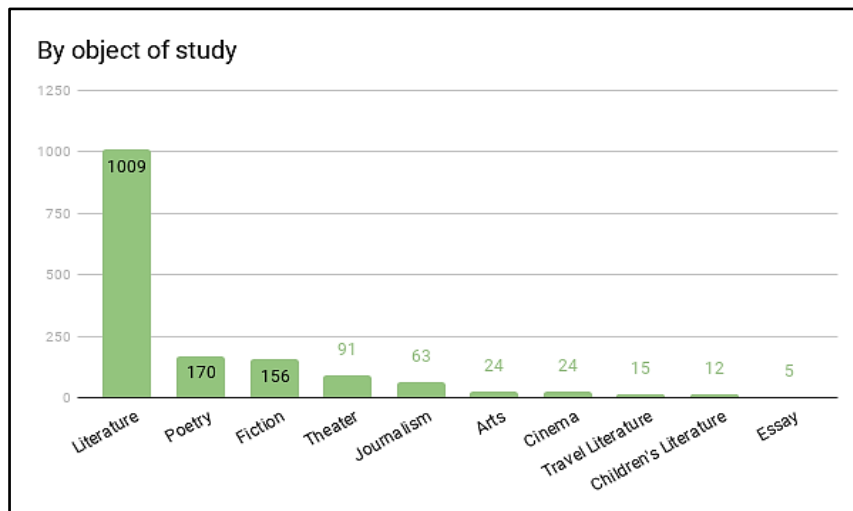


Figure 9. Number of entries by type of object of study.

The data for type of object of study (see figure 9) also reveals a clear imbalance: more than two-thirds of the references in the database are related to literature (1.009 entries)¹³. This imbalance may reflect a bias that stems from the project's principal investigators and the composition of the Scientific Committee and *Who's who* section, both of which are dominated by literary scholars. However, given that a large number of works have been introduced into the database so far and the most relevant and influential publications in the field have already been gathered, this result may indicate that the predominance of Literary Studies is not a characteristic of the IStReS database alone, but rather of the field of Iberian Studies as a whole. Further research on Cinema Studies, Visual Studies or Art History in the Iberian Peninsula, for example, might be necessary in order to either correct this potential bias or confirm the hypothesis that it stems from the very configuration of Iberian Studies.

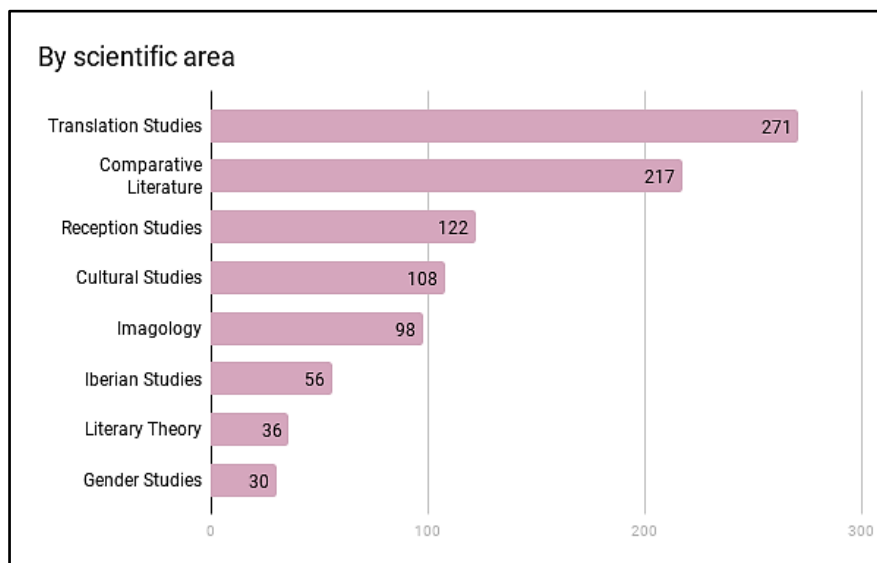


Figure 10. Number of entries by scientific area

¹³ Some of the tags related with the type of object of study overlap and appear together in the same entries. For instance, the tag *Novel* always appear together with *Fiction* and *Literature*; *Sonnet*, with *Poetry* and *Literature*, etc.

In turn, the predominance of Literary Studies determines the scientific and academic areas to which the references are linked (see figure 10). Tags related to Literary Studies, such as Comparative Literature (217 entries), Reception Studies (122 entries) or Literary Theory (36 entries), appear often in the database, although other broader, more transversal tags, such as Cultural Studies (108 entries) and Gender Studies (30 entries), are also present.

