



RESEARCH BRIEF | Year 1 | 2023

Project TRACE

Tracing Queer Citizenship Over Time

Ageing, ageism and age-related LGBTI+
politics in Europe



Index

Briefing	3
Team	4
International Advisory Board	8
Journal articles	9
Book chapters	10
Conference presentations	11
Events	12
Policymaking	13
Teaching and advanced training	14
Outreach	18
Media	19
Contacts	22

Briefing

TRACE is a five-year scientific research project (2023–2027) funded by the European Research Council (ERC) of the European Union and coordinated by Professor Ana Cristina Santos at the Centre for Social Studies (CES) of the University of Coimbra in Portugal.

The aim of TRACE is to analyse LGBTQI+ ageing, ageism and age-related politics in Southern Europe, examining sexual and gender diversity through an age-sensitive lens over time. Over the course of the project (five years), TRACE will publish an annual research brief, providing an overview of the activities conducted over the course of that year. All the information is also available on TRACE's [website](#).

This research brief highlights the activities conducted throughout the first year of the project – 2023; it outlines 1) the composition of the Research Team and the Advisory Board; 2) outputs (journal articles and book chapters, conference presentations, events, outreach activities, policymaking activities, teaching and advanced training and 3) media presence.



Team

Ana Cristina Santos

Principal investigator

With a background in sociology and a PhD in gender studies, Ana Cristina Santos is principal researcher with habilitation at the Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra (CES-UC). At CES-UC she is chair of the Democracy, Justice and Human Rights thematic line and co-founder of the Sexualities Research Group – GPS. She has published extensively and has coordinated a number of research projects on LGBTQI+ issues, dissident embodiment, intimate citizenship and queer ageing, including two European Research Council Grant Awards. She currently leads three research projects: Colourful Childhoods, funded by the European Commission; REMEMBER, funded by FCT; and TRACE, funded by the ERC, centred on the ageing of LGBTQ+ people in Southern Europe. In 2021, she was elected to the Executive Committee of the European Sociological Association until 2024. Her most recent books are *The SAGE Handbook of Global Sexualities* (Sage, 2020); *The Tenacity of the Couple Norm* (UCL Press, Open Access, 2020); and *LGBTQ+ Intimacies in Southern Europe: Citizenship, Care and Choice* (Palgrave, Open Access, 2022).



Irene Massa

Junior researcher/PhD student

Graduate in psychology from the University of Cagliari (IT) and junior researcher at the Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra (CES). She holds a master's degree in clinical psychology (2022), with a dissertation entitled "The Manosphere in Italy: critical analysis of sexist discourses in online male communities", a ethnographic and a critical discourse analysis research. She is currently part of the project TRACE– Tracing Queer Citizenship over Time: Ageing, ageism and age-related LGBTI+ politics in Europe.



Joana Brilhante

Postdoctoral researcher

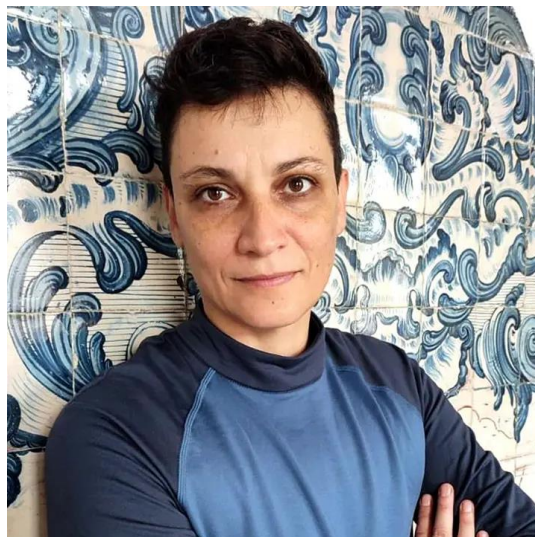
Postdoctoral researcher on the project TRACE, at the Centre for Social Studies (CES), University of Coimbra. She holds a BA in anthropology, an MSc in biology and human evolution, and a PhD in Human Rights in Contemporary Societies from the University of Coimbra, with the thesis "The Insular Effect: LGBTQ people's experiences through the lens of geographical isolation". In 2022/23 she was granted a research scholarship for the project Multiversity, promoted by NOVA School of Law, Lisbon. She is also an associated researcher at the project REMEMBER – Recording Experiences of LGBTQ Elders in Post-Dictatorship Portugal (1974-2020). She works in LGBTQ studies and human rights, through a critical and intersectional approach, with particular research interest in geographies of sexualities, island studies and rural queer studies.



