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ATLANTIC BRIDGES: Culture, Politics and Knowledge

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Abstracts | Résumés

Alessio Rocci, When the Solvay Conferences crossed the Atlantic: Chemistry and Politics behind the meeting held in Washington, DC (1980)

Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and International Solvay Institutes.

Abstract

The project envisioned by the Belgian industrialist Ernest Solvay in Brussels – the Solvay Physics Councils and the International Solvay Institute of Physics – had a crucial role in the first quantum revolution (1911–1927). In 1922, similar meetings for chemistry started to be organized by the International Solvay Institute of Chemistry, which had a similar structure. These conferences, opened by invitation only to a restricted number of attendees, continued through the 20th Century and are still held in Brussels. Ernest Solvay was supported by his belief that only genuine scientific internationalism could stimulate the furtherance of science. The invited participants were considered representatives of their countries, and the balance among different nations in the list of participants reflected the world's political situation.

The international character of these meetings established a bridge between the two sides of the Atlantic. The presence of American physicists gradually increased after each World War. This Atlantic bridge worked as a one-way road until the end of the 1970s. In 1980, the 17th Chemistry Council crossed the Atlantic to be held in Washington, DC, ushering in a decentralized period. The occasion was stimulated by the 150th anniversary of modern Belgium's birth. In our talk, we analyze how this event enforced two different Atlantic links: a purely scientific one, fostering the collaboration among scientists, and a social one, represented by the significant immigration wave that saw many middle-class and urban professionals leave Belgium for the U.S.A., seeking work in American universities, laboratories, and industrial corporations.

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Bio

Alessio Rocci is a historian of science. After spending three postdoctoral years investigating the Solvay Archives in Brussels for the Solvay Science Project, he has been appointed Research Collaborator of the International Institutes of Physics and Chemistry and voluntary scientific collaborator of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). He is working on the impact of the Solvay meetings and the actions of the International Solvay Institutes on the history of science and European integration. In this context, he's exploring these connections through the Science Diplomacy vocabulary

Ana Cordeiro Azevedo, Redefining the Azores' Role as a Geopolitical Asset in the 21st Century
Catholic University Lisbon.

Abstract

The strategic importance of the Azores has evolved. Historically, the archipelago served as a resupply hub in the Atlantic and provided crucial military support, especially during conflict periods. However, advancements in technology, particularly during the Cold War, diminished its military significance, and the current U.S. presence at the Lajes base primarily aims to prevent its transfer to other nations. Similarly, the Azores were vital for commercial aviation from the late 1940s to the 1970s, providing refuelling for flights between Europe and the Americas. This necessity faded in the 1980s, although the Azores still play a crucial role in air traffic control over the North Atlantic. In the current context, the Azores must establish a new strategic significance on the geopolitical stage. Diversification in geopolitics, like in business, can be beneficial. The Azores possess several assets that can be used for various strategic purposes, some of which are already in place but not fully explored, while others remain to be developed. Investing in security and defence is still relevant, with the Azores assuming a more relevant role in combating organised crime, particularly human and drug trafficking, which is at the base of terrorism funding. The Azores' location is potentially crucial, given the Atlantic's role as a primary route for trafficking between the Americas and Europe. Additionally, science and technology must be a focus, with the Azores University playing a key role and the Regional Government acting as a diplomatic agent. Numerous untapped market niches exist, and the adage "where there's a will, there's a way" must be emphasised. We would like to urge a move beyond the nostalgic era of the Azores' geopolitical importance in the early to mid-20th century and move forward into a new strategic significance for the Azores in the 21st century.

Bio

PhD candidate in Political Science and International Relations: Security and Defense, at the Institute for Political Studies, Universidade Católica Portuguesa [UCP], master's in European studies at UCP, Major in Law

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from Universidade de Lisboa. Admitted to the Portuguese Bar Association. Postgraduate in Sea Science and Business Innovation, from UCP/Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa, Postgraduate in European Studies UCP. Auditor of the National Defence Course and the Security and Defence Intensive Course – Azores, from the Instituto da Defesa Nacional. PhD researcher at CIEP UCP, and Executive vice-coordinator at VCC (Visões Cruzadas sobre a Contemporaneidade, Rede Interdisciplinar de Estudos), Universidade de Coimbra.

Ana Monica Fonseca, CEI-Iscte.

Bio

Ana Monica Fonseca is the Director of the Center for International Studies at Iscte–University Institute of Lisbon (CEI-Iscte) and Assistant Professor at the Department of History at Iscte–University Institute of Lisbon, where she coordinates the Masters' degree program in Modern and Contemporary History. Her research areas focus on transitions to democracy in Southern Europe, Portuguese foreign policy during the Cold War and non-state actors, and the promotion of democracy.

Celine Rodrigues, Blue humanities, Wet Ontology and Ice humanities

Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

Abstract

Blue Humanities, also referred to as “Blue Cultural Studies”, was introduced by Steve Mentz in 2009. This interdisciplinary domain integrates a variety of fields, including environmental studies, oceanography, marine biology, and maritime history. The term was initially used by Turkish writer Cevat Sakir Kabaağaçlı in the 1940s. This area of study perceives the sea as a symbolic realm shaped by the Anthropocene, social practices, cultural influences, and geopolitical dynamics.

Sverker Sörlin's book, Cryo-History: Narratives of Ice and the Emerging Arctic Humanities (2015), emphasizes the significance of cryo-history in influencing societal structures. He posits that the humanities can provide fresh insights into the concept of ice, engaging with issues related to climate, geopolitics, social and planetary timelines, as well as environmental and global transformations. The Fourth International Polar Year (2007–2009) encouraged scholars to contemplate the planetary crisis within the context of Arctic humanities. Ice Humanities is an evolving interdisciplinary field that merges various academic disciplines, viewing ice as both a subject of inquiry and a crucial environmental component vital to biodiversity. Both Blue and Ice Humanities aim to foster new ways of thinking, concentrating on the roles of oceanic and icy environments



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in mediating climate change, what is relevant in 2025 considering the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation and the Decade of action for cryospheric sciences (2025–2034). This paradigm shift challenges conventional thought patterns and promotes a "wet ontology" (Peters and Steinberg, 2015a; Peters and Steinberg, 2019) that is relevant and effective in our ever-changing world characterized by movement, transformation, and uncertainty.

Bio

Céline Rodrigues is a PhD candidate in International Relations at Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal, with a focus on the North Atlantic and Arctic basins demonstrating through scenarios the importance of the Arctic for Portugal. The primary area of research is on human security of Arctic Indigenous peoples with the thesis focusing on Human security of Inuit and Sámi in Canada and Finland: comparing Arctic policies. She participates in conferences (Paris Defense and Strategy Forum, High North Dialogue, Arctic Circle Assembly, Centro Cultural de Macau, among others), publishes reflections (Janus, Expresso newspaper), articles (Cogitatio) and policy brief (UNU-CRIS). She is invited for lectures/open classes. Céline is a member of many institutions / organisations in Portugal and abroad related to the Arctic region. She spent three months in the Arctic at the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland, and is a researcher at IPRI and CIDUM.

