



RESEARCH BRIEF | Year 2 | 2024

Project TRACE

Tracing Queer Citizenship Over Time

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



Project: TRACE: Tracing Queer Citizenship Over Time – Ageing, Ageism and Age-related LGBTI+ Politics in Europe

Principal Investigator: Ana Cristina Santos, PhD

Institution: Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Funding Scheme: ERC Consolidator Grant (ERC-2021-COG, GA 101044915)

Duration: 2023-2027

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1. Executive Summary

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.

Conceptually, TRACE moves beyond the exploration of country-based case studies to produce original, evidence-based knowledge. TRACE develops an innovative age-sensitive analytical lens focused on ageing, ageism and age-related LGBTI+ politics. During the project (five years), TRACE will publish an annual research brief, providing an overview of the activities conducted over that year. All the information is also available on TRACE's [website](https://trace.ces.uc.pt)¹.

This research brief provides an overview of the project's main activities conducted throughout the second year (2024), detailing: 1) the conduction of fieldwork; 2) impact, including publications, conference presentations, events organised, teaching and advanced training; 3) outreach, including presence in the media and policy-making and 4) awards received.



Image 1 – TRACE Team, Dr Joana Brilhante, PhD candidate Pedro Fidalgo, PhD candidate Irene Massa, Professor Ana Cristina Santos, PhD candidate Anže Jurček & Dr Pako Chalkidis (from left to right).

¹ <https://trace.ces.uc.pt>

2. Fieldwork

The beginning of 2024 marked a pivotal phase for the TRACE project. After being trained in Biographic Narrative Interpretive Method (**BNIM**), developed by Tom Wengraf, (2007)², during year 1 (2023), in the beginning of year 2 (2024), the team meticulously prepared all the logistics and methodological aspects for approaching fieldwork. As such, in the first quarter of the year, the researchers were deployed across the countries under study – Portugal, Italy, Greece, Malta and Slovenia.

The duration of fieldwork varied based on the specific research needs encountered in the field, ranging from 2 months to 4 months. Fieldwork was conducted by researchers who were native or fluent in an official language of each country to allow proximity between the researcher and the participants. Trace researchers fully immersed themselves in each country, successfully gathering original empirical data essential for the next steps of the project. In summary, the team conducted a total of 86 BNIM-inspired interviews across the five countries with self-identified LGBTQI+ individuals over 60 years old and 22 interviews with stakeholders. All fieldwork activities were meticulously documented in a dedicated Fieldwork Report for each country.

In addition to capturing life stories from older LGBTQI+ people, a key objective of the fieldwork was also to engage with participants for one of the audio-visual outputs of the project – the documentary *OUTLASTING - Living archives of Older Queers*, set to premiere in 2025, directed by Ana Cristina Santos and Nuno Barbosa. This goal was achieved with success, and the documentary's trailer is now available [here](#)³.



² Wengraf, Tom. 2001. *Qualitative Research Interviewing: Biographic Narrative and Semi-Structured Methods*. First Edition. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.

³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8R_TGpytzc

3. Impact

Through an innovative life course and multiscale approach to LGBTI+ ageing embodied experiences, TRACE is contributing to conceptual and epistemological debates on democracy, citizenship and ageing experiences.

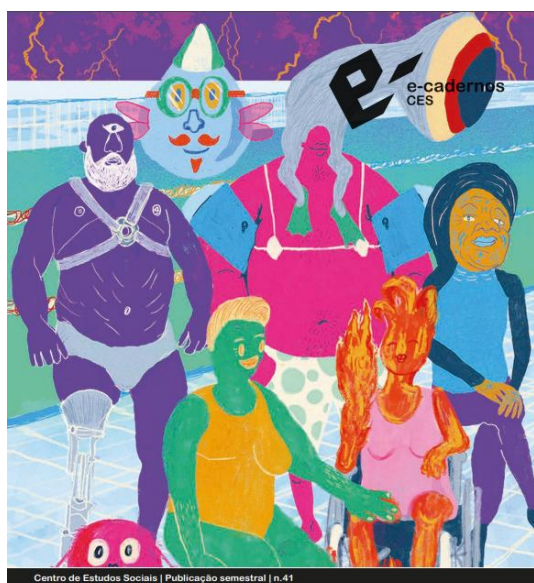
Our impact strategy spans multiple areas, including scholarly impact, training, political impact, and outreach. Accordingly, our dissemination and communication plan has been diverse in content, methods, and target audiences. Below, we outline key dissemination and communication outputs from 2024, including publications, presentations at national and international conferences, organised events, teaching and advanced training initiatives, and outreach activities.



3.1 Publications

I - Scientific Journal Special Issue

Monstrous Genealogies | e-cadernos CES 41



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Monstrous Genealogies: Reclaiming Queer Lives and Embodiments

The special issue *Monstrous Genealogies: Reclaiming Queer Lives and Embodiments* (e-cadernos CES, 41 | 2024) stems from debates started at the III Monster's Summer School, organised by projects TRACE, REMEMBER and TRIALOGUES on Sept. 18-22, 2023, at CES, in Coimbra.