Pako Chalkidis

Postdoctoral researcher

Postdoctoral researcher at project TRACE, Centre for Social Studies (CES), University of Coimbra. He specializes in the interdisciplinary field of gender and sexuality studies as a social anthropologist, with a focus on Greek ethnography. His thesis, “BDSM practices, sexualities, socialities: Anthropological Approaches”, presents an ethnographic exploration of BDSM in contemporary Greece. During the past decade, he conducted ethnographic research on gender and sexuality policies related to same-sex parenting and the uses of new reproductive technologies. He has also explored the intersection of politics of desire with queer kinship activism and theories, and examined forms of institutional violence within SOGI asylum policies in Greece. He has published several articles in international and Greek scientific journals. He also served as a co-editor, alongside Dr Eirini Avramopoulou, for a scientific collection entitled “Sexuality’s Object(ion)s: Critical theories and interdisciplinary readings” published in Greek in 2022. Pako is a founding member of the Association of Social Anthropologists in Greece.



Anže Jurček

Junior researcher

Teaching assistant and researcher at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. His research interests include social work in healthcare organizations, professional identity of social workers, interprofessional collaboration and LGBTI+ studies. His previous work includes publications of systematic reviews on topics related to LGBTI+ older adults, including the concept of resilience and the effects of training on social and healthcare professionals working providing care to LGBTI+ older adults. Previously he collaborated on two European LGBTI+ projects: Diversity and Childhood, and Best practices for Care and Wellbeing Education to support the needs of LGBT people as they age – BEING ME.



Pedro Fidalgo

Research manager/PhD student

Sociologist and junior researcher at the Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra (CES), he is the research manager of project TRACE. Pedro holds a master's degree in international relations – peace, security and development studies from the University of Coimbra Faculty of Economics (2022), with the dissertation “Queer Real Utopias: Violence and Resistance in a Heterocisnormative World”. He collaborated with projects REPLAY and TIMES. He is a member of the Research Group on Sexualities at CES (GPS-CES) and co-coordinator of the Sexuality and Gender thematic section of the Portuguese Sociological Association (APS).



International Advisory Board



Andrew King (University of Surrey, UK)



Diego Lasio (Università degli Studi di Cagliari, IT)



Venetia Kantsa (University of the Aegean, GR)



Rosa Monteiro (University of Coimbra, PT)



Mojca Urek (University of Ljubljana, SLO)



Gabi Calleja (CoE senior policy advisor, MT)

Journal articles

- 1) Santos, Ana Cristina (2023), "**Ageing with a twist: Intimacy and care amongst LGB older adults in Portugal**", Portuguese Journal of Social Science, 20, 3, 171–184. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1386/pjss_00040_1

This article examines the care and intimacy challenges faced by lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) individuals over 60 in Portugal, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights the gap in research on ageing and sexual diversity in Portugal. The study is divided into four sections: theoretical framework, socio-legal context, experiences of older LGB adults during the pandemic, and the impact of ageing and ageism. The article concludes with policy recommendations to address these issues and improve the lives of older LGB adults.

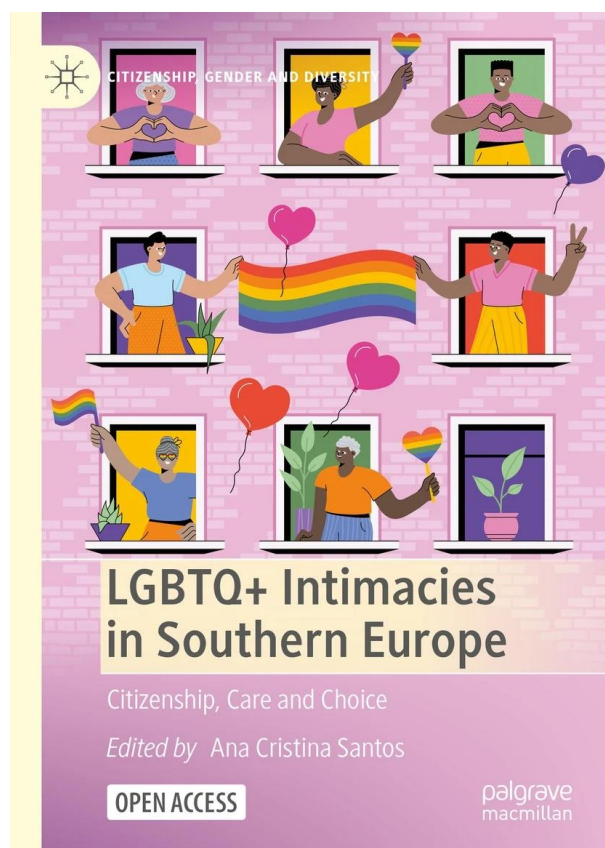
→ *Keyword(s): ageism; bisexual; COVID-19; gay; intimate citizenship; lesbian*