Cláudio Gomes, From the Oceans to Space: A Journey Through Boundless Realms

Oceanos–Universidade dos Açores and CFUMUP – Centro de Física das Universidades do Minho e do Porto.

Abstract

Space... the last frontier? The Humankind endeavour to go beyond Earth is an ancient desire which had a first peak during Cold War, and we may be facing a second peak with a hypothetical trip to Mars. In fact, the mineral exploration of celestial bodies and future bases on the Moon and on Mars will open the debate on ownership, which is against the Treaty for Outer Space signed in 1967. A somewhat different topic concerns the Oceans and their importance for oceanic trade routes during the Age of Discovery, and the recent efforts in preserving the ecosystems. This is crucial to maintain an equilibrium, essential to Life to endure given the Climate Change and the so-called Anthropocene epoch we live in.

In this talk we shall discuss how these two topics, namely Space and Oceans, are more related than meets the eye. In fact, Ethics and Law are essential tools to address both topics, and the principles guiding the need to preserve both Space and Oceans are intertwined. We will explore this analogue study, discussing the impact and relevance of the Atlantic for both. Moreover, this year's motto for World Space Week is "Living in Space", which meets some of the aforementioned questions and raises new ones that shall be also considered.



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Bio

Cláudio Gomes holds a PhD in Theoretical Physics from the University of Porto and is a Researcher at Centro de Física das Universidades do Minho e do Porto and at Okeanos (UAç). He collaborated with EMA-Espaço and was Vice-President of RAEGE-Az. He is member of working groups of international consortia and of scientific projects. He is a certified regional educational trainer, and since 2020 he has been the National Coordinator of World Space Week. He does research in Gravitation and Cosmology, and interdisciplinary approaches. He is (co-)author of several papers published in top international journals and engages in outreach activities.

Daniela F. Melo, "No, this is not my revolution!" – Natália Correia's Anarchist Praxis

Boston University.

Abstract

Natália Correia's opus has rightfully been the subject of much academic attention in literary studies. Her political praxis, on the other hand, has received little scrutiny from social scientists. Correia was an intellectual known to defy Salazar's Estado Novo, and after the Portuguese revolution of 1974–5, served as a member of parliament for two different parties – the social democrats, and the *renovadores* – but also maintained close ties with the socialists. This political eclecticism has often been depicted as either ideological incoherence or as the natural flip-flopping of an anti-demagogic, non-conformist poet. In this study, I analyze Correia's diary during the Portuguese revolution, *Não Percas a Rosa*, to demonstrate that the author can be better classified as an individualist anarchist. Focusing on the primacy of individual sovereignty in her political views and activism, I offer an innovative analysis of her politics as coherent with anarchist principles.

Bio

Daniela F. Melo is a political scientist and lecturer in social sciences at Boston University (College of General Studies). Her work is published in such academic journals as Comparative European Politics, Social Movement Studies, and Foreign Policy Analysis. She is co-editor, with Paul Manuel, of After the Carnation Revolution: Social Movements in Portugal Since 25 April 1974 (Liverpool University Press, 2025). Melo held a Fulbright fellowship in Portugal, has served as a consultant to the US State Department regarding domestic politics in Portugal and Spain, and is a frequent contributor of political analysis to various Portuguese media outlets, commenting on US politics and foreign policy.

Dominique Faria, îles atlantiques, territoires d'élite ? Représentations littéraires de la gentrification dans la fiction française du XXIe siècle
Universidade dos Açores, CHAM-Açores/NOVA.

Résumé

Cette communication s'intéresse à la manière dont la littérature contemporaine française rend compte des effets sociaux de la gentrification insulaire dans l'espace atlantique, à travers l'étude de trois romans : *U.V.* de Serge Joncour (2003) et *Connemara* de Nicolas Mathieu (2022) et *Un soir d'été* de Philippe Besson (2024). À rebours des critiques formulées par certains chercheurs en *Island Studies*, qui reprochent à la fiction de perpétuer une vision idéalisée des îles, ces romans montrent au contraire que la littérature peut servir d'outil critique pour penser les fractures sociales dans les territoires insulaires. L'analyse s'appuie sur trois problématiques centrales de la gentrification des îles : l'occupation saisonnière et la privatisation du paysage, l'effacement du tissu local, et les clivages sociaux induisant un fort sentiment d'exclusion. Dans *U.V.*, l'île de Bréhat devient un huis clos où s'affrontent une famille bourgeoise et un intrus socialement marginalisé. Dans *Connemara* l'île de Ré cristallise pour le personnage d'Hélène l'imaginaire de la réussite sociale et les limites de cette illusion. Dans *Un soir d'été*, l'alternance entre le passé et le présent de la vie sur l'île de Ré dénonce sa gentrification.

Bio

Dominique Faria est professeure associée à l'Université des Açores, où elle dirige le doctorat en Littératures et Cultures insulaires ainsi que le master en Traduction. Elle est membre du CHAM – Centre d'humanités (FCSH – NOVA / Université des Açores), vice-présidente de l'Association Portugaise d'Études Françaises (APEF) et directrice de la revue scientifique *Carnets*. Titulaire d'un doctorat en littérature française, ses domaines de recherche privilégient la littérature française contemporaine, les études de traduction et les littératures insulaires. Parmi ses publications récentes : Dominique Faria, *Îles de papier. Approche littéraire des îles dans la fiction française, 2000–2024*, Paris, Classiques Garnier, 2025 (à paraître) ; Dominique Faria, Éric Fougère, Jean-Paul Engélbert (dir.), *Carnets*, Série II, n° 27, « Cartographier des îles et des identités », 2024 ; Eugène F.-X. Gherardi, Dominique Faria, « En Corse avec Ferreira de Castro », dans *Ferreira de Castro, Mondes en petit et vieilles civilisations (Corse, 1934)*, Ajaccio, Albania, 2023, pp. 9–53.

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Edgardo Silva, Entangled in the Geopolitics of the Age: The Azores, or Western Islands, and the Anglo-American War of 1812

ISCSP-ULisboa and ULICES/CEAUL – Centro de Estudos Anglísticos da Universidade de Lisboa.

Abstract

Due to their strategic location in the North Atlantic basin, the Azores, or Western Islands, as these volcanic isles are often referred to in primary sources, have been for much of modernity at the crossroads of contact and interchange between Europe, Africa and the Americas, a fluid space held together by none other than a great oceanic order (Boelhower 2019). Moreover, since the early voyages of exploration, these isles have been part of the varied processes associated with trade, diasporas, piracy, and slavery, not to mention international politics and diplomacy, drawing to its shores key players from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, that inland sea of Western civilization (Meinig 1988). Informed by a close reading of chapter seven, volume two, of *The History of the United States during the Administrations of James Madison (1809–1811)*, by Henry Adams (1838–1918), a transitional historian between the Romantic history writers of the first half of the nineteenth century and the ‘scientific’ historians of the latter part of the century, this paper discusses the Battle of Faial (September 26–27, 1814), a key moment in the closing months of the Anglo-American War of 1812. Drawing on Adams’ account of the naval engagement between the American privateer General Armstrong and the British naval vessels involved in the clash which unfolded off the waters of Horta, the Plantagenet, the Carnation and the Rota, this presentation offers a reflection on the underlying causes of the war, the use of privateering in it, and the diplomatic meanderings set in motion by the event, so as to bring to the fore the strategic importance of the archipelago in the geopolitics of the age.