This open access issue with contributions from participants, invited speakers at the Summer School, and respondents to an open call, explores the complex interplay between monstrosity and academic critique, reclaiming the monster - not as a mere rhetorical figure, but as a lens to confront power and exclusion.

How can we engage with monstrosity while subverting the hierarchies that shape academia and society? The *Monstrous Genealogies* issue invites us to reimagine these dynamics, embracing monstrosity as a radical site of scientific inquiry and resistance.

- Reference: Pérez Navarro, Pablo, Ana Cristina Santos, Ana Lúcia Santos, Joana Brilhante, Mara Pieri, and Pedro Fidalgo, eds. 2024. *Monstrous Genealogies: Reclaiming Queer Lives and Embodiments*. e-cadernos CES 41. <https://doi.org/10.4000/12uzy>.



II - Journal article

Co-authored by TRACE PI Ana Cristina Santos, Luís Maia, and Raquel Rodrigues, “LGBTQIA+ Ageing: Listening to Professionals in an Institutional Context” was published in May 2024 in *Revista Estudos Feministas*. The article benefited from insights from project TRACE, funded by the European Research Council (ERC-2021-COG, TRACE, GA 101044915)—publication in Portuguese.

Abstract:

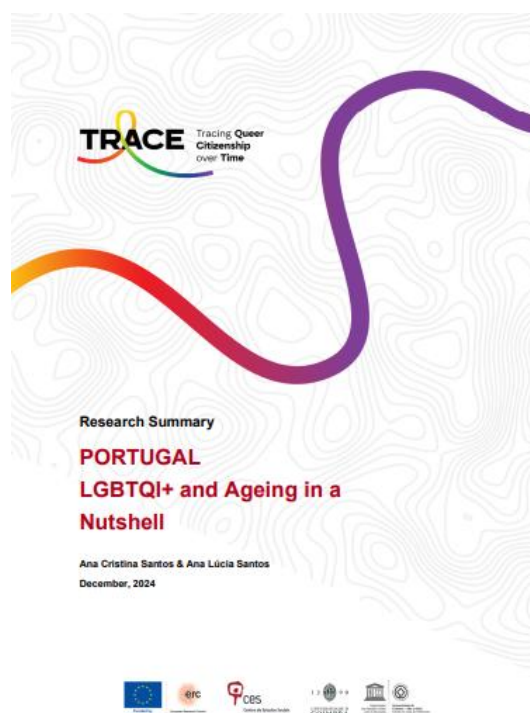
Ageing issues are increasingly becoming a focus of study in the social sciences field. However, the topic of older people’s sexuality remains socially silenced, due to the ageist dominant perspectives. As a result, institutional reality forces an adaptation of the behaviour of older people, particularly challenging for LGBTQIA+ older people, realizing that, in most cases, they feel obliged to hide their identity. Therefore, this study is aimed at understanding, through semi-structured interviews with professionals from residential institutions for older people, how sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and/or sex characteristics influence the lives of institutionalised older people.

Keyword(s): LGBTQIA+; Aging; Sexuality; Institutionalisation

→ *Reference:* Maia, Luís, Rodrigues, Raquel, & Santos, Ana Cristina (2024). **LGBTQIA+ Ageing: Listening to professionals in an institutional context.** *Revista Estudos Feministas*, v. 32, n. 2, e93169. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1806-9584-2024v32n293169>

III- Research Summaries

During 2024 Project TRACE launched five Research Summaries, offering an overview of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) people in five countries, with a particular focus on the experiences of older LGBTQI+ people. These summaries explore key legal, social, and political developments, highlighting the intersections between ageing, ageism, and LGBTQI+ citizenship. These publications are outputs of the country-based research conducted by Project TRACE – Tracing Queer Citizenship over Time: Ageing, ageism, and age-related LGBTI+ politics in Europe, based at the Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, Portugal. These reports are all available, free of charge at the project's website - www.trace.ces.uc.pt .



The five Research Summaries cover Portugal, Italy, Greece, Malta and Slovenia:

Santos, Ana Cristina, and Ana Lúcia Santos (2024). Portugal: LGBTQI+ and Ageing in a Nutshell. *Project TRACE – Tracing Queer Citizenship over Time: Ageing, Ageism, and Age-Related LGBTI+ Politics in Europe*. Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra. <https://trace.ces.uc.pt/output/research-summary-portugal/>

Massa, Irene (2024.). Italy: LGBTQI+ and Ageing in a Nutshell. *Project TRACE – Tracing Queer Citizenship over Time: Ageing, Ageism, and Age-Related LGBTI+ Politics in Europe*. Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra. <https://trace.ces.uc.pt/output/research-summary-italy/>

Chalkidis, Pako (2024). Greece: LGBTQI+ and Ageing in a Nutshell. *Project TRACE – Tracing Queer Citizenship over Time: Ageing, Ageism, and Age-Related LGBTI+ Politics in Europe*. Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra. <https://trace.ces.uc.pt/output/research-summary-greece/>

