

An approach to literary texts, collaborative work and GIS

# From close reading to spatial analysis



Daniel Alves (IHC)  
Ana Isabel Queiroz (IELT)



# The problem



From literary texts, those complex objects...

"De um lapedo bronco dois lobos surdiram amarelados e esguios, na aba da montanha. Esqueléticos, cheios de fome, começaram a uivar e a farejar hirsutos. Foram descendo, vagarosos e arfantes, fariscando a presa."

Literary excerpt from "Os Lobos" [The Wolves], by Júlio Brandão, 1900

"Uma tarde, flamava Arthur por entre as boscagens do Campo Grande, fumando cachimbo n'uma d'aquellas indolencias d'artista, que abrem lenitivo no meio dos grandes trabalhos, quando ao virar d'uma alea, deu de cara com Albano."

Literary excerpt from "A Cidade do Vício" [The City of Vice], by Fialho de Almeida, 1882

... through the tiny boxes of "space", "time" and "meaning", and the structured encapsulation of the digital tools...



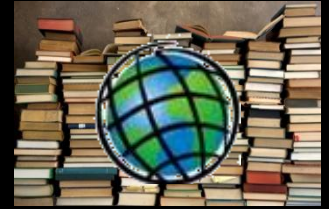
... to Environmental History and Urban History!

# The approach

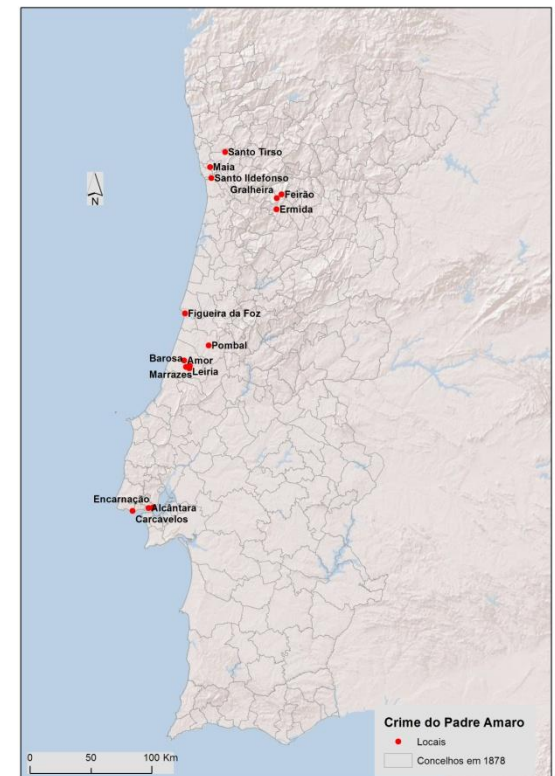


- Close reading: a thorough analysis of texts, executed through a specific reading protocol
- Collaborative and interdisciplinary work: literary studies students, academic researchers and high school teachers from Literature, History, Anthropology, Natural Sciences, and others
- Shared SQL database and GIS