At first glance, the fact that Translation Studies is the most represented scientific area in the database (271 entries) may seem surprising, since Iberian Studies is not immediately identified with Translation Studies. But two main reasons could explain this result: first of all, translation is one of the most relevant forms of interaction between cultural and literary (poly-) systems (Even-Zohar, 1990). As several authors have pointed out (Casas, 2000, 2003; Van Hooft Comajuncosas, 2004; Santana, 2015), this is also (and particularly) true for the Iberian space which is characterized by its strong linguistic and cultural diversity. Secondly, the rise of Translation Studies, in both Spain and Portugal, over the last three decades might have had an impact on the increasing scientific production related to this area, which in turn –at least in the Spanish case– was affected by the growing number of literary translations into the minoritized languages, which became co-official in the early 1980s. Despite these aspects and even though a specific search was made to trace works focusing on intra-Iberian translation and on self-translation, which could account for a slight over-representation of Translation Studies within the database, in our view, the predominance of this scientific area in the corpus points to the need for a systematic analysis of the role of translation in Iberian Studies¹⁴. Lastly, the tag *Iberian Studies*, which is currently applied to 46 entries, refers to entries that reflect on the field itself: its origins and history, scientific foundation, criticisms, and so on.

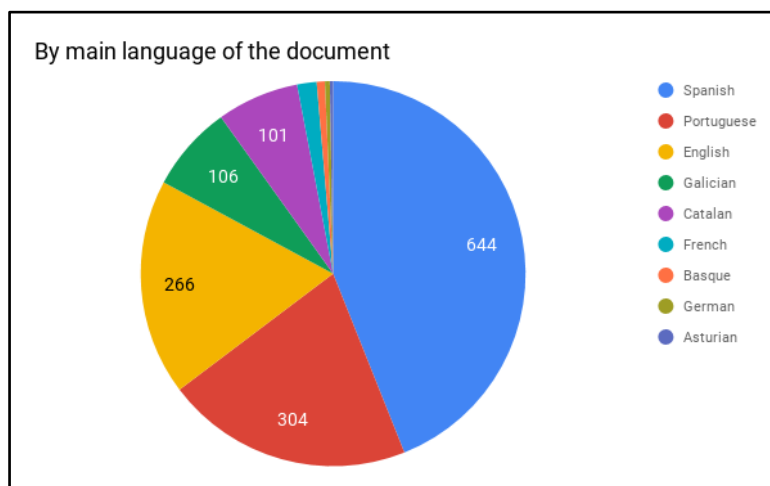


Figure 11. Number of entries by main language of the document.

¹⁴ Taking into consideration the crucial role of translation within the literary and cultural Iberian polysystem, the research group DIIA (Iberian and Ibero-American Dialogues), which is based out of the University of Lisbon's Centro de Estudos Comparatistas, recently launched a new line of research called IberTRANSLATIO, which specifically focuses on the study of translation in the Iberian Peninsula in order to analyse –among other aspects– its central role in the (re-)configuration of the field of Iberian Studies.

The final parameter of analysis is the language in which the references in the corpus have been written (see figure 11). Here, the predominance of Spanish-language sources (644 entries) may reflect a linguistic hierarchy in the field itself (analogous to the results seen in figure 6), but it also aligns with the hierarchy of languages used in scientific publications in general and in the Arts and Humanities specifically (van Weijen, 2013). The significant presence of English in the IStReS corpus (304 entries) can be traced, on the one hand, to the relevance of English as a *lingua franca* in academic publishing and, on the other, to the existence of a prolific Anglo-Saxon tradition within Iberian Studies in the USA, Canada and the UK. It should be emphasized that the other European languages in the corpus, such as French or German, may be underrepresented because a thorough analysis of the development of Iberian Studies in those countries has not yet been carried out. Given the multilingual and multicultural nature of the discipline, other Iberian languages, such as Catalan, Galician and Basque, could initially be considered proportionally underrepresented. However, according to van Weijen (2013), if compared with the general data for academic publishing in the Arts and Humanities in Spain, publications in *other languages* (i.e. languages other than English, French, German, Italian or Spanish) only account for 2.4% of the total (van Weijen, 2013). In a broader sense, then, it could be argued that these languages are more widely represented in the field of Iberian Studies than in the Humanities in general.

Based on the analysis in this section, the first general conclusion can be drawn: the IStReS database has proven useful not only as a bibliographic tool, but also as a source for studying the composition of the field and its most salient trends. Although it is true that there may be some bias in the database due to the academic backgrounds of the project's coordinators –which in turn may have influenced the composition of the Scientific Committee and the *Who's who* section– it is no less true that the large quantity of references in the database, along with their geographic and scientific variety, points to a high level of representativity that allows us to feel the pulse of Iberian Studies. Future efforts to expand the database will obviously have to ensure that possible gaps and biases are corrected and balanced, paying particular attention to underrepresented periods, geocultural areas and fields such as the Middle Ages, the Basque cultural area, cinema and the visual arts.