Brilhante, Joana (2024). Malta: LGBTQI+ and Ageing in a Nutshell. *Project TRACE – Tracing Queer Citizenship over Time: Ageing, Ageism, and Age-Related LGBTI+ Politics in Europe*. Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra.
<https://trace.ces.uc.pt/output/research-summary-malta/>

Jurček, Anže (2024). Slovenia: LGBTQI+ and Ageing in a Nutshell. *Project TRACE – Tracing Queer Citizenship over Time: Ageing, Ageism, and Age-Related LGBTI+ Politics in Europe*. Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra.
<https://trace.ces.uc.pt/output/research-summary-slovenia/>

3.2 Conference presentations

1 February 2024

Presentation of Project TRACE at CIEG's III International Congress



Ana Cristina Santos, Principal Researcher of TRACE, presented the project at the **Centro Interdisciplinar de Estudos de Género [Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies]**' III International Congress in Lisbon, Portugal, dedicated to "Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies: Knowledge, Public Policies and Social Justice".

This was an opportunity to discuss the project with an audience of scholars, activists, and policymakers committed to gender equality and social justice, bringing attention to the life stories and embodiment of older LGBTQI+ adults, and emphasizing the necessity of their inclusion in equality and age-related policies in Southern Europe.

14 June 2024

Not just for the queers: The salience of research on LGBTQ+ ageing for generalist gerontology and geriatrics and transforming the world

Ana Cristina Santos presented in this panel at the **27th Nordic Congress of Gerontology** in **Stockholm, Sweden**, alongside **Andrew King, Rebecca Jones, Kathryn Almack, and Maya Chew**.

The discussion emphasized the importance of LGBTQ+ research in expanding the scope of gerontology, advocating for greater LGBTQIA+ sensitivity in gerontological practices and policies.



28 August 2024

TRACE Panel at the 16th European Sociological Association (ESA) Conference

TRACE organised the panel "**LGBTQI+ Ageing in Southern Europe**" at the **16th European Sociological Association Conference** in **Porto, Portugal**. This panel brought together four TRACE researchers to examine the lived experiences, rights, and challenges of older LGBTQI+ individuals across four different national spaces in Southern Europe – Portugal, Malta, Greece and Italy.

The panel included the following four presentations:

- **Ain't I a Queer? Getting Old at the Crossroads of Queer Pride and Ageist Pain**

Ana Cristina Santos' presentation the tensions between queer identities and societal expectations around ageing, highlighting how **LGBTQIphobia and ageism intersect** to create unique challenges. Drawing on biographical narrative interviews from project **TRACE**, this presentation examined the experiences of **ageing with pride and ageing with pain** in a shifting political landscape.



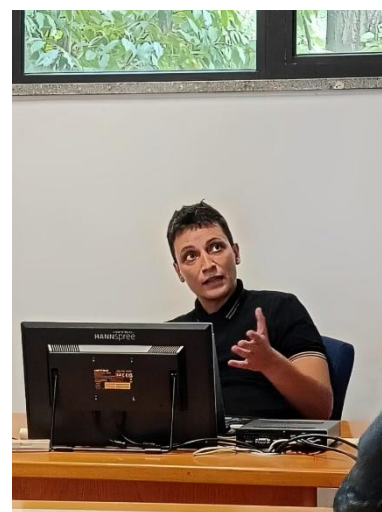
- **A Queer Metamorphosis: Exploring the Evolution of LGBTQ People's Rights and Ageing in the Maltese Archipelago**

Joana Brilhante's presentation examined Malta's **rapid transformation from a country with no LGBTQI+ legal protections to a global leader in queer rights** and shared preliminary findings from TRACE's research in Malta, exploring how legal reforms have shaped the **lived realities of older LGBTQI+ people**. Her presentation highlighted the **gap between legal progress and social practice** regarding LGBTQI+ ageing in Malta.



- **Introductory Remarks on LGBTQI+ Ageing in Greece**

Pako Chalkidis' presentation explored **legislative changes in Greece from 2014 to today**, driven by **European guidelines and human rights frameworks**. Chalkidis examined how these shifts have **impacted the lives of LGBTQI+ individuals over 60**, who have experienced a transition from **criminalisation to legal recognition**. In a country where **over 22% of the population is over 65**, his research investigated the **social and policy gaps affecting LGBTQI+ elders**.



- **LGBTQ+ and Ageing in Italy: An Intersectional Perspective**

Irene Massa's presentation examined the **intersectional discrimination faced by older LGBTQI+ people in Italy**, where **legal protections remain limited** despite the absence of overtly hostile laws. Massa explored how older LGBTQI+ people **navigate exclusion from younger queer communities, marginalisation within heterosexual ageing populations, and invisibility in social and healthcare services**. She also addressed the **challenges of ageing with HIV**, highlighting the **lack of research and tailored medical support** for LGBTQI+ elders.



3 September 2024

Presentation at the 7th European Geographies of Sexualities Conference

Pedro Fidalgo, **TRACE's Project Manager and PhD student**, presented his paper "**Reaching for a Queer Past: Queer Critical Postcolonial Insights for the Production of Research on Queer Pasts, History, and Memories in Portugal**" at the **7th European Geographies of Sexualities Conference** at the **University of Brighton, UK**. His talk took place



during the parallel session "**Building Narratives of Older LGBTQ+ Lives in Southern Europe**," organised by projects **TRACE** and **REMEMBER**.