- 2) Santos, Ana Cristina, and Ana Lúcia Santos (2023), "**Intimate Lovers, Legal Strangers – The Politics of Dissident Relationality in Portugal**". Social Sciences 12: 144. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci12030144>

This article explores how dominant cultural norms in Southern Europe, particularly in Portugal, have often marginalized LGBTQ+ relationships, despite recent legal advancements. It examines how state recognition can challenge the cultural stigma attached to LGBTQ+ intimacies and highlights the visibility issues faced by non-normative sexualities. The authors introduce the concept of "relational performativity" and discuss how consensual non-monogamy is perceived as a cultural threat. The article concludes by reflecting on the intimate experiences of ageing LGBTQ+ individuals and the broader implications of dissident relationality.

→ *Keywords: LGBTQ+; intimacies; consensual non-monogamy; ageing; dissident relationality; relational performativity; Portugal*

Book chapters



In a [chapter](#) titled “Embodied Queer Epistemologies: A New Approach to (a Monstrous) Citizenship”, published on 19 November 2022, Ana Cristina Santos explores the meanings associated with monstrosity through queer critiques of citizenship. This work is part of the book *LGBTQ+ Intimacies in Southern Europe. Citizenship, Care and Choice*, edited by Santos and published by Palgrave Macmillan.

The chapter begins by examining the notion of the monster, particularly through queer interpretations, and analyses monsters against the backdrop of the hero archetype. It then shifts focus to the concept of citizenship, aiming to reclaim its potential in light of contemporary queer critiques and the need to

strengthen formal recognition during times of anti-LGBTQI+ backlash. Finally, Santos introduces the idea of monstrous citizenship as part of an embodied turn in queer epistemologies.

This chapter provides a thought-provoking exploration of queer theory and citizenship, contributing valuable insights to the field.

→ *Keyword(s): Monster; monstrous citizenship; national heroes; embodied epistemologies; queer; misfit; Brocken spectre; LGBTQI+; gaze; diversity*

Conference presentations

12 May 2023

Keynote “No country for old trans: intersections of ageing and gender diversity in Southern Europe” – University of Cagliari.

IL BENESSERE PSICOLOGICO DELLE PERSONE TRANS NEI CONTESTI DI VITA CONVEGNO INTERNAZIONALE

VEN 12 MAG 2023

MATTINA

H 9:00 | APERTURA DEI LAVORI E SALUTI ISTITUZIONALI

- Ester Cole - Delegata del Rettore per l'uguaglianza di genere, Università degli Studi di Cagliari
- Antonello Mara - Presidente Facoltà di Studi Umanistici, Università degli Studi di Cagliari
- Lorenza Lucarelli - Direttrice Dipartimento di Pedagogia, Psicologia, Filosofia, Università degli Studi di Cagliari
- Angela Quasquara - Presidente Ordine Psicologhe e Psicologi della Sardegna
- Marco Guicciardi - Direttore Scuola di specializzazione in Psicologia della Salute, Università degli Studi di Cagliari

H 9:45 | PROGETTO OLTRE

Silvia De Simone - Dipartimento di Pedagogia, Psicologia, Filosofia, Università degli Studi di Cagliari

POMERIGGIO

H 14:30 | KEYNOTE SPEECH

Mara Pires - Centro de Estudos Sociais, Universidade de Coimbra
 Persone trans e non-binarie con malattie e disabilità: intersezioni sommerse
 INTRODUCE E MODERA JESSICA LAMPIO, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI CAGLIARI

H 15:10 | KEYNOTE SPEECH

João Manuel de Oliveira - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa e Conceição Nogueira - Faculdade de Psicologia e Ciências da Educação, Universidade do Porto
 Learning from trans* people for an ethics of implication in gender studies
 (Aprendendo com as pessoas trans* por um etica da implicação negli studi di genere)
 - con traduzione dall'inglese

Keynote address by Ana Cristina Santos at the Convegno internazionale “Il benessere delle persone trans*”, Università degli Studi di Cagliari, Italy.