Keywords: Atlanticism; Azores, or Western Islands; Battle of Faial; Privateering; War of 1812.

Bio

Edgardo A. Medeiros da Silva is an assistant professor of English at the School of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Lisbon and a researcher with ULICES – The University of Lisbon Centre for English Studies. His academic research is centered on American political history and culture, Luso-American relations, and the writings of Henry Adams. Some of his most recent scholarship includes “The Azores, or Western Islands, on the European Grand Tour of William Hickling Prescott, 1815–1817” (2024), “Islanders, Sailors, and Democratic Dignity: Azorean Seamen in Melville’s *Moby-Dick*; or *The Whale*” (2022), and “Recognition of Cuban Independence: Henry Adams and Empire Building” (2022).

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Estelle Amilien, *Essor de l'aviation péruvienne : importance des relations avec la France*
ILCEA4 – CERHIS, Université Grenoble Alpes.

Abstract

Les débuts de l'aviation au Pérou sont marqués par l'importance de grandes figures telles que Juan Bielovucic (1886-1949) et Jorge Chávez (dit « Geo » Chávez, 1887-1910) qui se sont distinguées dans les Alpes, bien loin de leur patrie natale. L'Europe était alors le lieu de formation par excellence et a permis au Pérou de voir ses premiers pilotes être formés puis de poser les bases de son aviation, recevant entre autres des instructeurs français sur son sol. Cette étape cruciale est d'autant plus fondamentale que le pays adopte une stratégie délibérément pro-aviation au nom d'une meilleure articulation territoriale, qui ne va pas sans une orientation idéologique dans le cas de la structuration de lignes et la réalisation de vols à destination des espaces amazoniens en particulier. Par-delà les premiers jalons qui établissaient des ponts entre l'Europe, la France en particulier, et le Pérou et après la phase de structuration en interne d'une aviation nationale, c'est le développement d'enjeux touristiques qui à nouveau tissent des liens entre les deux espaces. La communication vise alors à aborder ces trois temps : la forge des premiers grands noms de l'aviation péruvienne et l'importance de l'Europe en ce sens, le développement d'une aviation nationale autonome afin de consolider l'État-nation et de favoriser l'intégration d'espaces lointains et/ou difficiles d'accès avant d'aborder un autre volet, celui de l'intégration du pays cette à une échelle internationale et participant du développement progressif du tourisme, facilité par l'établissement de lignes régulières entre l'Europe et le Pérou (à partir de 1954 pour KLM et Amsterdam, 1958 pour Air France et Paris ou encore décembre 1975 pour Londres).

Bio

Estelle AMILIEN (ILCEA4 – CERHIS, Université Grenoble Alpes). Maîtresse de Conférence en civilisation latinoaméricaine contemporaine depuis 2022, j'ai commencé à travailler sur des thématiques liées à l'aviation au cours de ma thèse de doctorat pour voir comment cette technique nouvelle avait été exploitée en vue de mieux intégrer et surtout contrôler les espaces amazoniens du Pérou. Une publication liée à ce travail a eu lieu dans la revue Amazonia (Pérou, 2019), « Amazonía y aviación: ¿hacia un cambio de las representaciones? ». Je me concentre actuellement sur les mutations de l'aviation en Amazonie péruvienne, depuis sa création (la ligne établie en 1928) à nos jours.

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Florence Fix, *Le paquebot transatlantique : passagers clandestins et aventuriers romanesques*
Université de Rouen Normandie.

Abstract

Si dans le célèbre Nautilus de Vingt mille lieues sous les mers (1869-1870) de Jules Verne (auteur des célèbres Voyages extraordinaires), il s'agit de découvrir ce qui est caché dans les profondeurs de l'Océan Atlantique, dans un autre roman, Les cinq sous de Lavarède (1894) de son rival Paul d'Ivoi (auteur des Voyages excentriques), c'est un passager qui se cache dans le navire. Le sous-marin imaginé par Jules Verne, le Nautilus, permet de retrouver le plus lointain passé (les vestiges de l'Atlantide), le paquebot réel La Lorraine sur lequel embarque le héros Lavarède dans le livre de Paul d'Ivoi lui promet un avenir heureux. Cet imaginaire de l'aventure, de l'avenir, de la chance, avant que la loi française (1923) ne définisse le délit de passager clandestin, nourrit de nombreux romans, notamment destinés à la jeunesse et aux garçons entre la fin du XIXe siècle et les années 1930. Offerts lors de remises de prix scolaires, ils contribuent à diffuser un désir de voyage transatlantique en décrivant le plaisir de la traversée, les particularités des escales (à Santander en Espagne, puis aux Açores ou à Madère notamment) et un grand nombre d'intrigues interpersonnelles à bord.

Le raffinement de la première classe, « un menu et un service dignes des premiers restaurants parisiens » (Les cinq sous, p. 47), les relations mondaines avec le capitaine du navire et les autres passagers de luxe, les paysages des escales abolissent la distance : tout est décrit comme confortable et bien français ! On parle français à bord, on se trouve dans un entre-soi, avec des passagers parisiens qui ont payé cher leur billet, et pourtant justement les fictions jouent à introduire des clandestins, de beaux parleurs qui font croire qu'ils sont fortunés (nul moyen de vérifier à bord). Les menteurs et les criminels se frayent leur chemin sur le bateau, un paquebot susceptible de les mener vers une autre vie, un nouveau monde où tout recommencer. Il y a, dans la construction typologique du roman d'aventures comme ensuite du roman policier, d'une part les aventuriers sans patrie (ennemis et traitres), et d'autre part les aventuriers très français (inventifs et sympathiques) : ils s'opposent en un lieu clos, le paquebot, espace de multiples rebondissements, changements d'identité, rencontres. Le paquebot transatlantique est un lieu hétérotopique, un entre-deux mondes où se re-jouent pourtant les tensions et les émotions habituelles européennes. C'est cet imaginaire de l'aventure qui commence ou se poursuit dans le paquebot que cette proposition se propose d'aborder, à une époque où se déploie le tourisme transatlantique de luxe.

Bio

Florence Fix est professeur en littérature comparée à l'Université de Rouen-Normandie. Ses recherches et travaux portent sur les arts de la scène en lien avec l'histoire européenne et les enjeux de société, tout

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particulièrement dans la seconde moitié du XIXe siècle industriel. Elle a participé au Manuel d'études théâtrales (PUF, 2005), dirigé une vingtaine d'ouvrages sur le théâtre et est l'auteur de Médée, l'altérité consentie, Clermont-Ferrand, Presses Universitaires Blaise Pascal, 2010, de L'Histoire sur la scène de théâtre (1870-1914), PUR, 2010, de Le Mélodrame, la tentation des larmes, Klincksieck, 2011, et de Barbe-Bleue, esthétique du secret de Charles Perrault à Amélie Nothomb, Hermann, 2014. Elle a également publié en 2020 une biographie d'Henrik Ibsen, Le théâtre d'Ibsen, éditions Ides et Calendes, Lausanne.