3.3 Events organised

11 January 2024



Menopause on the tip of your tongue: de-medicalise to prevail

This seminar explored the topic of menopause and community support in Portugal with Cristina Mesquita de Oliveira.

Cristina Mesquita de Oliveira is the author of *Descomplicar a Menopausa* [Uncomplicating the Menopause] (2022) and founder of the Comunidade de Saúde em Menopausa [Menopause Health Community] Movimento Menopausa Divertida Portugal and VIDAs Associação Portuguesa de Menopausa (Portuguese Menopause Association).

The Seminar was chaired by **Dr Ana Lúcia Santos**, and enriched by the comment of **Dr Rosa Monteiro**, a distinguished Professor at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra, CES Researcher, and member of TRACE's International Advisory Board.

The event was organised by research projects TRACE and REMEMBER.



2 February - 29 February 2024

II Exhibition LGBTQI+ History Month: ‘Without history, there is no memory’ – learning through the lens of queer ageing

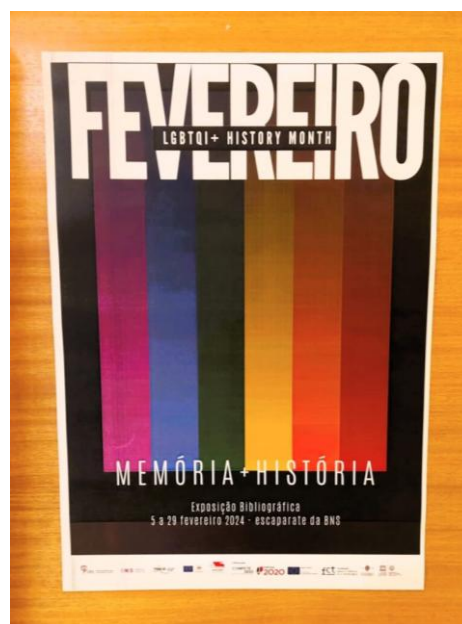
This collaborative effort between projects TRACE and REMEMBER commemorated LGBTQI+ History Month in Portugal by shedding light on the experiences of ageing within the LGBTQI+ community. This exhibition sought to amplify narratives often overlooked by research and activism, offering a platform to recover and celebrate the unique experiences of ageing within gender and sexual diversity.

Exhibition highlights:

- Curated selection of books from the North | South Library collection addressing ageing issues and LGBTQI+ rights.
- Showcase of doctoral theses from CES students, in the field of LGBTQI+ studies.
- Launch of Fator Q, an annual publication from the GPS – Research Group on Sexualities of CES.
- Posters featuring excerpts from interviews with queer people over 60 years old.

The exhibition was organised by research projects TRACE and REMEMBER and the GPS-CES research group. **Organisers:** Ana Lúcia Santos, Joana Brilhante, Inês Lima & Pedro Fidalgo.

More information and the visual memory of this exhibition can be found at: <https://ces.uc.pt/en/agenda-noticias/agenda-de-eventos/2024/sem-historia-nao-ha-memoria-aprender-atraves>



30 September – 1 October 2024

1st International Forum on LGBTQI+ Ageing in Southern Europe

This two-day event held in Coimbra was TRACE's first **International Congress** dedicated to the **complex intersections of ageing and LGBTQI+ lives**, in Southern Europe and beyond. The Forum gathered participants from 14 countries, including researchers, activists and policymakers to discuss LGBTQI+ ageing. The event featured keynote addresses by Prof Andrew King and Prof Mojca Urek, research roundtables, and a policy panel with representatives from Portugal, Spain, and Greece. More information on the full programme can be accessed [here](#)⁴. All the plenary sessions are available online at [CES Press Room](#)⁵.



Organising Committee: Ana Cristina Santos (Coord.), Ana Lúcia Santos, Irene Massa, Joana Brilhante, Mafalda Esteves, Mara Pieri, Pablo Pérez Navarro, Pako Chalkidis & Pedro Fidalgo.

Organised by Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra (Portugal), TRACE - Tracing Queer Citizenship over Time: Ageing, ageism and age-related LGBTI+ politics in Europe and REMEMBER - Recording Experiences of LGBTQ Olders in Post-Dictatorship Portugal (1974-2020).

In partnership with CES 50 Years of April, DemoJUST Thematic Line, GPS – CES Research Group on Sexualities, Trialogues – *Biopolíticas emergentes do parentesco, o género e a reprodução*, PhD Programme in Feminist Studies (CES/ FLUC).



⁴ https://ces.uc.pt/ficheiros2/files/20240927_Forum_Programme.pdf

⁵ <https://saladeimprensa.ces.uc.pt/index.php?col=canalces&cnt=45208>

3.4 Teaching and advanced training

11 March 2024

TRACE Class on “Gender and sexual diversity in peripheral, rural and insular contexts” for the PhD in Feminist Studies at the University of Coimbra – by **Joana Brilhante**.

