PhD Program in Landscape Architecture and Urban Ecology LINK

Joint PhD Program
University of Lisbon, University of Porto, University of Coimbra
“Landscape Architects work with natural elements and processes to create places for people. Ecologists understand nature’s dynamics and the specificities of each place. Both for Landscape Architects and Ecologists each place is unique, each process takes its time and therefore there is no mass production.

The Bachelor and Master degrees in Landscape Architecture have been taught for decades at the School of Agriculture of the University of Lisbon and at the Science Faculty of the University of Porto, which has proven its high standard of professional training, leading in sustainable development, ecological design and landscape and urban public space improvement. In its turn, the University of Coimbra with its teaching tradition in natural history, ecology and geography has joined the Landscape Architecture field to create the LINK Joint PhD Program, which started in 2009 with the close support of the Harvard Graduate School of Design, aiming at its excellency standards.”

Cristina Castel-Branco
Program Coordinator
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE STUDIES at the University of Lisbon have been established for over seventy years and has built a reputation for excellence in teaching and research. The LINK PhD Program is a joint PhD Program conducted at three Universities: Porto, Coimbra and Lisbon and the staff from all three Universities pursue individual, collaborative and multidisciplinary research in the field of Landscape Architecture and Urban Ecology studies, including:

- Landscape planning and design
- Cultural landscapes and heritage
- Urban ecology and public space design
- Climate change and urban resilience
- Environmental psychology and public participatory design
- Parks and Greenways design and management

The LINK program benefits from a tight collaboration between the three core Universities generating a pool of expertise and knowledge essential for teaching at a PhD level. This partnership is responsible for the evaluation of research investigation themes, guiding students self-selected academic study and integrating them into the on-going research projects at the three research centres.

The LINK started in 2009 and is an accredited PhD program which yields 180 ECTS, 60 ECTs in curricular units, which require class attendance and 120 ECTs of autonomous student research through classes and guidance offered by the 19 LINK staff professors and by renowned foreign specialists as guest lecturers.

The international scope of the LINK teaching program and its staff reflects the intention to endow the program with a global reach, with English as the common language, while nurturing its roots in Southern Europe. In line with models of leading universities the LINK program aims to develop the ability to relate art (aesthetics, project and critique) and science (biological processes, planning and management) and is particularly designed for Masters (or 5-year Degrees) in Landscape Architecture, Environmental Engineering, Geography, Biology, and Agrarian Sciences, though it does not provide a professional practice degree in Landscape Architecture.
Composition of the Program & Host University

**IN THIS EDITION** the host university is the University of Lisbon.
On the 1st Semester classes will be held online, starting from September 25th, 2020.
On the 2nd Semester classes will be held online / at the School of Agriculture, Tapada da Ajuda every Friday and occasionally on Saturdays.

**DEGREE / DIPLOMA**
Doctor in Landscape Architecture and Urban Ecology

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS**
The legal framework for the qualification is established by the decrees: Decree-Law no. 74/2006, 24th March, changed and republished by the decree: DL no. 107/2008, 25th June.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**
To obtain the required degree is the preparation and public defense of an original thesis.
Number of credits according to the European system of credit transfer necessary to obtain the degree or diploma: 180 ECTS

**ACCESS TO FURTHER STUDIES**
The Ph.D. in Landscape Architecture and Urban Ecology provides access to Post – Doctoral

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Curricular Unit</th>
<th>Scientific area</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Contact hours</th>
<th>ECTs</th>
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<td>LA / UE</td>
<td>Semester (1st)</td>
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<td>Semester (2nd)</td>
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<td>LA / UE</td>
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<td>LA</td>
<td>Semester (2nd)</td>
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<td>2nd and 3rd</td>
<td>Thesis research and writing</td>
<td>LA / UE</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
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LINK PhD Program in figures

5 nationalities

11 international guest professors

19 Link PhD professors

22 PhD students

9 PhD graduates

5 editions

2009/10 School of Agriculture, University of Lisbon

2010/11 University of Coimbra

2011/12 Sciences Faculty, University of Porto

2013/14 School of Agriculture, University of Lisbon

2016/17 Sciences Faculty, University of Porto

OPEN APPLICATIONS

Deadline for applications 28th of August
AT THE INTERNATIONAL level Landscape Architecture and Urban Ecology are a growing theme and international collaboration has been fostered in LINK as a means of opening new teaching and research methods linked to specific themes. On the first LINK edition (2009/10, in Lisbon) a research area was opened to study the Tagus Bay and a collaboration was established with the Tokyo University studying similar issues within the context of an urban industrial area located in an estuarine ecosystem in the Tokyo Bay. Students and Professor Mikiko Ishikawa came from Tokyo University and worked with our students.