Homa Azodi, Désinformation et technologies émergentes : Construire un pont atlantique résilient

Université de Montréal.

Abstract

Dans l'espace transatlantique, la circulation de l'information représente à la fois un levier essentiel de coopération entre États et une vulnérabilité stratégique face aux menaces contemporaines comme la désinformation. En période de crise, l'absence de repères fiables alimente un vide informationnel que des acteurs malveillants exploitent pour influencer l'opinion publique. Ce phénomène fragilise le lien de confiance entre les citoyens et leurs institutions, compromettant l'autonomie politique des États et la cohésion démocratique.

La crise migratoire de 2015-2016 illustre bien cette dynamique. Une analyse de 7,5 millions de tweets réalisée par l'Organisation internationale pour les migrations en 2016 a mis en lumière une forte amplification de discours xénophobes, souvent relayés depuis les États-Unis ou la Russie. Ces messages, dépeignant les réfugiés comme une menace, ont influencé les débats politiques en Europe, notamment en Allemagne et en Italie. Lors des élections italiennes de 2018, des partis populistes comme le Mouvement 5 étoiles et la Lega ont largement exploité ces narratifs complotistes, appuyés par la diffusion de contenus antivaccins et anti-Union Européenne par des bots et comptes anonymes. Une étude de l'Institut de technologie de Milan a révélé l'implication d'acteurs russes dans cette polarisation.

La pandémie de COVID-19 a accentué cette tendance. Une étude de l'Université Cornell (2020) a montré que Donald Trump constituait la principale source de désinformation liée à la COVID-19, étant mentionné dans 38 % des articles analysés. Des récits conspirationnistes sur la 5G ou l'origine artificielle du virus ont circulé massivement sur Facebook et YouTube. Le Centre d'excellence pour la communication stratégique (StratCom) de l'OTAN a documenté des campagnes de désinformation coordonnées, notamment de la Russie et de la Chine, exploitant la crise pour semer la méfiance envers les autorités sanitaires occidentales, alimentant les divisions sociales et sapant la confiance dans les institutions démocratiques.



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La désinformation est un enjeu stratégique croissant dans les relations transatlantiques, exploitant les divisions sociales et institutionnelles. Renforcer la résilience informationnelle des États, par une coopération euro-atlantique, notamment avec des alliés comme le Canada, est essentiel pour réguler les plateformes numériques et préserver la stabilité des démocraties.

Bio

Homa Azodi est récemment diplômée d'une maîtrise en études internationales à l'Université de Montréal. Elle occupe actuellement un poste de gestionnaire de projet et d'analyste à Affaires mondiales Canada. Elle se spécialise dans les enjeux de sécurité liés à la désinformation.

L'une de ses recherches de maîtrise a contribué à l'élaboration du Rapport annuel 2024 de l'Initiative mondiale pour l'information et la démocratie, un document de référence fondé sur plus de 2 500 contributions internationales recueillies à la suite du Forum sur la gouvernance de l'Internet tenu à Kyoto en 2023. Sa recherche porte sur l'impact des normes internationales sur la désinformation en matière migratoire. Le rapport est disponible ici : Synthèse mondiale de l'état de la connaissance sur les médias, l'IA et la gouvernance des données, et son nom figure parmi les signataires universitaires dans la section Signataires Académiques.

Son parcours académique reflète une expertise en diplomatie franco-canadienne, consolidée par un échange à Sciences Po Paris à l'automne 2023. Dans ce cadre, elle a participé à des missions académiques et diplomatiques, représentant les délégations de l'Université de Montréal et de Sciences Po Paris, notamment lors d'une visite officielle au siège des Nations Unies à New York.

Isabel Valente & José San-Bento, The Space of Cooperation Between the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands, and Cape Verde

Universidade de Coimbra. Universidade dos Açores.

Abstract

The research we are working on focuses on the geographical concept of Macaronesia and analyzes the inter-regional cooperation between the four political entities that constitute this Atlantic area —Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands, and Cape Verde—as well as proposes the institutionalization of a new international organization, responsible for deepening this multilateral inter-regional relationship: the Macaronesia Council. In this way we will try to answer these questions: how has inter-regional cooperation between the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands, and Cape Verde evolved? How is it carried out? What tangible results have been achieved? What solution can we adopt to institutionalize and deepen cooperation between these four entities? We propose international cooperation supported by an institutional model that



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allows this relationship to be stabilized and dynamized, which in the case in question implies the creation of a new international organization dedicated exclusively to promoting multilateral inter-regional cooperation between the four archipelagos of Macaronesia: the Macaronesia Council. This Council will be the ideal instrument to promote cooperation and dialogue between its four members in various areas, such as politics, economics, education, and culture.

Bio Isabel Valente

Isabel Maria Freitas Valente é investigadora da Universidade de Coimbra e colabora com instituições brasileiras, enquanto investigadora e docente na área dos estudos contemporâneos. Tem orientado diversas dissertações de pós-doutoramento, doutoramento e mestrado. Investigadora integrada do Centro de Estudos Interdisciplinares da Universidade de Coimbra; Investigadora colaboradora do Centro de Estudos Humanísticos da Universidade dos Açores; Investigadora da Rede Interdisciplinar de Estudos Internacionais – Visões Cruzadas sobre a Contemporaneidade da Universidade de Coimbra (integrando a respetiva direção enquanto Presidente e Coordenadora para as Relações Académicas Luso-Brasileiras). Integra também a Coordenação da Cátedra UNESCO (EDUWELL), liderada pela Academia das Ciências de Lisboa.

Bio José San-Bento

José Carlos Gomes San-Bento de Sousa was born on May 8, 1970, in Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azores. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in Political Theory, International Relations, and Human Rights, in a partnership between the University of the Azores and the University of Évora. His thesis focuses on permanent multilateral interregional cooperation between the four archipelagos of Macaronesia. He holds a degree in Euro-Atlantic Studies from the University of the Azores, where he has been a visiting professor since 2021 and a researcher at the Center for Humanistic Studies. He has extensive political experience in the Azores, serving as a Regional Representative between 2000 and 2020, specializing in monitoring international agreements and interregional cooperation processes involving the United States, the European Union, and the Macaronesia region.

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José Domingues Almeida, L'Atlantique (et autres mers) inversé: l'uchronie comme dédommagement des Histoires
UP-ILC-APEF.

Résumé

Nous entendons interroger le potentiel critique et politique de textes de fiction narrative en français qui, en recourant à l'humour, l'ironie, et en mobilisant le ressort de l'uchronie, permettent d'envisager d'autres développements, issues et acteurs historiques à deux événements ou phénomènes majeurs qui ont eu / ont pour cadre l'Atlantique (ou la Méditerranée) pour espaces symboliques et diégétiques. En effet, dans les cas précis de *Civilizations* (2019) de Laurent Binet et *Aux États-Unis d'Afrique* de A. Waberi, on constate une permutation uchronique des rôles historiques entre, respectivement Occidentaux et Indigènes, et Occidentaux et Africains qui engagent une réflexion plus vaste sur l'Occident (voire sur les Occidents) en rapport avec l'espace atlantique.