# The results: all the project



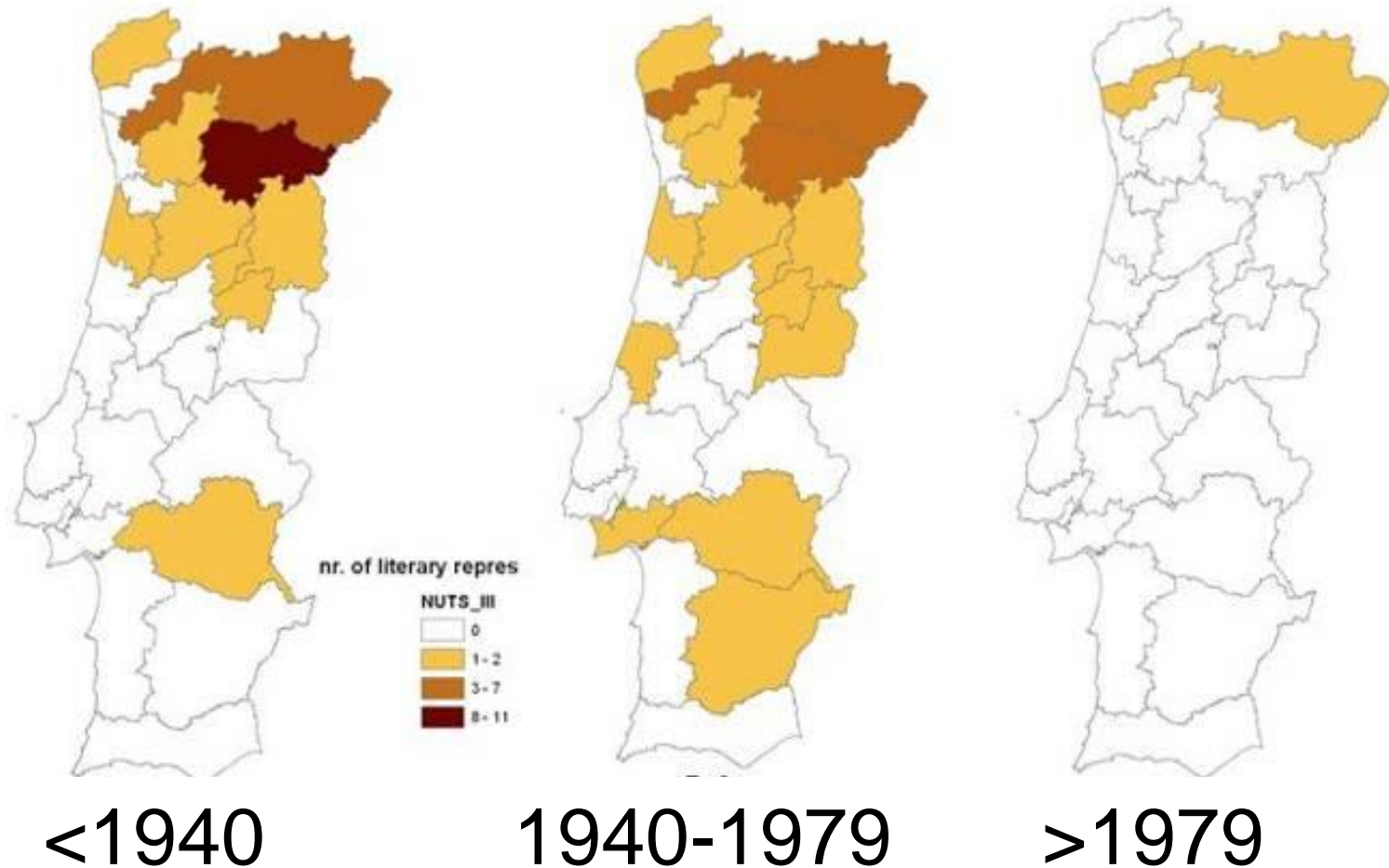
- Started in 2010, the LITESCAPE.PT project has, so far:
- 4225 literary excerpts...
- from 195 literary works...
- by 99 writers...
- dated between 1843 and 2012



