## Order of Knighthood on the Periphery of Europe

- Summary of Doctoral Dissertation -

The subject of the dissertation is a scarcely researched and little published, but all the more significant first 150 years of the Portuguese order of knighthood. The Avis Milícia has national characteristics, and because it played a leading part in the medieval reconquist fights, it has imperishable merits in strengthening the forming Portuguese state, and in the colonization and developing of areas reoccupied from the Moors.

The first part of the dissertation clarifies the vexed origin of the order of knighthood. By using document sources, the theories of significant Portuguese and Spanish historians are introduced, compared and evaluated.

The researcher presents the constitution based on the Cistercian order, the institution of the Avis Order, how it operates and the dignities and positions filled by the knights and the clergy.

The third section covers the political-economic relations of the Avis Order, its connection to the Church, the towns and the first Portuguese dynasty, and portrays its extensive tenure system.

By utilizing the similarities of the Eastern and Western bastions of Christian Europe the candidate compares – wherever possible – the German Order of Knights settled in the contemporary Hungary, which was later driven out of there, and the Avis Order that became a great power in Portugal.