Bio

José Domingues de Almeida est Professeur Associé à la Faculté des Lettres de l'Université de Porto. Il est docteur en littérature française contemporaine. Ses domaines de recherche sont la littérature française contemporaine, les études francophones et la culture et pensée françaises contemporaines. Il se penche récemment sur les questions théoriques et critiques soulevées par les littératures post-migratoires, les récits post-mémoriels et les représentations de l'Europe avec une centaine d'études critiques publiées ORCID 0000-0002-4564-2766.

Il est chercheur à l'Instituto de Literatura Comparada Margarida Losa (<https://ilcml.com/>), dont il coordonne la ligne Inter-Transculturalités, et directeur de la revue électronique Intercâmbio (<https://ojs.letras.up.pt/index.php/int/issue/archive>).

Il est, par ailleurs, président de l'Association Portugaise d'Études Françaises (<https://apef-association.org/>).

Juan Manuel Santana Pérez, Atlantic African Islands (16th-18th centuries)
Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Abstract

During the ancien régime, from sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth and first third of nineteenth century, oceans were considered to be great expanses of emptiness, but islands may also be oases in these vast metaphorical deserts. Scholars have not fully evaluated the role of islands as spaces of confluence.



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This timing is very important because in sixteenth century begins the first globalization, when Western Europe expands across the Atlantic Ocean and thus the pre-capitalist stage. The late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century is the time prior to the implementation of the peripheral economic model.

Therefore, it is important to consider these islands as spaces of imperial borders in the modern age, with ports acting as a key element in their development.

There are many theories concerning island ports experiences, especially epistemologies that utilize on literary, philosophical, or economic approaches. It is even possible to say that islands are pieces of land surrounded by theories or land surrounding by ports. For example, the proposed area of neosology, the study of islands, promises new academic research on myths, history, literature, art, music, philosophy, politics, and the psychology of islands.

The Atlantic islands have become exchange object in the western market of commercial and symbolic values, space invaded, with its native inhabitants decimated or processed slaves. One of the factors leading to the European arrival in this latitude was related to the search for fish protein to make up for the relatively poor catches in the Mediterranean. Having earlier sought their needs in Newfoundland, in the late fourteenth and the fifteenth centuries they looked increasingly towards the Saharan Bank to provide the proteins to feed a European population which had grown significantly since the Late Middle Ages. Portuguese, Cantabrian and especially Lower Andalusian fishermen all took part in this search in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Bio

Juan Manuel Santana Pérez is a Full Professor History in University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Degree in Geography and History, Ph.D. in History, Cum Laude January, 18, 1989. "Extraordinary Ph.D Award ". I was also degree in Philosophy and Education Sciences, degree in Sciences Information, section Journalism, and degree in English Filology. My research focuses on Early and Modern History and XVIIIth Century, and History of Islands in this period. Author of 14 monographs, more than 150 scientific papers. He was Supervisor for 15 Ph.D. Thesis and Head Department of History in ULPGC from 1999 to 2004.

Leonor Martins Coelho, Les Açores et l'Atlantique dans A viagem de Juno de Pedro Almeida Maia – un nouveau monde océanique et une différente géopolitique planétaire
Universidade da Madeira e Centro de Estudos Comparatistas da Universidade de Lisboa.

Résumé

Les changements climatiques et ses conséquences sont à l'ordre du jour. La littérature accompagne la question écologique et d'autres dérives planétaires. Au Portugal, les romans qui optent au XXI siècle pour



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dire la crise environnementale sont encore bien peu nombreux. Les dysphories globales qui touchent les îles, plus fragiles face aux menaces de la montée des océans, entrent, peu à peu, dans l'écriture de l'extrême contemporain.

Dans *A Viagem de Juno* de Pedro Almeida Maia, l'archipel açorien et l'Atlantique proposent de nouveaux ponts et de nouvelles configurations géopolitiques. Le livre offre un regard sur les Açores devenu le centre du monde, en 2049, dévoilant un Atlantique dynamique, berceau de nouvelles alliances et espace de puissantes transformations. À partir de l'histoire du géologue islandais Aron Hilmarsson qui se réveille en 2049, en Russie, après une période de criopréservation qui a duré de longues années, à partir, également, de l'histoire de jeune Juno Cobbler qui accompagne son grand père Lucas Pontes dans un long voyage, ce roman de science fiction aborde les questions climatiques adverses, les conflits et les intérêts d'une globalisation dissonante. Cette œuvre donne, aussi, un portrait des Açores ultra-modernes et d'un Atlantique qui sert de plaque giratoire mondiale. et s'éloigne de l'image proposée para João Reis dans *Cadernos da Água*.

Loin de l'image d'un archipel frágil, la création littéraire de Pedro Almeida Maia souligne que les îles atlantiques ont une technologie de pointe remarquable. L'auteur campe son roman dans une circularité tubulaire subaquatique, révèle une île qui aura une position stratégique bien particulière car elle établira des ponts entre continents connus et d'autres mondes qui se révèlent au lecteur. En s'organisant en termes d'une nouvelle dynamique mondiale, le roman devient donc un espace de reflexion sur la crise climatique mais aussi un voyage qui ancre son décor sur une autre géopolitique océanique et planétaire.

Bio

Leonor Martins Coelho é professora na Universidade da Madeira e investigadora integrada no Centro de Estudos Comparatistas da Universidade de Lisboa (cluster "Viagem e Utopia" do Grupo LOCUS. Espaços. Lugares e Paisagens). Dirige, atualmente, o Doutoramento Internacional em Literaturas e Culturas Insulares. Participa regularmente em colóquios internacionais. Tem (co)organizado colóquios, jornadas e seminários. Na intersecção dos Estudos de Cultura com os Estudos Literários, destacam-se, de entre as suas publicações, Gérard Aké Loba: Utopia e Identidade Pós-colonial (2019), Viagem e Cosmopolitismo: da Ilha ao Mundo (co-coord., 2021) e Insularidades. Rotas. Gentes. Lugares (coord., 2021), O Teatro de José Saramago. (Im)possibilidades da Utopia (2022) e Vício Impune. Textos e Leituras (2023). Os seus ensaios, artigos e recensões estão publicados em revistas nacionais e internacionais, tais como Dedalus, Colóquio/Letras, Limite e Reflexos.

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Licínia Simão, FEUC, CES, Universidade de Coimbra.

Licínia Simão holds a PhD in International Relations (IR), is Associate Professor with habilitation of IR at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra, where she is vice-Dean. She is Researcher at the Centre for Social Studies, where she is co-coordinator of the thematic research line CAPITALISMS. She was advisor to the Portuguese Minister of Defence, and Coordinator of the Atlantic Centre. Her research interests include European foreign, security and defense policies, conflicts in the post-Soviet space, as well as Atlantic security dynamics. She has published extensively on these issues.