Natural processes within the cultural landscape listed as World Heritage were studied together with Laure Quoniam using the French Pont du Gard and the Portuguese cultural heritage mechanism colliding with natural and agricultural processes, as case studies.

Kjetil Thorsen from Snohetta design office (Norway) also visited as guest professor for the LINK 2009 edition in Lisbon for a conference and student's guidance in the Advanced Project course case study on the Tagus Estuary.

During Coimbra’s second edition in 2010/11, with the same process but enlarging it to a public conference, students could discuss the rising of the ocean level with Prof Dirk Sijmons from the University of Delft and apply the theme to the national urban ocean front areas susceptible to ocean level rise.
In November 2011, the LINK organized a one day conference under the theme “Public Participation and Multidisciplinary Approaches in Landscape Planning”, supported by Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento (FLAD). The conference took place at the Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon during the third visit of Professor Carl Steinitz as a Fulbright Scholar to the LINK and organized by the Lisbon team.

The 2011/12 LINK edition at University of Porto began with a conference program that included Julius Fabos and Jack Ahern from the University of Massachusetts, Roland Gustavsson and Eva Gustavsson from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Karen Foley from the University College Dublin School of Architecture, Cristina Castel-Branco from the Instituto Superior de Agronomia and João Nunes from PROAP as guest lecturers.

In the 2013/14 edition at the University of Lisbon, several lectures and seminars were organized, such as Mikiko Ishikawa (Tokyo U) on “the Great East Japan Earthquake”, Robert Ryan’s (UMass) lecture on “Exploring social and Ecological systems across the urban gradient”. The Orientation Seminar course presented a Colloquium on “Geodesign applied to the Tagus Estuary: The riverfront and the six municipalities on the southern margin. Rehabilitation, development and protection, envisioning the World Heritage List ” which presented results from the Advanced Project in Landscape Architecture course, featuring Guilherme Oliveira Martins and Ana Tostões (IST-UL) as guest lecturers.
In every edition of the LINK Program, Geodesign Workshops with the renowned professor Carl Steinitz from the Harvard Graduate School of Design have been organized, within the scope of the Advanced Project in Landscape Architecture and Orientation Seminar courses. In each edition the workshops are developed applying Steinitz’s ‘Six Step Method’ on the Advanced Project’s case studies.

At the University of Porto the Geodesign workshops focused on the “Tinto” and “Torto” Basins: Opportunities for integrated development” and at the University of Lisbon editions on the “Tagus bay processes and changes”. The workshops counted with a vast participation of international professionals and the Link PhD students, under the guidance of Professor Steinitz and Professor Tess Canfield, of the Edinbourough University and with the support of the LINK teaching staff.
Case Studies

Landscape Architecture is a field where beauty and aesthetics count, Urban Ecology is a field where nature in the city matters. We are fortunate to host our PhD program in three cities of exceptional beauty: Lisbon, Porto and Coimbra, the latter two being both World Heritage Cities and the former having one of the most beautiful estuaries in Europe. Case studies selected for the Advanced Project are selected each year from the city that hosts the program.

UNIVERSITY OF LISBON

Lisbon’s case study focuses on the Tagus bay processes and changes within Lisbon’s metropolitan area. Initiated by faculty and developed by students, the Advanced Project course research has been evolving throughout the several editions in Lisbon, encompassing various subjects: Urban planning with natural processes; Public space design for climate change; Measuring urban public space success and comfort; Industrial reclamation in urban waterways; Open space and seismic risk; GIS in landscape planning: methods, tools and legislation; Heritage landscapes in a local, regional and worldwide perspective; The aesthetic of landscapes: value, use and protection; Outdoor urban and landscape management; Public participation in urban landscape planning and design; Landscape interpretation and nature conservation; Open space design and water in urban scenarios.