28 September 2023

Conference panel “Making room makes all the difference – intersections of sexual, gender and age diversity in the context of Southern Europe” – University of Zagreb.

At the end of September, TRACE co-organized a panel at the European Sociological Association's Sexuality Research Network Conference at the University of Zagreb, Croatia. Focused on LGBTQI+ people in Southern Europe, this panel addressed issues of memory and the costs of not remembering from the point of view of those who are left out of dominant arenas of life, activism, health, sports or academia.

Organized by: projects Remember and TRACE.

Midterm Conference of the European Sociological Association
 Sexuality Research Network

Making a Difference: the Hope and Promise of Sexuality Studies

UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB
 FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
 ZAGREB, CROATIA
 SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2023

Conference Programme

Events

1 June 2023

LGBTQI+ Visibility Month Exhibition 2023 - CES, North | South Library.



In memory of the events that took place at the Stonewall Inn bar in New York, USA, in June 1969, the month of June is celebrated as LGBTQI+ Visibility Month.

This exhibition marked the month of June and promoted the visibility of all people regardless of their diverse gender identities, sexual orientations or sexual characteristics. Celebrating the diversity of sexes, genders and sexualities with pride.

This activity was organized by the Sexualities Research Group (GPS-CES) and the projects TRACE and REMEMBER. The organizing committee included the researchers Ana Lúcia Santos, Daniela Ferrández Pérez and Pedro Fidalgo.

February 2023

LGBTQIA+ History Month Exhibition: Remember. Tell. Celebrate – CES, North | South Library.

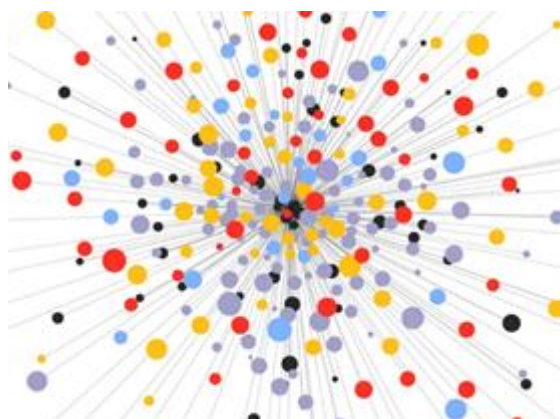


Five weeks, five posters produced from a quote taken from interviews carried out as part of the research projects REMEMBER and TRACE. This exhibition marked February as the LGBTQIA+ history month. A visual and a virtual exposition of queer books was [produced](#).

Policymaking

28 November 2023

ERC Annual Conference, Brussels – Belgium.



Research on Diversity & Diversity in Frontier Research Annual Scientific Conference of the European Research Council in which Ana Cristina Santos was invited as expert speaker on the topic “Perceptions of Diversity” (Session 3), as well as in the Roundtable 4: #The Importance of Diversity in Research”.

6 November 2023

Keynote “Ageing with pride and pain – challenges and resistance against ageism and other forms of violence against older LGBTI people”.



Keynote address by Ana Cristina Santos at the Conference “Ageing with Pride: Healthcare for older LGBTI people in Europe” organized by the Council of Europe.

The findings shared during this event will contribute to a European-wide report on the topic to be published by the Council of Europe in May 2024. Panel 3: Human rights violations in health contexts for older LGBTI people, including discrimination, violence, and harassment. Topics were explored such as the

respect of human rights of older LGBTI persons in health settings; the recognition of intimate partners as next of kin; discrimination faced in residential care and assisted living; long-term consequences of interventions on intersex people; and training of healthcare and care practitioners.

Teaching and advanced training

18–22 September 2023

Summer School – Monsters Summer School III – Tracing, remembering and reclaiming queer lives, Coimbra – Portugal.

The Monsters Summer School III embraces monstrosity in what it offers regarding the undoing of binaries and the celebration of embodied differences. The school aimed to trace, remember and reclaim monsters through a queer lens, exploring monsters as a possible theoretical figuration to escape mainstream celebrations of humanity and to embrace the vivid possibilities offered by interdisciplinary, boundary-crossing contributions from different fields of knowledge.