Joana Brilhante, TRACE Post-doctoral Researcher responsible for the Maltese case presented a class on “**Gender and sexual diversity in peripheral, rural and insular contexts**” in the PhD programme in Feminist Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra (FLUC), at the invitation of Professor Ana Cristina Santos.



DOUTORAMENTO EM ESTUDOS FEMINISTAS

21 March 2024

TRACE Class on “Gender and Ageing” – by **Professor Ana Cristina Santos**.

Ana Cristina Santos, TRACE’s PI led a class dedicated to gender and ageing for students of the Master’s degree in Social Gerontology at the School of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Lisbon (ISCSP-UL), at the invitation of Professor Paula Campos Pinto.



INSTITUTO SUPERIOR DE CIÊNCIAS SOCIAIS E POLÍTICAS

UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA

8 May 2024

TRACE Class on the “Narratives of queer ageing over time in Southern Europe” at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra (FLUC) – by **Irene Massa** and **Pedro Fidalgo**.



Irene Massa, TRACE PhD Student and Junior Researcher responsible for the Italian case and Pedro Fidalgo, TRACE Research Manager and PhD Student presented a class on the “**Narratives of queer ageing over time in Southern Europe**” in the course of Contemporary Feminist Themes at the BA on Modern Languages in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra (FLUC), at the invitation of Professor Gonçalo Cholant.

13 May 2024

TRACE Class on “Sexual and Gender Diversity, Violence, and Resistance Throughout the Life Course” at the BA on Social Services of the School of Education and Social Sciences of the *Politécnico de Leiria*, by **Pedro Fidalgo**.

Pedro Fidalgo led this class in the Family and Minors Law class for the BA in Social Services at the School of Education and Social Sciences of the *Politécnico de Leiria*. The discussion focused on sexual and gender diversity from a queer perspective and the LGBTQIA+ life courses in Portugal over time. This class was held at the invitation of Professor Sofia Caseiro.



POLITÉCNICO DE LEIRIA ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE EDUCAÇÃO E CIÊNCIAS SOCIAIS

CICLO DE SEMINÁRIOS
Direito da Família, dos Menores, e das Pessoas Vulneráveis

Construindo pontes: o poder e a arte da mediação familiar Dra. Susana Sardinha Monteiro (ESECS, IPLeiria)	29/04 B.137
06/05 Aud. 1	Mesa Redonda: "Mediação e Serviço Social" Dra. Filomena Carvalho (ESTG, IPLeiria) e Dra. Susana Sardinha Monteiro (ESECS, IPLeiria)
Diversidade Sexual e de Género, Violência e Resistência ao Longo da Vida Dr. Pedro Fidalgo (CES-UC)	13/05 Aud. 1

ORGANIZAÇÃO: UC DE DIREITO DA FAMÍLIA E DOS MENORES, LICENCIATURA DE SERVIÇO SOCIAL

24 October 2024

TRACE Class at the Master's in Psychology at the University of Cagliari, by **Irene Massa**.



Irene Massa led this class for first-year Master's students in Psychology at the University of Cagliari, Italy. The class was part of the course Gender, Sexuality, and Intersectionality, coordinated by Professor Diego Lasio, where Irene shared insights from Project TRACE – focusing on the Italian case.

28 October 2024

TRACE Classes on “LGBTQIA+ Struggles in Contemporary Portuguese Society” at the BA on Sociology of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra, by **Pedro Fidalgo**.



Pedro Fidalgo led two classes dedicated to “LGBTQIA+ Struggles in Contemporary Portuguese Society” for first-year sociology students in the *Contemporary Portuguese Society* course at the Faculty of Economics, University of Coimbra.

Held on October 25, 2024, these classes focused on sexual and gender diversity, LGBTQIA+ life courses, and the evolution of Portugal's legal and sociocultural framework regarding sexual and gender diversity. This session was organised at the invitation of Professor Cíntia Fachada.

3.5 Outreach

CES Goes to School (CVE) in 2024



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. During 2024 the session was presented at 3 school throughout the national territory – in Alhadas, Valença do Minho and Albufeira.

Team: Ana Cristina Santos, Ana Lúcia Santos, Irene Massa, Joana Brilhante, Mara Pieri and Pedro Fidalgo

27 February 2024



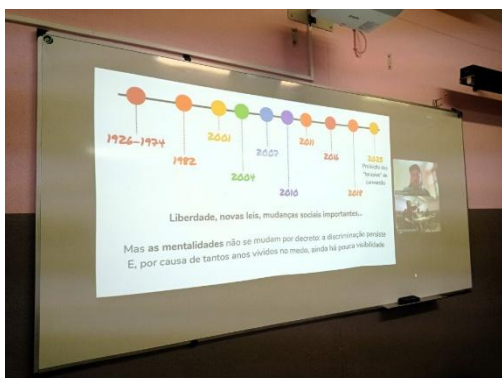
Ana Cristina Santos & Mara Pieri. CES Vai à Escola: Rainbow grandparents: stories of resistance and diversity as tools for inclusive citizenship – At Agrupamento de Escolas Figueira Norte – E. B. 2,3 Pintor Mário Augusto, in Alhadadas, Portugal.