Lucía Martínez Quintana & Juan Manuel Santana Pérez, Territory and Insularity in the Atlantic Space. SEALabHaus Project
Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Abstract

The project is framed within the Interreg Atlantic Area Programme and as part of the European Union's Cohesion Policy, which supports transnational cooperation projects involving five countries, contributing to the objectives of economic, social, and territorial cohesion. The SEALabHaus project is the Atlantic New Laboratory for Architecture, Heritage, Culture and Tourism of the Sea, which will be developed following the principles of the New European Bauhaus. The partnership of the SEALabHaus project brings together a wide range of partners and stakeholders from five regions: Ireland [IE], France [FR], Galicia (Spain) [GAL], Portugal [PT] and Canary Islands (Spain) [CAN].

The project's name derives from the combination of the words SEA, LAB, and Haus: "SEA" because the project aims to innovate the value chain of blue tourism and culture, transforming, revitalising and enhancing coastal ecosystems and their maritime heritage in balance with the SEA as a key factor for resilience, well-being and sustainability. "Lab" because the Transnational New Bauhaus Laboratory of the Atlantic Area (SEALab) will promote networking and smart specialisation by supporting unique, innovative, sustainable and inclusive projects. And "Haus" because the project will introduce the innovative and integrated approach advocated by the New European Bauhaus (NEB). Its creation will facilitate transnational cooperation to address common challenges across borders. It includes a representation of continental and insular territories that will provide an enriching field of analysis with different perspectives, supporting the exchange of experiences with other countries across the Atlantic. The cooperation of the four countries that make up the partnership is necessary to take up the challenge of creating a transnational community and tools to innovate the value chain of tourism and blue culture in the Atlantic Area regions and to transform, revitalise

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and enhance the coastal tourism ecosystem in balance with the sea, its architecture and its culture, as a key factor of resilience, wellbeing and sustainability.

Keywords: Atlantic, City, Territory, Landscape, Heritage, Tourism

Bio Lucía Martínez Quintana

Doctor of Architecture, professor in the Department of Art, City, and Territory. She teaches in the Master's Degree in Artistic and Architectural Heritage Management, Museums, and the Art Market, in the Master's Degree in Comprehensive Development of Tourist Destinations, and in the Bachelor's Degree in Architecture. She develops lines of research in Tourism, Landscape and Territory, Development Cooperation, Heritage, and Sustainable Urban Actions. She has also been the principal investigator (PI) for various research projects.

Bio Juan Manuel Santana Pérez

Juan Manuel Santana Pérez is a Full Professor History in University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Degree in Geography and History, Ph.D. in History, Cum Laude January, 18, 1989. "Extraordinary Ph.D Award ". I was also degree in Philosophy and Education Sciences, degree in Sciences Information, section Journalism, and degree in English Filology. My research focuses on Early and Modern History and XVIIIth Century, and History of Islands in this period. Author of 14 monographs, more than 150 scientific papers. He was Supervisor for 15 Ph.D. Thesis and Head Department of History in ULPGC from 1999 to 2004.

Luís Nuno Rodrigues, Portugal and NATO: Strategic Convergence and Authoritarian Endurance in the Early Cold War

CEI-Iscte.

Abstract

This paper analyses the causes and context behind Portugal's integration into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949, focusing on the international circumstances of the immediate post-war period, the country's growing strategic importance—particularly through due to the Azores—and the implications of NATO membership for the consolidation and international legitimisation of the Estado Novo regime. It argues that the invitation extended to Portugal to become a founding member of NATO in 1949 marked the culmination of a process initiated in 1945, shaped by the early dynamics of the Cold War and the redefinition of Anglo-American priorities.

The paper begins by examining the diplomatic and military negotiations between Lisbon, Washington, and London during the immediate post-war years, notably the 1946–48 agreements on the use of military bases in the Azores, the political guarantees offered by the United States to Prime Minister Salazar, and the evolving strategic rationale behind Portugal's inclusion in Western defence planning. Secondly, it explores how NATO



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membership allowed the authoritarian Portuguese regime to gain international recognition, defuse criticism of its anti-democratic nature, and secure its place within Western collective security structures. Finally, the paper analyses the 1951 bilateral agreements between Portugal and the United States, which formalised American military presence at Lajes airbase and reinforced Portugal's role as a crucial asset in transatlantic defence.

By integrating diplomatic, strategic, and political dimensions, this paper shows how Cold War geopolitics not only facilitated Portugal's NATO membership but also helped sustain an authoritarian regime for decades. Portugal's experience illustrates a broader pattern of Western engagement with non-democratic allies during the Cold War in the name of strategic stability.

Bio

Luís Nuno Rodrigues is a Professor of History at ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon, where he directs the PhD program in International Studies. Professor Rodrigues holds a PhD in American History from the University of Wisconsin and his research focuses on 20th-century international history, U.S.–Portugal relations, and the Cold War. He has published extensively on Portuguese 20th Century History and Portuguese–American relations. A Fulbright scholar and former visiting professor at Brown University, he has coordinated several international research projects and conferences and currently develops a research project on Portugal's domestic challenges and international positioning in the early Cold War.

Manuel Cabugueira, Is There Space for Economic Regulation of Space, or Is It Merely a Security Issue?

ANACOM.

Abstract

The exploration of space—particularly Low Earth Orbit (LEO)—for the provision of economic services is not new, but it is rapidly expanding due to the recent surge in the space transport market. As this evolution accelerates, issues related to the sustainability and security of space activities have already prompted public reflection and policy intervention. These developments open the door to a broader discussion on the regulation of space activities—one that should not be regarded as inevitable, but rather as an opportunity for deliberate and critical thinking.

Our perspective is grounded in economic regulation theory, and we frame the discussion within the broader context of the regulation of space services as part of the digital ecosystem—an area whose governance also raises distinct and complex challenges. Traditional regulatory approaches offer useful pathways and tools,

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but they now face a new reality that introduces unprecedented questions and demands a broader and more flexible vision.

This paper seeks to contribute to the reflection on the regulatory framework for economic space activities and to the analysis of public intervention in this field, recognizing that the issue requires attention both in terms of regulatory scope and the unavoidable need for international cooperation.

Bio

- Board Member at the Portuguese regulatory authority for postal, communications and electronic communications (ANACOM), since May 2023;
- Former Senior consultant at the Competence Centre for Planning, Policy and Foresight in Public Administration- PLANAPP – 2016 till 2023;
- Former senior economist (and Deputy Director at the Restrictive Practices Department, between 2008 and 2013) at the Portuguese Competition Authority, from October 2004 till 2016;
- Bureau member, National Economic Regulators, OECD;
- Associate Professor, Lusofona University;
- Invited lecturer at Nova IMS;
- Researcher of the Lisbon Law Research Center;
- PhD in Economics, ISEG, University of Lisbon;
- Master in Industrial Strategy, ISEG – UL;
- Graduate degree in economist, Portucalense University, Oporto.

Mário Pontes, The Azores Archipelago Marine Park (PMA) – Geo-economic Aspects
APCIE – Associação Portuguesa de Estudos da Conjuntura e Estratégia, MGI (Portugal).