The MSS III was a space to discuss contributions and experiences that often fall out of the map even within critical studies – allowing for the creation of knowledge from places of estrangement regarding mainstream sources of knowledge production in the academic fields of LGBTQI+ and critical studies.



Organized by

TRACE – Tracing Queer Citizenship over Time: Ageing, ageism and age-related LGBTI+ politics in Europe

REMEMBER – Recording Experiences of LGBTQ Elders in Post-Dictatorship Portugal (1974-2020)

GPS – Sexualities Research Group (CES), Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra.

Organizing Committee:

Ana Cristina Santos; Ana Lúcia Santos; Joana Brilhante; Mara Pieri; Pablo Pérez Navarro; Pedro Fidalgo

October–November 2023

TRACE's theoretical workshops



In October 2023, the project TRACE initiated a series of theoretical workshops designed to promote internal training and knowledge exchange among the research team. These workshops, led by Ana Cristina Santos and post-doctoral researchers, focused on in-depth studies of key theoretical references. These workshops were instrumental in developing an exclusive theoretical framework for the project TRACE, which was established in Year 1 and will be updated in Years 3 and 4.

The insights and discussions from these sessions continue to inform and refine the project's theoretical framework.

30 October 2023

Theoretical workshop I



Ana Cristina Santos unpacked the concept of queer as mobilized in avant-garde queer theories and studies in her session titled "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Q? Embracing Queer in Research".

13 November 2023

Theoretical workshop II



Pako Chalkidis explored the connections between age, ageing, and ageism in LGBTQI+ lives in his workshop on “Ageing and Ageism”.

24 November 2023

Theoretical workshop III



Joana Brilhante presented on the concepts of (in)visibility in her session “The Holy Trinity: In the Name of the Closet, (In)visibility, and Isolation”.

17 November 2023

Advanced training organized by (A)MAR & APF Açores



On November 17, 2023, (A)MAR & APF Açores organized two advanced training sessions featuring Joana Brilhante, who discussed the impact of geographic isolation on LGBTQ lives in her session “O efeito insular”, and Ana Cristina Santos, who provided tools to combat the combined effects of homo-transphobia, adultism, and ageism in her session “Sob fogo cruzado”.

Training Sessions:

Joana Brilhante – “O efeito insular – relação entre o isolamento geográfico e a vida das pessoas LGBTQ”.

Ana Cristina Santos “Sob fogo cruzado: instrumentos para combater os efeitos

combinados da homo-transfobia, do adultismo e do idadismo”.

4 December 2023

TRACE – tailored training on the biographic narrative interpretive method (BNIM)



TRACE provided specialized training on the biographic narrative interpretive method (BNIM) to all team members, led by the principal investigator (PI). This training enhanced the methodological skills of the team, ensuring a comprehensive understanding and application of BNIM. BNIM is a qualitative methodological approach used to understand individuals’ life stories and experiences. It involves collecting detailed biographical narratives through in-depth interviews, which are then analysed to uncover the meanings and interpretations that individuals attach to their life events.

Outreach

7 November 2023

CES Vai à Escola: Rainbow grandparents: stories of resistance and diversity as tools for inclusive citizenship – Escola EB 2,3 Martim de Freitas, Coimbra.



The CES Vai à Escola/CES Goes to School (CVE) programme, an outreach initiative by the Centre for Social Studies at the University of Coimbra (CES-UC), brings researchers into schools and educational settings to share knowledge in social sciences, arts, and humanities. By presenting research carried out in CES, the programme stimulates critical debates on societal challenges, promotes the democratization of knowledge, advances human rights, and supports CES's mission to build a more just, inclusive, and reflective society.



The project TRACE participated in the “CES Vai à Escola” programme with a session titled “Rainbow Grandparents: Stories of resistance and diversity as tools for inclusive citizenship”. This session focuses on sexuality and ageing, emphasizing the importance of understanding the stories of older individuals who have faced discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender diversity. By sharing life stories from our sociology research at the Centre for Social Studies at the University of Coimbra, we provide insights into diversity throughout life, fostering

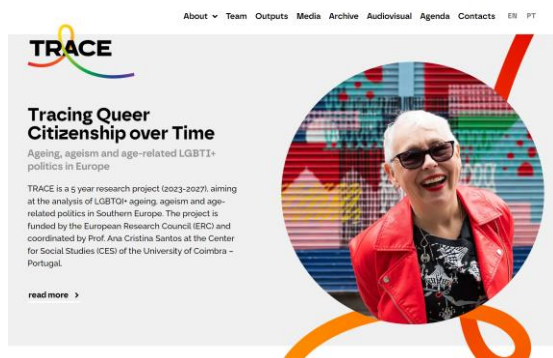
intergenerational connections and developing tools for a more inclusive future and full citizenship.