UNIVERSITY OF PORTO

The Advanced Project in Landscape Architecture course was coordinated by Paulo Farinha Marques and Mª José Curado with the theme “Territorial Approach to the Tinto and Torto Basins: Opportunities for integrated development”. This included the conference led by Carl Steinitz of Harvard University, entitled “A Framework for Geodesign”. Steinitz followed this with an intensive week long workshop titled “Teaching in a Multidisciplinary Collaborative Workshop Format: The Rio Tinto Workshop”. Students developed the first part of the group exercise based on a study site visit. A phase of individual work followed, culminating in proposals for intervention at several locations identified by the students as having distinct problems.
SEMINAR IN THEORY AND METHODS IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN ECOLOGY

The Theory and Methods Seminar course aims to present Landscape Architecture theories and methods within the scope of its professional body of knowledge. It also focuses on the interface with landscape and urban ecology research. The program’s core methodology, Carl Steinitz’s “6 Step Method” has been expanded during the last ten years and was enriched by the input from our LINK professors at the 3 associated universities. Our current teaching staff have added two main themes to this edition of the next LINK Program: cultural landscapes as heritage entities to research and preserve for future generations, and landscape as a living entity, resilient (or not) to climate change impacts. The course’s contents and readings are sent to the students prior to classes to allow full participation and discussion of each theme lectured. There will be a mid-term presentation by students in May and a final review in July, followed by a scientific article submission on a theme chosen by the student. Class attendance is required in order to guarantee 45 hours of contact. This should be complemented with an average 250 hours of individual study.

ORIENTATION SEMINAR

The purpose of the Orientation Seminar is to introduce the PhD candidates to scientific methods and approaches essential to the PhD thesis outline, along with best practices of writing, data gathering and data treatment. During the first semester students must choose their research themes, as well as the thesis advisor within the LINK teaching staff with whom they will outline and develop the programmatic contents of the PhD thesis. This includes the research questions, goals and the adequate methodology to adopt in order to answer the research question. It is expected that, by the end of the seminar year, each candidate will have a clear PhD proposal and will be prepared to present it to their peers and the teaching staff. The hypothesis and objectives will be assessed in light of its relevance for the Landscape Architecture and Urban Ecology body of knowledge. Two reviews are foreseen: Mid-term presentation and the final review. Subsequent to review, the submission of a scientific article on the thesis topic is required for evaluation. Class attendance is required in order to guarantee 105 contact hours should be complemented with individual research and work with the chosen advisor.
ADVANCED PROJECT IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
This course was designed for PhD candidates coming from various professional and academic backgrounds to experience the multidisciplinary dynamics inherent to the Landscape Architecture project, through a design studio exercise on a wide scale complex reality. Here, the candidates will experience the processes for choosing alternative solutions – through a scenario construction process – for landscapes subject to change, be it due to new projects, landscape recovery or land use policies, through participatory exercises and group dynamics in order to get multidisciplinary tasks done. Multiple viewpoints and interests, users, decision makers and various actors are to be considered, in an immersive process on the essence of public space design. The course includes the participation on the Geodesign ‘6 Step Method’ 4 days intensive workshop with Carl Steinitz, which will be developed taking Lisbon’s core case study.

OPTIONAL COURSE
The optional course allows for a wide possibility of choices within any of the 3 universities of the LINK program. The goal of this course is to guarantee that once the research theme is chosen, the candidate will be able to deepen his knowledge on the research’s specific area of knowledge. Thus, the candidate can choose from a wide range of courses, from the social fields to the applied sciences, from arts to the economy or statistics. The candidate, together with their thesis counselor will choose it the course according to their needs from any 5 ECTs master’s or doctoral course.
Application Process

WHO CAN APPLY?
Applicants to the LINK PhD Program should fulfill the following criteria:
1. Have a master’s degree (or 5-year degree) in Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Urbanism, Regional Planning, Environmental Engineering, Geography, Agrarian Sciences or Biology, or
2. Present an outstanding scientific, academic or professional CV in other area of knowledge, to submit to the LINK PhD Scientific Board for review.
When necessary, the LINK executive board may recommend the candidate to enroll in one or more additional curricular units as a complement to the pre-established curricular program.
The Seminar in Theory and Methods in Landscape Architecture and Urban Ecology is open to students of other Master or PhD courses as a 15 ECTS independent curricular unit. The course is subject to attendance, evaluation and approval. Application can be submitted through the form available at: http://www.isa.ulisboa.pt/en/prospective-students/isolated-uc

APPLICATIONS
Applications are open. Information about the LINK PhD program at the University of Lisbon and instructions on how to apply are available here: https://fenix.isa.ulisboa.pt/degrees/dapeu

3rd Phase for applications is open from Aug 10th, 2020 and closing date is 17.00 GMT August 28th, 2020.

*If you are interested in Graduate Studies but cannot enter at this date, please contact us so we can let you know of future editions of this Program.