Abstract

The Regional Legislative Decree no. 15/2007/A, of June 25, of the Legislative Assembly of the RAA, established the legal framework for the classification, management and administration of protected areas in the Azores. It creates the Azores Archipelago Marine Park (PMA), made up of classified marine areas that form part of a single management unit and are located beyond the outer limit of the territorial sea. The management of these sites aims to ensure the maintenance and preservation of marine biodiversity and the adoption of measures to protect, enhance and sustainably use marine resources, through the harmonious integration of human activities and scientific studies, resources, communities and sensitive marine habitats. From a geo-economic perspective, the aim is to understand how marine spatial planning and conservation policies interact with the current issue of global sustainability, in particular the UN Sustainable Development Goals



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(SDGs). In the same vein, the aim is to relate Portugal's geopolitical position in the context of the European Union and the North Atlantic, in particular with the proposal submitted to UNCLOS on the delimitation of the Continental Shelf, knowing that the Azores archipelago is of strategic and economic importance in the North Atlantic, as it is located at the crossroads of important transatlantic routes. Finally, the implications of maritime protected areas in general, and the MSP in particular, for resource control, economic development and strategic influence are addressed, highlighting both the opportunities and tensions that arise when balancing environmental protection with economic and geopolitical imperatives. Environmental conservation cannot ignore wider geo-economic dynamics, such as maritime trade, fisheries management, resource sovereignty, search and rescue and regional economic development.

Bio

Mário Rodrigues Pontes has a degree and a Master's degree in Management, specializing in Auditing. Professionally, he is a Certified Accountant and Technical Director of Human Resources. He is a National Defense Auditor and has completed 6 other courses in the areas of Security and Defense. He is a researcher at the Team Network on Geopolitics and Security at the University of the Arctic and a reviewer for JCMS - Journal of Common Market Studies. He has published articles in books and magazines, and participates in national and international conferences. He is a member of APCIE, AACDN and APOTEC.

Onésimo Teotónio de Almeida, Thomas De Freitas – an immigrant from Flores (1873-1951), a published author in Idaho and Oregon
Brown University.

Abstract

Donald Warrin discovered the writings of a Florentino immigrant in Idaho and Oregon. After some research, I found that his papers (published and unpublished) are held in the archives of a library in Idaho. In my presentation, I will give a brief biography highlighting some of his most interesting writings.

Bio

Emeritus Professor, Brown University. He received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Brown. He taught Portuguese Cultural and Intellectual History (1975–2004) and was Department Chair for twelve years. He also taught at the Center for the Study of the Early Modern World and a University Course on Values and Worldviews for the Wayland Collegium. He is the author and editor of numerous books; his most recent is *O Século dos Prodigios – A Ciência no Portugal da Expansão*, winner of four prizes. Elected to the Academia da Marinha (Lisbon) and the Portuguese Academy of Sciences, he received Honorary Degrees from the University of Aveiro and the Universidade Lusófona, Lisbon. Among many awards, he received a Chair's Lifetime Achievement Award

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from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities and the Great Cross of the Prince Henry Order from the President of Portugal. Brown University awarded him with a Royce Family Professorship in Teaching Excellence.

Pedro Cordeiro da Ponte, Africa as an antechamber to the correlation between Atlantic History and Post-Colonialism: the case of the former Portuguese colonies after 1974, from the perspective of Eduardo Lourenço

FCSH-NOVA.

Abstract

Africa as an antechamber to the correlation between Atlantic History and Post-Colonialism: the case of the former Portuguese colonies after 1974, from the perspective of Eduardo Lourenço Abstract: This paper aims to make a theoretical crossover between two concepts that, despite being discussed in different scientific areas of the social and human sciences, are combined by the fact that they have a historical-geographical element in common: the Atlantic Ocean, encompassing all its dynamics. In order to emphasize this correlation, I will focus, as a pragmatic example, on the destiny to be attributed, in terms of scientific research, to the current African States and/or former European colonies: will this geopolitical space be inserted into a new historiographical typology, called "Atlantic history"? Or will it adopt a perspective of cultural analysis, resulting in the reality of "post-colonial studies"? After analyzing both aspects – essentially originating from Anglo-Saxon academies – the Portuguese case, in the period after 1974, will be based on the essay work of the portuguese philisopher Eduardo Lourenço.

Bio

Pedro Cordeiro Ponte is a History Teacher (Secondary and High School) and Historical Consultant at SP Televisão. He was a former employee of the US Consulate in Ponta Delgada. He holds a bachelor's degree in European Studies and International Politics (2018) and a postgraduate degree in Island and Atlantic History (2020), both from the University of the Azores. He also completed his Master's degree in History Teaching with a dissertation on the impact of the mythology and ideologies of the American Revolution on political solutions for the Azores. He was a two-time FLAD fellow in the US, leading research projects related to the reduction of military personnel at Lajes Air Base, political transnationalism in Azorean communities, and the political-ideological thought of Natália Correia. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Contemporary History at FCSH/Universidade Nova de Lisboa, focusing on the early emigration and establishment of Azorean communities in the province of Alberta, Canada. Her contributions to television projects include "Senhora do Mar" (a soap opera), "Revolução sem Sangue" (a film), and "Três Mulheres" (a historical series). In 2024, he

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received a Merit Scholarship from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation for an Intensive Summer Course at King's College, London.

Pedro Seabra, Tidal waves of informality: the G7++ FoGG and counter-piracy solutions in the Atlantic
CEI-Iscte.

Abstract

The evolution of global governance has increasingly highlighted the role of informal intergovernmental organizations in addressing critical security challenges. However, thus far, mapping exercises have largely overlooked informal solutions tailored to combat maritime insecurity at large. Much also remains unknown over how informality is contingent on functional attributions of territoriality (or lack of thereof). This paper takes on such a gap and uses the G7++ Friends of the Gulf of Guinea (G7++ FoGG) to highlight the steady pursuit of informal cooperation in the maritime domain. It begins by reviewing the core underpinnings of informal multilateralism and presenting the case of the G7++ FoGG as an informal mechanism focused on combating piracy, armed robbery, and other illicit activities in the Gulf of Guinea. However, despite its flexibility and operational appeal, its non-formal nature also incites questions over accountability, sustainability, and embeddedness in longstanding regional practices. This paper explores the operational dynamics of the G7++ FoGG and discusses its complementary role vis-a-vis a overlapping supply of multilateral solutions in the Atlantic with the aim of unpacking the fracturing implications of maritime informal multilateralism and expanding the gamut of frameworks worthy of further comparative research.

Keywords: informal intergovernmental organizations; maritime security; Gulf of Guinea

Bio

Pedro Seabra is an Assistant Professor at Iscte–University Institute of Lisbon and Deputy Director of the Center for International Studies (CEI-Iscte). He is co-Editor of the Portuguese Journal of Social Science (PJSS) and Director of the PhD program in History, Security Studies and Defence. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon (ICS, ULisboa). Between April 2022 and April 2024, he worked as an Adviser in the Cabinet of the Minister of National Defence of the XXIII Constitutional Government of Portugal. His main research interests focus on international relations, international security, South Atlantic geopolitics, and security capacity-building in Africa.

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Sandra Balão, Bridging Oceans, Forging Alliances: Portugal's Azores Archipelago as a Catalyst for Transatlantic-Artic Geostrategic Synergy
ISCSP-ULisboa.