Albeit with this precaution, the available quantitative data allows us to draw some preliminary conclusions about the current configuration of Iberian Studies. As noted above, the centrality of state-based literary and cultural systems –mainly Spanish, and secondarily Portuguese, geocultural areas– unfortunately seems to be replicated within Iberian Studies, as all other Iberian geocultural areas are most frequently compared or related to Spain/Castile, rather than to other *peripheral* geocultural areas. In light of these results, it could thus be argued that Iberian Studies is reproducing and consolidating a cultural (poly-)system that is radial rather

than rhizomatic in nature¹⁵. It should also be emphasized, however, that some of the references in the database (for instance, Figueroa, 2002 or Ribera Llopis, 2013) specifically analyse Iberian power relations from a critical approach with the explicit intent to deconstruct and counterbalance them.

Along similar lines, Iberian Studies seems to be highlighting and adopting other types of centrality or dominance that are common in other fields within the Humanities, such as the focus on contemporary phenomena over historical periods and the preference for Comparative Literary Studies over studies about other artistic media or other methodological approaches. A more detailed analysis would be required in order to determine whether these trends are equally present across different geographic areas and the various scientific approaches to Iberian Studies. At first glance, for instance, most works related to 16th- and 17th-century literature seem to be written by scholars based in Spain or Portugal (and in Spanish or Portuguese), while, for example, the proportion of Gender Studies and Cultural Studies texts published in English-speaking countries seems much higher.

4. CONCLUSIONS

If the IStReS database results described are to be considered a near-accurate image of the field of Iberian Studies, it could be argued that a critical reflection on the discipline's development and the political implications of its scientific endeavors needs to take place. As stated, Iberian Studies originated, at least in its North American incarnation, as an expansion of and a reaction against traditional Hispanism (Faber, 2008; Santana, 2008; Resina, 2009), which was considered not only scientifically outdated but politically imperialistic. In contrast to that field, Iberian Studies offered a *federalistic* (Resina, 2009) or *rhizomatic* (Deleuze/Guattari, 1980, p. 13) approach to Iberian literatures and cultures, in which power relations would be both scrutinized and challenged.

However, the results gathered from our database suggest that these power relations still underlie the efforts of this new paradigm. Although this may be to a certain extent unavoidable (since these power dynamics continue to constitute the core of Iberian literary and cultural relations today), a *performative turn* –to borrow Bachmann-Medick's expression (2016)– would have far-reaching consequences for the future development of the field by making Iberian Studies more diverse¹⁶. From a performative perspective, researchers would not only describe these relations of dominance but also make a strong, conscious and continuous effort to

¹⁵ In fact, notwithstanding their undeniable scientific quality, some works that label themselves as *Iberian* include works that do not supersede linguistic or national boundaries. For instance, some chapters of *Reading Iberia* (2007), *Looking at Iberia* (2013) or *The Routledge Companion to Iberian Studies* (2017) could not be included in the database because their case studies were strictly Spanish/Castilian, and therefore non-comparative in nature.

¹⁶ For a detailed discussion of the *performative turn* in different disciplines see Bachmann-Medick (2016).

contravene them, engaging in a mode of analysis that safeguards and promotes difference (in its linguistic, literary, cultural and scientific manifestations) while establishing connections between the geographic and cultural peripheries of the system, without needing those connections to be mediated by the centers of power.

At this point, it is possible to conclude that there is still work to be done in several areas. As regards the IStReS project, it will be necessary to keep expanding its database and *Who's who* section to cover previously uncharted or underrepresented areas and historical periods. Other future tasks will include 1) the expansion of the chronological and scientific limits of the database to incorporate publications prior to 2000 and publications from related fields such as History, Political and Social Sciences and 2) the continued analysis of the references gathered (for instance, the analysis of their geographic and scientific origins in order to correlate those origins with the variables analyzed in this article, such as geocultural space, type of object, scientific area, etc.).

More importantly, this brief study points to the need for critical reflection and further research about the discipline itself. The relevant publications and initiatives that have emerged over the last ten years demonstrate that Iberian Studies has attained a certain degree of stability, visibility and maturity. It now seems to be a timely endeavor to deeply analyze what Iberian Studies is really promoting and identify potential blind spots and internal contradictions within the field. Along these lines, it is useful to recall –as Arturo Casas does– that, like Literary History and other fields related to culture and literature, Iberian Studies is performative, in the sense that the discipline's chosen approaches can also define the future directions of the discipline itself¹⁷. It remains to be seen whether increased awareness of the field's objects and methodologies and their scientific and political implications will have an impact on the primary developments and trends in Iberian Studies in the near future, and whether these developments will, in turn, be reflected in future analyses of the IStReS's expanded bibliographic corpus.

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¹⁷ In the plenary session at a recent conference (proceedings yet unpublished), Arturo Casas set a clear agenda for the near future of Iberian Studies, which included, among other aspects, a (re)definition of its objects of inquiry and methodologies, an analysis of their biopolitical implications and a rethinking of its epistemological position.

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