Applications must be submitted by email to ISA’s Academic Division: dacademia@isa.ulisboa.pt
Informal inquiries should be directed to: link@isa.ulisboa.pt or linkphdprogram@gmail.com

ADMISSION PROCESS & CRITERIA
• (20%) Academic CV
• (20%) Scientific CV – the applicant participation in congresses, seminars, research projects, published articles, awards within the scientific area of the PhD program.
• (15%) Professional CV / Portfolio – the length and scope of the candidate’s professional activities.
• (15%) Motivation statement and application goals (area of interest)
• (20%) Interview with LINK staff members
• (10%) Two (2) Reference letters
• Application Form*
• ISA’s behavior code signed *
• 100€ Fee by bank transfer or check to the School of Agriculture (Instituto Superior de Agronomia)

*Available at: http://www.isa.ulisboa.pt/candidatos/candidaturas-3ciclo
CRISTINA CASTEL-BRANCO is a Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Lisbon, Portugal, (UTL) since 1989. She received her M.LA from the University of Massachusetts, and her Ph.D. from the University of Lisbon. In addition to her research and instructional responsibilities at University of Lisbon, Castel-Branco has also taught Masters-level courses at universities throughout the world. She led the consulting team on Landscape Architecture for EXPO ‘98, which was held in Lisbon. Since 1991 she is the Director of ACB-Ltd, a landscape design practice in Lisbon that specializes in the incorporation of sustainable heritage solutions into contemporary design in public and private gardens. She is a advisory member of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). Complete bio here.

LUIS PAULO RIBEIRO has a degree in Landscape Architecture from Instituto Superior de Agronomia / Universidade Técnica de Lisboa and a PhD from the University of Massachusetts. A founding partner of Topiaris (1988), and is a specialist in the restoration of historic gardens. He has been a professor since 1999 at the Instituto Superior de Agronomia, where he teaches Project, Theory of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning. He chairs the master’s and doctoral course commissions in Landscape Architecture, being a member of the School Council between 2009 and 2013. He is also a founding member of the Center for Landscape Architecture Studies Professor Caldeira Cabral He is a member of the Portuguese Association of Landscape Architects and founder of the Portuguese Association of Green Corridors. Complete bio here.

ANTÓNIO GUERREIRO DE BRITO is an Associate Professor at the University of Lisbon, School of Agriculture and the current Dean of ISA. He has a Degree in Environmental Engineering from the New University of Lisbon - Faculty of Sciences and Engineering (1984), PhD in Chemical and Biological Engineering from the University of Minho (1997) and Habilitation in Environmental Engineering from the New University of Lisbon (2013). He was the former President of the North River Basins District (2008-2012) and Director of the Land Planning and Water Resources Department in Azores (2000-2002), Member of the National Water Council (2007-2012), President of the College of Environmental Engineering (2007-2011) and member of Admission and Qualification at the Portuguese Institute of Engineers Council (2016-2019). Complete bio here.

FRANCISCO CASTRO REGO is the Coordinator of the Centre of Applied Ecology Professor Baeta Neves (CEABN), at the School of Agriculture (ISA) of the Universidade de Lisboa and Vice-Director of the Associated Laboratory InBIO (Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology Research Network. Professor with Aggregation at ISA with a Degree in Forestry at ISA and a PhD in Forestry and Wildlife Management by the University of Idaho (EUA). He has coordinated many research programmes with CEABN, APA and ICNF, amongst the most recent, PLURIFOR - Transnational risk management plans for forest areas and rural areas susceptible to biotic risks and abiotic. MODELYNX - Effect modeling, combination of vegetation, biotic interactions and hunting in suitable habitats for the Iberian Lynx. Complete bio here.

JOSÉ MANUEL LIMA SANTOS has a degree in Agronomy (Institute of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology) from the School of Agriculture (ISA) and a doctorate from the University of Newcastle, in the United Kingdom. He was an advisor to the General Directorate of Rural Development for the programming of agri-environmental measures for the period 2000-2006. Currently, he teaches Environmental Economics, Environmental and Natural Resources Economics and Policy, Environmental Policy and Sociology and Environmental Law at ISA. Complete bio here.
ANA LUIZA SOARES graduated in Landscape Architecture from the School of Agriculture (ISA) in 1995 and was awarded her Doctoral Degree in Landscape Architecture by ISA in 2007. She is an Associate Professor at ISA in the undergraduate, Masters and PhD Program. Since 1998 she is a researcher at CEABN/InBIO/ISA/ULisboa and was coordinator of the Landscape Architecture Department between 2007 and 2009. From 2009 to 2014 she was Vice-president of the Management Board of the ISA, taking responsibility for the patrimony. Since 2016, she belongs to the Management Commission Member of Botanical Gardens of the University of Lisbon. Since 2017 she is the coordinator of the 2nd cycle of Landscape Architecture course at School of Agriculture and is the current director of Ajuda Botanical Garden, in Lisbon. Complete bio here.