12 April 2024



Pedro Fidalgo. CES Vai à Escola: Rainbow grandparents: stories of resistance and diversity as tools for inclusive citizenship - At Muralhas do Minho Basic and Secondary School, in Valença do Minho, Portugal.

5 November 2024



Pedro Fidalgo. CES Vai à Escola: Rainbow grandparents: stories of resistance and diversity as tools for inclusive citizenship – At Agrupamento de Escolas Albufeira Poente, in Albufeira, Portugal (online).

9 February 2024

TRACE and CES at NES's "Job Speed Dating"



Pedro Fidalgo participated in the "Job Speed Dating" organised by NES - Sociology Students' Organisation at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra (FEUC). The event was a platform aimed at connecting students with institutions. Pedro Fidalgo and Catarina Fernandes represented the Centre for Social Studies at their station, sharing information about

projects, research opportunities, and internships to be made available at the centre. It was an opportunity for high education students to explore potential career paths, gain insights into research work and methodologies, and discover the exciting initiatives and projects underway at CES.

21 February 2024

Pedro Fidalgo at NERIFE's Bem-Me-Queer


 A poster titled "ORADORES" with a rainbow background. It lists three speakers: Pedro Fidalgo, Dra. Frederica Carvalho, and Daniel Santos, each with a small portrait photo and a brief bio.

ORADORES

Pedro Fidalgo - sociólogo Investigador Júnior no Centro de Estudos Sociais da Universidade de Coimbra; Gestor de Projeto no Projeto TRACE - Tracing Queer Citizenship over Time

Dra. Frederica Carvalho - psicóloga clínica no Projeto Cores Univers@s, do Gabinete de Apoio ao Estudante da Faculdade de Psicologia e Ciências da Educação da Universidade de Coimbra, Formação em Orientação Sexual e Identidade de Género, Sexóloga Clínica

Daniel Santos, antigo estudante de licenciatura em Relações Internacionais, investigador em direitos humanos pela ReportOut.

Pedro Fidalgo, Frederica Carvalho and Daniel Santos were guest speakers at a round table discussing the social construction of gender and sexuality titled "Bem-me-Queer" organised by NERIFE – International Relations Students' Organisation of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra.

12 May 2024

Ana Cristina Santos at the 7th Edition of the University Human Rights Conference

From May 10-12, 2024, the Human Rights Section of the Academic Association of Coimbra – the oldest student union in the country – hosted the event “50 Years of April 25th, 50 Years of Freedom.” TRACE was present on a discussion by guest speakers Ana Cristina Santos and Gustavo Mariano, who presented on “Did the Revolution Forget LGBTQ+ People?” exploring the intersection of the Portuguese Revolution and LGBTQ+ rights in the year of the 50th anniversary of the Revolution that ended the longest dictatorship in Western Europe.



28 May 2024

School Open Day at Escola Martim de Freitas in Coimbra

On May 28th, the TRACE team participated in the School Open Day at Escola Martim de Freitas in Coimbra, Portugal. Projects TRACE and REMEMBER had a stand with information and materials about their ongoing research. This event provided an opportunity to showcase TRACE’s work and connect with parents, teachers and students from 5th to 9th grade, and other invited partners.



6 June 2024

Pako Chalkidis' participation on Roundtable “Adventures in Gendered Identities” at the Athens Epidaurus Festival

On June 6, 2024, Pako Chalkidis participated in the discussion *Adventures in Gendered Identities* - focused on exploring the complexities and experiences of gendered identities. Chaired by Vassilis Noulas, the panel also featured Panayotis Evangelidis (writer, film director), Leo Kalovyrrnas (psychotherapist, author), and Anastasios Koukoutas (dance researcher and playwright).



3.5.1 Media Outreach

2 February 2024

Diversity in Excellent Research by the European Research Council – Ana Cristina Santos, European Research Council.

The ERC takes a close look at research investigating diversity in society, with a spotlight on Project TRACE. In the piece, Ana Cristina Santos reflects on the complexities of identity in research:

Diversity in excellent research

2 February 2024

Gender and Diversity



“We need to take into account that people are never just one thing, that we are made of layers and different experiences, different belongings, multiple belongings. Therefore, when we’re conducting research with humans, we need to take into account all of these different layers and aspects of one’s identity.”

The article also discusses how TRACE contributes to understanding queer citizenship over time, particularly in relation to ageing, rights, and historical shifts in Southern Europe, highlights the role of embodied memories in shaping inclusive policies on diversity, sexuality, and ageing.

[Read more](#) ⁶

⁶ <https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/magazine-article/diversity-excellent-research>

9 February 2024

European Research Council Interview with Ana Cristina Santos – European Research Council.

In this ERC interview, Ana Cristina Santos expands on queer citizenship and its intersections with aging, ageism, and LGBTI+ politics in Southern Europe. She reiterates the importance of considering multiple layers of identity when conducting research.



[Watch the interview](#)⁷

11 February 2024

Op-ed: Diversity in Aging: How to Protect the Generation that Came Before Us? – Ana Cristina Santos, Açoriano Oriental.