# The results: on wolves



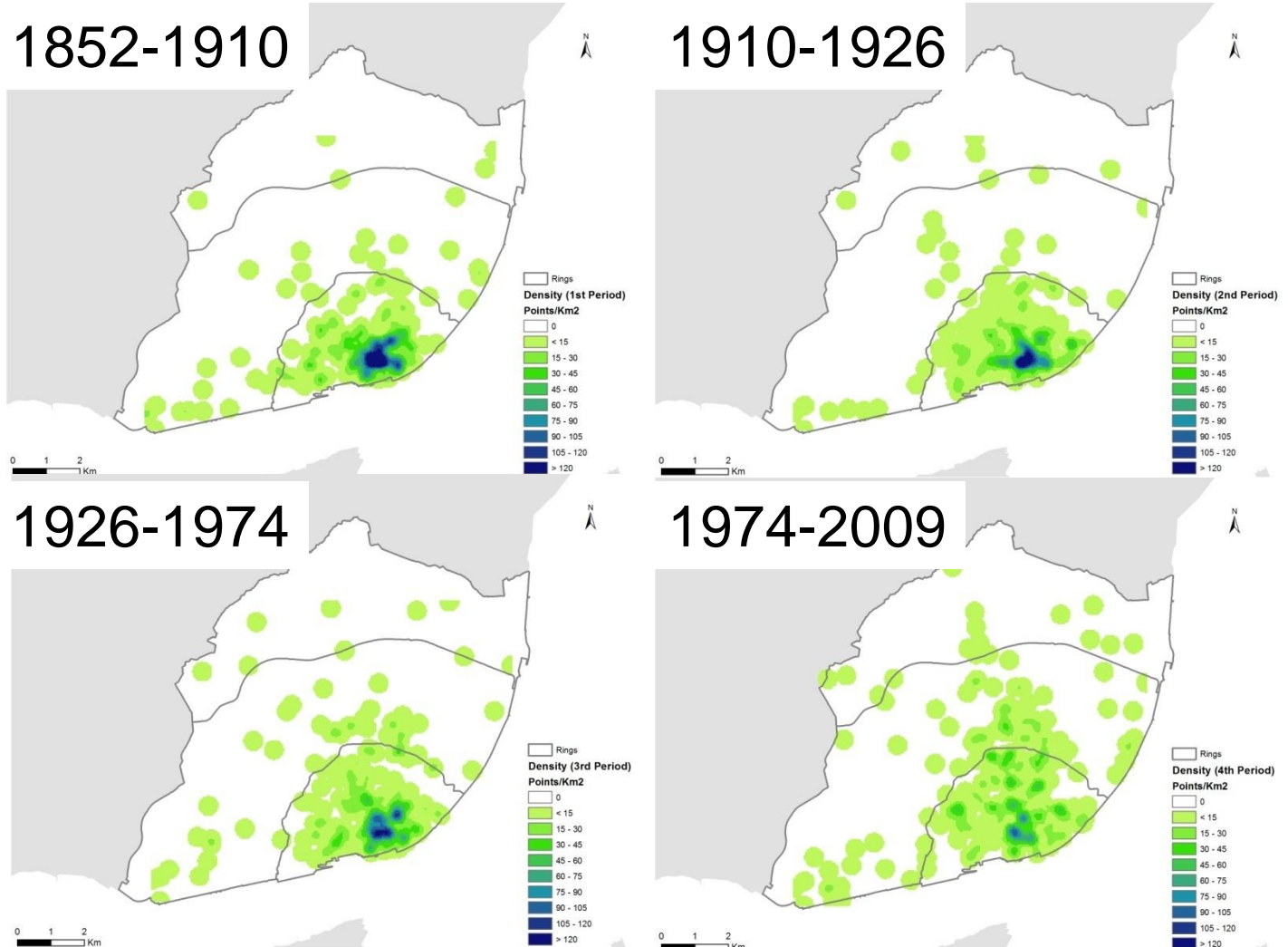
Literary wolf spatial dimension: time of the narrative



# The results: on cities



Density of  
the literary  
space in  
Lisbon  
(places by  
period)



# Thank You!



- <http://paisagensliterarias.ielt.org/>
- Ana Isabel Queiroz, Margarida Fernandes and Filipa Soares, "*The Portuguese Literary Wolf*" (presented for peer review)
- Daniel Alves and Ana Isabel Queiroz. "A New Approach to Study Urban Space and Literary Representation Using GIS: Lisbon, Portugal, 1852-2009." *Social Science History* 37, no. 4 (2013): to be published.