SONIA TALHE AZAMBUJA, received her PhD in History, specializing in Art, Heritage and Restoration at the University of Lisbon. She completed her Masters in Art, Heritage and Restoration from the Faculty of Arts of the University of Lisbon (2006) and received her degree in Landscape Architecture from the School of Agriculture of the Technical University of Lisbon (2000). She is an Invited Auxiliary Professor of Landscape Architecture at ISA and the University of Algarve. She is also a researcher at the Center for Applied Ecology Professor Baeta Neves (CEABN / InBIO / ISA) and at the Institute of Art History at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Lisbon (IHA / FL / ULisboa). She is Chairman of the Board of AAJBA-Association of Friends of the Botanical Garden of Ajuda. Complete bio here.

PEDRO ARSEÑIO received his 5 year Landscape Architecture Degree in 1998 and his PhD in Landscape Architecture at the Instituto Superior de Agronomia (ISA) in 2012 where he has been an Assistant Professor since 2012. Since 2015 he has been a member of the LEAF Research team at ISA and the Coordinator of the Herbarium “João de Carvalho e Vasconcellos”. His current research activities are mainly related with floristic and synecological studies of plant communities, as well as flora and vegetation cartography. He also compares ecological quality (with a focus on plant communities) and landscape visual quality, in Mediterranean ecosystems. Complete bio here.

MARIA MATOS SILVA (Lisbon, 1984) is Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at the School of Agriculture (ISA), University of Lisbon since 2018. Since 2016, Maria is a Research Associate of the Centro de Investigação em Arquitectura, Urbanismo e Design (CIAUD) at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Lisbon. She graduated in Landscape Architecture from ISA in 2007. In 2010 completed a master's degree on Urban Design at Universitat de Barcelona, and in 2011 a PGDip in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Lisbon. In 2016, Maria finalized a PhD at Universitat de Barcelona, having the recognition of “Finalist” of the European Prize Manuel de Solà-Morales (2019 ed.) for the best PhD in Urbanism. She has been involved in R&D projects, participating in international teams and networks. Her academic interests are focused on subjects related to landscape, design and management, urban planning, urban flooding, public space design and adaptation to climate change. Complete bio here.
PAULO FARINHA MARQUES is an Associated Professor in the Department of Geosciences, the Environment and Territorial Planning at the University of Porto. He received his Degree at the Instituto Superior de Agronomia (ISA) and his MA at the University of Sheffield. He is the assistant Dean of the Master’s in Landscape Architecture and the Doctorate in Landscape Architecture Programs at the University. His main research interests include the organization and design at various scales of publicly accessible outdoor spaces, the planning and design of green infrastructures and planning and design and management of vegetation in urban space and landscape. [Complete bio here.]

MARIA JOSÉ CURADO received her Degree in Landscape Architecture from the Higher Institute of Agronomy (ISA), 1994, his MA in Planning and Projects in the Urban Environment at the University of Porto, 1998 and his Doctorate in Applied Sciences of the Environment from the University of Aveiro, 2003. She has been an Associate Professor at the University of Porto since 2003 in Landscape Architecture and Planning. She is the Director of the Masters Program in Landscape Architecture at FCUP and was a member of the pedagogic Council of FCUP between 2007 and 2018. She was a member of the Executive Commission of the Department of Geosciences, Environment and Territorial Planning, FCUP between 2015 and 2018 and the founder and Director of Landscape Observatory at FCUP since 2017. She is a member of CIBIO at the University of Porto, since 2006. [Complete bio here.]

CLÁUDIA FERNANDES first graduated in Agricultural Engineering, then completed her PhD in Environmental Sciences and studied Landscape Architecture at the University of Porto where she is assistant professor of planting design and landscape management. She is the Director of the Bachelor in Landscape Architecture at FCUP, and the group leader of LPDM, the research group in Landscape Architecture at CIBIO. Her research interests include the assessment, planning, design, and management of a wide-ranging of habitats and ecosystems especially in urban environments. She is concerned with the resilience of cities and their adaptation to global changes, the social and ecological challenges of the future and the role of urban green spaces in this process. [Complete bio here.]