Team: Ana Cristina Santos, Ana Lúcia Santos, Gustavo Borges Mariano, Joana Brilhante, Mara Pieri and Pedro Fidalgo

Media

28 December 2023

TRACE website launch



The [website](#) was designed and implemented by our partners at Contágio Criações, with the wonderful creative work of Daniel Sansão.

The official TRACE website was launched to celebrate the end of 2023 – the first year of project TRACE. The website is a way for the public to engage with the work of the TRACE team, events and outputs.

16 December 2023

Ana Cristina Santos at REC Podcast – “Reporters in Construction” – Antena 1 & Antena 3



In episode 60 of the podcast *REC – Reporters in Construction*, titled “Breaking Walls Toward Freedom”, Ana Cristina Santos contributed to the dialogue on sexual and gender diversity and freedom.

Listen to the podcast (in Portuguese) [here](#).

1 August 2023

Op-ed “Trajetórias LGBTQIA+ e a fragilidade de redes de cuidado em Portugal” – Gerador.



Ana Cristina Santos published an opinion editorial in the newspaper *Gerador*, titled “LGBTQIA+ Trajectories and the Fragility of Care Networks in Portugal”. In the article, Santos discusses the care crisis in Portugal, which became evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. She argues that, although this crisis has been labelled as new, many of its characteristics have long been present in the history of marginalized groups, who often have to find creative strategies for resistance and cooperation. This is

particularly true for LGBTQIA+ individuals, who are affected by various social markers, the broader context, and the specific relationships they experience.

22 June 2023

Op-ed “Da resistência à revolução: a evolução do movimento LGBTQIAP+” – TejoMag.



TejoMag published an op-ed by Ana Cristina Santos titled “From Resistance to Revolution: The Evolution of the LGBTQIAP+ Movement”. The piece highlights the pivotal moment in LGBTQIAP+ history that occurred on June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in the United States. In the early hours of that day, gays, lesbians, transgender people, transvestites, and drag queens clashed with the police, sparking a rebellion that laid the foundations for the LGBTQIAP+ rights movement in the U.S. and

worldwide. Known as the Stonewall Rebellion or Stonewall Riot, this was a response to the routine, gratuitous violence inflicted by the police on gay bars in New York City.

6 January 2023

Interview “*Idosos LGBT+ não têm as típicas redes de cuidado informal*” – *Público*.



In an interview with the *Público* newspaper, Ana Cristina Santos discussed the heightened risk of loneliness among older LGBT+ individuals. Interviewed by Ana Cristina Pereira and photographed by Miguel Manso, Santos emphasized that a history of oppression and discrimination has often resulted in weaker family networks for this demographic. This fragility in family support systems makes older LGBT+ people particularly vulnerable to isolation.

Santos highlighted the importance of creating supportive care networks to address these issues and improve the quality of life for older LGBT+ individuals. In this piece, Santos shared how her research underscores the necessity of developing robust care systems to mitigate these risks and enhance the well-being of this often overlooked population.

2023, in brief

The activities outlined in this research brief demonstrate TRACE’s commitment to ongoing transnational and interdisciplinary collaboration in producing an in-depth analysis of the relationship between queer citizenship and age-related LGBTI+ politics in Southern Europe. Furthermore, the brief showcases the project’s dedication to informing both government policy and research agendas, with the aim of fostering a productive interconnection between rigorous academic knowledge, informed policymaking and an inclusive society.

And this was just Year 1 – stay tuned and join us in the years ahead!



This Research Brief was prepared by researchers
Irene Massa and Pako Chalkidis.

CONTACTS

[trace.ces.uc.pt](https://www.trace.ces.uc.pt)

trace@ces.uc.pt

<https://www.facebook.com/trace.ces>

[#trace_ces](#)

Centre for Social Studies (Alta)

Colégio de S. Jerónimo

Largo D. Dinis

Apartado 3087

3000-995 Coimbra, Portugal

Tel.: +351 239 855 570