In this op-ed, Ana Cristina Santos reflects on the challenges of ageing in societies that often overlook the diverse experiences of older adults. She discusses how ageism shapes perceptions of older people and highlights the specific struggles faced by LGBTI+ people over 60, who have lived through historical periods of discrimination. The piece calls for urgent measures to promote inclusive ageing.

[Read more](#) (in Portuguese)⁸

(A)MAR 19

Diversidade no envelhecimento
Como proteger a geração que nos precede?

Ana Cristina Santos - Centro de Estudos Sociais da Universidade de Coimbra

Perfil

Ana Cristina Santos é Socióloga Investigadora (n.º 1954) no Centro de Estudos Sociais da Universidade de Coimbra, onde coordena o Núcleo de Estudos em Sociologia da Saúde e o Núcleo de Estudos em Sociologia da Juventude. É também professora adjunta de Sociologia na Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Coimbra. Foi membro do Conselho de Administração da Associação Europeia de Sociologia (EAS) e do Conselho de Administração da Associação Portuguesa de Sociologia (APS).

Resumo do artigo:

Este artigo discute os desafios do envelhecimento em sociedades que frequentemente ignoram as experiências diversas dos idosos. Aborda como o ageísmo molda as percepções sobre os idosos e destaca as lutas específicas enfrentadas por pessoas LGBTI+ com mais de 60 anos, que passaram por períodos históricos de discriminação. O texto defende medidas urgentes para promover um envelhecimento inclusivo.

Palavras-chave: envelhecimento, diversidade, discriminação, LGBTI+, ageísmo.

Referências:

Santos, A. C. (2024). Diversidade no envelhecimento: Como proteger a geração que nos precede? Açoriano Oriental.

⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ncw4cLC-WuI>

⁸ <https://saladeimprensa.ces.uc.pt/index.php?col=noticias&id=45347>

11 February 2024

Op-ed: *Há mar e mar* – Joana Brilhante, Açoriano Oriental.

In this op-ed Joana Brilhante reflects on the progress of human rights, especially for LGBTQIA+ people in Portugal and Europe. It highlights legal advancements, EU funding for projects such as TRACE, and civil society efforts, such as the APF-Açores seminar on sexual and gender diversity held in 2023. The article warns against hate speech and political campaigns that target marginalised groups, calling for leaders committed to equality and democratic values.

[Read more](#) (in Portuguese) ⁹

6 March 2024

Op-ed: Without History, There Is No Memory: The Duty to Remember Those Who Came Before Us – Ana Cristina Santos, Dezanove.

In this op-ed Ana Cristina Santos explores LGBTQIA+ history and memory in Portugal, marking the 50th anniversary of the 25th of April Revolution. She emphasises the importance of remembering the struggles and triumphs of those who fought for the rights of marginalised communities, ensuring their legacy is preserved for future generations.

[Read more](#) (in Portuguese) ¹⁰



⁹ <https://saladeimprensa.ces.uc.pt/index.php?col=opinioao&id=44994>

¹⁰ <https://dezanove.pt/sem-historia-nao-ha-memoria-o-dever-de-2099878>



24 March 2024**Op-ed: Remembering so as not to forget – Ana Cristina Santos, Público.**

In this op-ed, Ana Cristina Santos invites readers to reflect on Portugal’s sociolegal and cultural transformations since the 1976 Constitution, emphasising the importance of “remembering so as not to forget.” Rather than simply listing achievements, she encourages a deeper reflection on the personal and collective experiences that have shaped the last 50 years of democracy, challenging the readers to look beyond historical milestones and trace “a biography of affections”.



[Read more](#) (in Portuguese) ¹¹

25 October 2024**Op-ed: Concerns of a “Gender Ideologue” – Pedro Fidalgo, P3**

This op-ed at *Público*’s P3 platform explores the evolution of queer theories and their role in questioning norms around gender and sexualities. Reclaiming the term “gender ideologue,” the article emphasises the importance of scientific research in understanding how these norms shape everyone’s experiences. The article advocates for an informed public dialogue on the experiences and rights of sexual and gender diverse people.



[Read more](#) (in Portuguese) ¹²

¹¹ <https://saladeimprensa.ces.uc.pt/index.php?col=noticias&id=45595>

¹² <https://saladeimprensa.ces.uc.pt/index.php?col=opinioao&id=46947>

2 October 2024

Ana Cristina Santos at Sociedade Civil – RTP2.

Ana Cristina Santos was a guest at an episode of **Sociedade Civil** on RTP2 dedicated to **Cultural Movements**. Sociedade Civil is a long-standing program that addresses key public issues through discussions with renowned experts. Hosted by journalist Luís Castro, it airs weekdays at 14:00 on RTP2 and internationally on other channels.



Professor Ana Cristina Santos was joined by Inês Amaral, Vitor Belanciano, Paulo Amado, and João Ribeiro in an engaging conversation about the influence of sociocultural movements on society.