Abstract

This study investigates Portugal's strategic pivot toward Arc-c governance, with the Azores archipelago serving as a linchpin for transatlantic security, climate diplomacy, and resource competition. Against the backdrop of NATO's renewed focus on the High North and China's Arc-c Silk Road investments, Portugal's 2023 Parliamentary Resolution n° 76—advocating Arc-c Council Observer status—signals ambitions to transcend its traditional Atlan-c role. The Azores, housing critical NATO infrastructure (e.g., Lajes Air Base, 65% of U.S. Europe-Africa airliV operations) and EU space surveillance assets (Santa Maria SST station), emerges as a hybrid hub for reconciling military, scientific, and economic interests across the Atlan-c-Arc-c continuum. Geopolitically, the Azores' centrality enables Portugal to mediate three intersecting spheres:

1. U.S.-EU-NATO Security Coordination: The archipelago's role in REPMUS 2024 autonomous naval exercises and space-based Arc-c surveillance aligns with Norway's Arc-c Council priorities for AI-driven maritime domain awareness.
2. Resource Diplomacy: Portugal's "Blue Amazon" governance model, combating illegal fishing via real-me satellite tracking, offers frameworks for sustainable rare earth extraction in Greenland (30% global reserves), countering China's dominance.
3. CPLP Bridging Initiatives: Lisbon leverages its Lusophone network to foster Greenlandic Inuit-CPLP exchanges, addressing Arc-c Council gaps in Indigenous engagement while advancing South Atlan-c climate resilience partnerships.

Methodologically, we analyze Portugal's draV Arc-c Ac-on Plan (2024), NATO-Azores joint exercises, and EU space policy documents, contras-ng them with Iceland's Arctic Council ascendancy. Preliminary findings reveal that Portugal's Observer bid hinges on reframing the Azores from a "military outpost" to a "knowledge diplomacy node", exemplified by the Atlan-c Centre's expansion into Arc-c cybersecurity training and AIR Centre-led climate modeling collaborations.

The proposal argues that Portugal's Arc-c aspirations necessitate balancing NATO's deterrence mandates with EU green transition goals, positioning the Azores as a testing ground for dual-use infrastructure. Success would require securing Nordic endorsements by 2026 and integra-ng Azores-based space assets into Arc-c Council ice-navigation systems.

Keywords: Arc-c Council Observer status, Azores space cluster, NATO-EU coordination,

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CPLP diplomacy.

Bio

PhD in Social Sciences from ISCSP-ULisboa, tenured Associate Professor and the scientific and Pedagogical Coordinator (area of Strategy). Integrated Researcher at CAPP/FCT and underdirector for Science Policy. Effective member of ISCSP's scientific council and Vice-President of the School Council. At Polar2e-ULisboa, she is an Integrated Researcher and a member of the Board of Directors and the scientific council. She is also a member of the Team Network on Geopolitics and Security and a Fellow of the Salzburg Global Seminar. She represents Portugal in the IASC-SHWG, as well as in the NATO STO RTG 'Human Security and Military Operations', of which she is Co-Chair. She is a member and associate of several organizations, with national and international publications.

Timothy D. Walker, Acquisition and Practices (c. 1682-1825): Evidence from the Hospital Real Militar da Nossa Senhora da Boa Nova (Terceira, Azores)

UMass Dartmouth.

Abstract

Portuguese colonial exploration and settlement during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries included a significant dimension of medical inquiry, the impact of which resonated throughout the European scientific world and beyond. Early contacts with native peoples and sustained missionary activity, combined with pragmatic attempts to address threats to the health of European settlers in the colonies, occasioned Portuguese medical-botanical prospecting in Africa, India, the Persian Gulf, China, Malaysia, Indonesia and South America. Such pioneering experimentation added extensively to human knowledge and understanding of traditional indigenous healing practices and pharmacological botany, with enduring impact. Portuguese descriptive works about Asian, African, and South American medicinal plants informed Europeans for the first time about many of the efficacious drugs commonly employed in indigenous healing traditions. Portuguese colonial agents (missionaries, merchants, military officers, medical practitioners, colonial administrators) spread indigenous drugs and information about native healing methods through the Azores archipelago and on to Europe, from where they were often redistributed globally through commercial and colonial conduits. Because of their unique geo-climatological position, the Azores Islands were an important waypoint, entrepôt, and crossroads for the reception, accumulation, and use of medical plants, recipes, and knowledge from all over the world during the age of sail. My presentation will focus on practices at the Hospital Real Militar da Nossa Senhora da Boa Nova; Terceira, Azores.

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This talk will examine evidence for how that transfer and diffusion of medical knowledge occurred by focusing on numerous descriptive ethno-botanical texts produced in Portuguese colonies during the early modern period, and the worldwide implications of such media for the transfer and evolution of healing practices in the Lusophone world – and specifically the Azores Islands. My presentation will explore the role of these texts as conduits of multicultural medical knowledge, wherein European and Indian, African, Malaysian, Indonesian, Chinese, and South American concepts about healing blended. By the mid-seventeenth century, practical medicine in Portuguese enclaves had reached a state of thorough fusion, with applied remedies in colonial health institutions (whether state-sponsored or religious) relying significantly on the use of diverse indigenous medicinal substances and methods. The illustrated lecture will describe various medicinal plants cultivated in Portuguese colonial hospital gardens, their applications and effects, as well as the social context in which the medical practitioners who employed these plants operated.

Bio

Timothy D. Walker is professor of history at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where he serves on the executive board of the Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture, and is graduate faculty of the Department of Portuguese. Walker is also an affiliated researcher of the Centro de História d'Aquém e d'Além-Mar (CHAM), Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal. From 1994 to 2003, he was a visiting professor at the Universidade Aberta (Open University) in Lisbon. He is the recipient of a Fulbright dissertation fellowship to Portugal, and fellowships from the Portuguese Camões Institute, the Luso-American Development Foundation, and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

Tomé Ribeiro Gomes, Strategic geography: the case of the Azores (1430–2022)

UBI – Universidade da Beira Interior.

Abstract

Maritime straits, mountain passes, river mouths, plains, and even deserts and marshes are often deemed to be ‘strategic’, as political entities seek to control them even when they hold no significant resources. But what does it mean for a location to be ‘strategic’? And can we isolate the geographical nature of that dimension from the constant changes in the prevalent technologies of information, transportation, and war? In this paper, I draw on the strategic history of the archipelago of the Azores to show that ‘strategic geography’ is an identifiable phenomenon that can be described and interrogated in order to perceive essential continuities in a given location throughout different political and technological regimes. I do so by identifying patterns in Azorean history and arranging them into a typology of strategic roles. I suggest these roles are transhistorical, and as such that they capture some of the essence of the strategic geography of the Azores

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and may even offer a framework for similar territories, thus illuminating the phenomenon of 'strategic islandness'.

Bio

Tomé Ribeiro Gomes is from Terceira Island in the Azores. He teaches International Relations at the University of Beira Interior (UBI) and holds a PhD in History, Security Studies, and Defense from the Centre for International Studies (CEI-Iscte), with a thesis on the strategic geography of the Azores.

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