

## **SEMINAR**

### **On Mobility in Portugal: Social and Political Perspectives**

**UBC - GoGlobal Summer Course  
Universidade Aberta/UAb (Portugal)**

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**Universidade Aberta  
Palácio Ceia, Auditório III**

#### ***Portuguese Diaspora – Political Potential of an Extensive Social Reality***

**Maria Beatriz Rocha-Trindade**

National and international mobility has characterized the history of the Portuguese population.

In each and every form and direction taken, the movement of those who cross borders to settle outside of them, temporarily or permanently, integrates a social phenomenon, with a significant constancy and volume.

The settlement of people who, despite being from the same origin, began to seek a future outside national boundaries and remained away from the country for a significant amount of time, although never disconnecting from it and now integrate a wider group. Both the emotional ties and the evocation of values maintain a common sense of belonging and help build an identity of their own.

#### ***Migrations and Intercultural Policies in Portuguese Contemporary Society***

**Ana Paula Beja Horta**

As a country of emigration and immigration, Portugal holds, presently, a leading position on migrant integration policies in western societies. In this presentation, we will address the main features of Portuguese intercultural policy project and inclusive citizenship regime. These issues are discussed against the background of present-day European migration agenda and the emerging of political and public discourses stressing xenophobic sentiments and cultural and religious intolerance.

#### ***Refugees in Portugal: a Brief Overview of Figures, Politics and People***

**Lúcio de Sousa**

In this presentation, we will provide historical data concerning Portugal involvement with flows of refugees in the XX century, and the particularities of its own recent history, namely the postcolonial aftermath and the European Union integration. To do so, we will analyse asylum and refugee figures, politics and institutional frameworks, as well as personal histories of integration.

## *Mediterranean Migrants - Causes, Consequences and Myths*

**José Miguel de Carvalho Cerqueira**

European Union is experiencing its greatest dilemma since setting out on its project. With human rights, democracy and freedom as its political and constitutional identity, Europe has been forced to reconsider its strategies in order to defend itself and protect its citizens. Politicians continue to alter the local, regional and communitarian legal system, placing legal barriers – and much more – before non-EU migrants. This puts the community's *ethos* (*θvs: θoovs*) at jeopardy and the fear of the other is changing irreversibly the *acquis communautaire*, the legal corpus that has taken years to create. The panic and weakness of our political leaders has not reassured the people and nor has there been any evidence of reason or dignity in the search for solutions. The extreme reaction has weakened us all and has undermined Europe's political aspirations to be a major global player. The difficulty of assimilating a large number of migrants with strong cultural identities of their own and who share a different religion from the majority of the native population also presents a challenge to unity. They are accustomed to an anthropological political dialectic of dominated/dominant that is different from the European reality. Marginalisation and social exclusion will only increase as a result of the lack of assimilation policies, as will xenophobia. Radical political changes will follow this social fact.



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