Pedro Urbano da Gama Machuqueiro

My research has widely used private documents from archives and I have been studying women's correspondence. Since I finished my PhD, in the last few months I have been studying the letters written by the Marchioness of Alorna (1750-1839) and by other members of the families Alorna and Fronteira who wrote before 1800. It is a very significant corpus, because they kept intellectual and political contacts throughout Europe. There are over twenty thousand documents, stored in the National Archives, at the Fronteira collection. The corpus is of the utmost importance in European terms, not only because of the people involved, but especially because of their connections, the reach of their contacts and the contents of the letters. Nonetheless, in order to make an adequate analysis of this corpus and to make it part of the COST Action I feel the need to become familiar with new expertise which may help me deal with this material. By applying to this STSM with the BIESES team, I hope to understand and to define possible relevant concepts to describe and categorize women's role in the cultural system, a question closely related to their letters and essential for an accurate description of the material. On the digital side, I expect to gain experience in developing ontologies to recover abstract information and the different ways in which this information can be displayed and used. Applying the acquired expertise to describe and categorize my case study will offer a proof of concept for the women's letters COST Action.