[Watch the episode](https://www.rtp.pt/play/p12678/e798211/sociedade-civil) ¹³

¹³ <https://www.rtp.pt/play/p12678/e798211/sociedade-civil>

21 November 2024**Pako Chalkidis at Proud Senior Greece website**

Proud Senior Greece, the first registered LGBTQI+ organisation in Greece dedicated to LGBTQI+ people who are 50 years old and over, shared the research conducted by Pako Chalkidis within the framework of Project TRACE, at the Centre for Social Studies. Proud Seniors also shared the Research Summary authored by Dr Pako Chalkidis.



[Read more](#) (in Greek) ¹⁴

25 November 2024**Pako Chalkidis at Antivirus: A research on ageing and LGBTQ+ people in Greece**

This piece from Greece's LGBTQI+ magazine Antivirus highlights the first research on LGBTQI+ ageing in Greece, conducted by Pako Chalkidis within the TRACE project at the Centre for Social Studies. The piece shares the Research Summary and the ongoing production and trailer of the documentary, *Outlasting – Living Archives of Older Queers*, featuring voices from across Southern Europe.



[Read more](#) (in Greek) ¹⁵

¹⁴ <https://proudseniors.gr/%CE%B3%CE%AE%CF%81%CE%B1%CE%BD%CF%83%CE%B7-%CE%BA%CE%B1%CE%B9-%CE%BB%CE%BF%CE%B1%CF%84%CE%BA%CE%B9-%CE%AC%CF%84%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%B1-%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%BD-%CE%B5%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%AC%CE%B4%CE%B1/>

¹⁵ <https://avmag.gr/mia-erevna-gia-ti-giransi-kai-ta-loadki-atoma-stin-ellada/>

3.5.2 Policy-making

Vintage Block (*Bloco Vintage*) – Marching for Older Queer Rights

As part of project TRACE's engaged research orientation, members of the team participated in Lisbon's 25th LGBTI+ Pride March at *Avenida da Liberdade* (Lisbon). In preparation, the team joined local LGBTQI+ activists to design age-sensitive posters for the march.



In the march, project TRACE was responsible for setting in motion the first

“Vintage block” of Lisbon's LGBTQI+ Pride March – which counted with the participation of pioneers of the LGBT movement in Portugal, members of the Portuguese parliament, and many others. This block attracted media attention – fostering the public visibility of LGBTQ+ ageing and ageism as central topics for activism and policy-making.

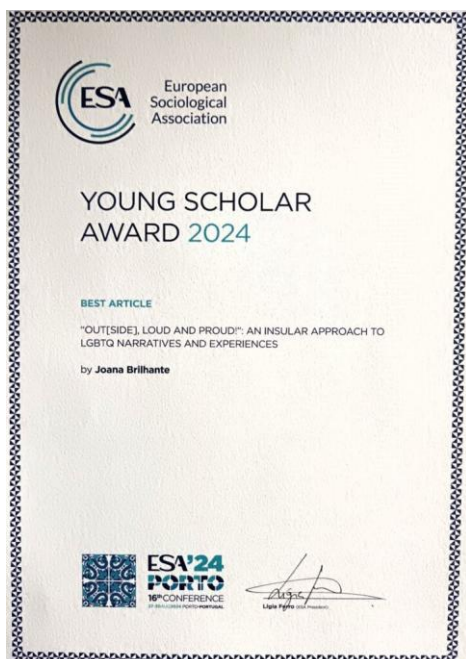


4. Awards

In 2024 Joana Brilhante won the Young Scholar Award by the European Sociological Association (ESA)

This prestigious prize, awarded by the European Sociological Association, distinguished Joana Brilhante's paper *"Out[side], loud and proud!": An insular approach to LGBTQ narratives and experiences* on LGBTQ+ life experiences in insular contexts, and her ongoing work as a researcher at project TRACE, at the Centre for Social Studies (CES), University of Coimbra.

This award recognises excellence and innovation in the work of young researchers, awarding the best not published article based on a doctoral thesis.



Joana Brilhante received her PhD in 2023 in Human Rights in Contemporary Societies from the University of Coimbra, with a thesis entitled 'The Insular Effect: LGBTQ people's experiences through the lens of geographical isolation'. Available at:

<https://estudogeral.uc.pt/handle/10316/109946>.



5. 2024, in brief

In 2024, project TRACE made significant strides in advancing the research. By successfully conducting fieldwork in Portugal, Italy, Greece, Malta and Slovenia, TRACE is producing scholarly knowledge grounded on the life stories of older queer adults.

LGBTQI+ older people carry a unique embodied knowledge of struggle and resistance, offering a precious lens through time, from once criminalised outlaws to the intimate citizens of today's EU LGBTI-freedom zone, who outlasted a variety of challenges, including the HIV/AIDS pandemic and related stigma.

As demonstrated in this Research Brief, TRACE's impact strategy is multifaceted, combining academic contributions with broad and diverse outreach efforts. With the support of our host institution, the Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra, TRACE will continue to foster intersectional and critical discussions on sexuality, ageing and memory. As we move forward to our third year, we remain committed to producing politically engaged research, generating outputs that extend beyond academia, hopefully creating meaningful contributions for the society as a whole.

This Research Brief was prepared by researchers

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