TERESA PORTELA MARQUES is a Landscape Architect with a Master's degree from Sheffield University and a PhD degree from the School of Agriculture of the University of Lisbon. She is an Assistant Professor of the Landscape Architecture courses at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto and researcher at the Biodiversity and Genetic Resources Investigation Center (CiBIO). Her research focuses mainly on the history and critique of amenity landscapes, particularly the ones designed during the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century, as well as on the conservation and restoration of cultural, intentionally designed landscapes. [Complete bio here.]

JOSÉ LAMEIRAS (PhD) is an Assistant Professor in Landscape Architecture at the Department of Geosciences, Environment and Spatial Plannings at the University of Porto, and a researcher at the Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources (CiBIO). He is the coordinator for CiBIO in the project, funded by the European Commission “URBiNAT - Healthy corridors as drivers of social housing neighbourhoods for the co-creation of social, environmental and marketable Nature-Based Solutions”. His research focuses on urban regeneration and Nature based solutions, with a special focus on the use of digital technologies for landscape design and planning. [Complete bio here.]
ISABEL MARTINHO DA SILVA graduated in Landscape Architecture from the Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, in 1988. She has a Master in Landscape Architecture and a PhD in Renewable Natural Resources from the University of Arizona, USA. Currently, she is an assistant professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Porto, Portugal. She is also a senior researcher in the group LPDM (Landscape Planning, Design, and Management) at the Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources of the University of Porto. She has developed research in landscape change and sustainable design and her current research interests are landscape change, landscape rehabilitation, sustainable design of public space, urban agriculture, and public perception. Complete bio here.

ANTÓNIO CAMPAR DE ALMEIDA is an Associate Professor with Aggregation, Faculty of Letters, University of Coimbra. He is currently researching, “Dynamics of the coastal strip in Central Portugal; especially the human impact of primary dunes”. His current course units in the Faculty of Letters, U. Coimbra are -Litoral Environments, Risk Spaces and Dynamics in Portugal, Research Methods in Geography, Biogeography and Integrated Coastal Zone Management. He is currently working on a Project under the FCT/CAPES convention titled: Landscapes and Territories – New arrangements in the regions of Londrina (Brazil) and Coimbra. The aims of the project are the comparison between Coimbra (more than 2000 years old) and Londrina (90 years old) with different characteristics as a result of the interaction between society and nature. Complete bio here.

PAULA CRISTINA CASTRO is currently an Invited Auxiliary Professor at the Department of Life Sciences of the University of Coimbra. She began her teaching activity in 1997 in the fields of Biology, Ecology, Environmental Management, Soil Ecology and Pollution, Environmental Impact Assessment, Integrated Management Systems, and Environmental Education. She is an Integrated Research at CFE-Centre for Functional Ecology - Science for People & the Planet, University of Coimbra and her main research interests include climate-resilient ecosystem's services and sustainability (urban, agriculture, agroforestry), environmental education and the application of GIS as a tool for analysis and prediction of future scenarios and to support decision making in biodiversity, ecology and ecosystem management. Complete bio here.

ALBANO FIGUEIREDO RODRIGUES is Auxiliary Professor at the Department of Geography and Tourism of Coimbra University. He has a master's (2005) and Ph.D. (2013) degrees in Physical Geography from the University of Coimbra. He is currently engaged in R&D projects dedicated to natural resources (CULTIVAR), assessment of fire risk in the interface urban/forest areas (WUISAFEFIRE), and production of cartography for the NATURA 2000 sites in Portugal. He was assistant dean at the Department of Geography and Tourism (2011-2014), and co-coordinator for the strategic plan for climate change adaptation for the Region of Coimbra (2016-18). He is an integrated member at the Centre for Studies in Geography and Spatial Planning (CEGOT). He is assistant dean of the Master in Physical Geography and Environmental Studies at Coimbra University and for the LINK Ph.D program. Complete bio here.

ANTÓNIO XAVIER PEREIRA COUTINHO has a Degree in Biology from University of Coimbra (1986) and a Masters in Plant Science University of Coimbra (1992) He received his PhD in Biology (Systematics and Morphology) also from University of Coimbra, (summa cum laude). He is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Sciences and Technology, University of Coimbra. His areas of specialisation are Palynology, Taxonomy of Vascular Plants, Micromorphology, Toxicology and the identification of vascular plants in paintings, sculptures, glazed tiles and other art objects. Complete bio here.