

POST DOCTORAL REPORT-FLUP

IDENTIFICATION

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PhD Degree

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PhD graduation institution FLUP- Porto

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Period: Academic Courses 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

Line of research: Global Transfers

Title of the Research Plan: Women, Gender and Medical Field in Portugal and the Empire in the 16th and 17th Centuries.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Amélia Polónia

The purpose of this report is to describe the work carried out during the post-doctoral in the period between 2020 and 2022, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Amélia Polónia.

Throughout the post-doctoral period I research the women's agency in the intercultural encounters of the first global era, especially in the field of knowledge transfer between different sociocultural strata in the Portuguese colonial territories in Asia and Africa.

The theoretical framework was primarily provided by Gender Historia and Pos-Colonial History. It helped us identify the categories of analysis used to address the experience of women in the context under study.

The historical sources comprised legislation issued by a central power, local registries, and inquisitorial processes. Data sources for the Portuguese Overseas Empire also include travel books, chronicles, and correspondence, mostly ecclesiastical and administrative. First, I focused on identifying women in the extensive collection of selected sources. Then I proceeded to identify categories of analysis such as gender and medical practice.

Results: We observe a considerable presence of women in the sources, which contrast with their invisibility in historiographic tradition. This was especially confirmed in intercultural contexts. The Portuguese had to confront different realities where women occupied spaces and assumed roles traditionally assigned to men in European tradition, such as dealing with war, diplomacy, economy, and other cultural spheres.

All these fields were marked by power relations typical of colonial contexts. In fact, there were significant resistance to attempts to implement social institutions such as monogamy or marriage, which sought to consolidate a certain social model in the face of other traditionally instituted values.

Different fields were identified in which women participated in the transmission of knowledge, but we focused especially on those related to medical practices and the care of the body.

We also focused our observation on fields such as gender relations and the experience of sexuality in societies with which the Portuguese came into contact throughout the period under study. The multiplicity of manifestations identified confirms that categories such as gender and sex are cultural and historical constructions. Achieving homogeneity in these areas was a slow and violent process.

The main **challenge** we encounter is the masculine filter present in the selected historical sources as well in the historiographic analysis done so far. Our **contribution** sought to focus on identifying the experience of women in the period and space analyzed.

ACADEMIC PRODUCTION

Chapters in organized books:

- POLONIA, Amélia; CAPELÃO, Rosa (2021) — “Women and Gender in the Portuguese Overseas Empire. Society, Economy and Politics, 16th-17th centuries”. In BETHENCOURT, Francisco, VICENTE, Filipa, eds. — *Gendering the Portuguese-speaking World*, Brill, p. 71-101 (12/05/2021). Serie: European Expansion and Indigenous Response, Vol. 33.

Conference Papers:

- CAPELÃO, Rosa; POLÓNIA, Amélia (2022) — *Diversity of Gender, Sex and Sexuality in the Early-Modern Portuguese Empire*. XLI Encontro da APHES (IN)SUSTENTABILIDADES. COIMBRA, 15-16 JULHO 2022
- POLÓNIA, Amélia; CAPELÃO, Rosa (2022) — *Women and Children on the move across the seas*. 8th IMHA International Congress of Maritime History, CITCEM. 28 June-2 July 2022.
- POLÓNIA, Amélia; CAPELÃO, Rosa (2022) — *As mulheres como intermediárias na transmissão de conhecimentos nos primeiros encontros interculturais da Expansão Portuguesa*. A Mulher no Tempo— N. HIST. NOVA FCSH, 26 de março de 2022. Lisboa.
- POLÓNIA, Amélia; CAPELÃO, Rosa (2022) — *Women and Children on board. The Portuguese Carreira da Índia*. Forum of Early-Modern Empires and Global Interactions (FEEGI). Fourteenth Biennial Meeting. 24-26 February 2022
- POLÓNIA, Amélia; CAPELÃO, Rosa (2021) — *Os outros géneros, sexos e sexualidades no Império Português. Os Outros no processo de construção imperial*. Oficinas de Investigação do CITCEM 2020/2021. 4 de Junho de 2021. FLUP.
- POLÓNIA, Amélia; CAPELÃO, Rosa (2021) — *Disputing Gender, Sex and Sexuality in the Portuguese Overseas Empire in the 16th and 17th Centuries*. European Social Science History Conference, Leiden, 18th-21 March 2021.

Publication of Conference Papers.

- Capelão, R., Polónia, A. (2021) Para além da escravatura e da privação jurídica de liberdade. O caso de Njinga Mbandi (1582-1663). *A Construção da(s) Liberdade(s)*. Porto: UPorto Press/ CITCEM, p. 305-330.
- POLÓNIA, Amélia; CAPELÃO, Rosa (2021) — “Encontros interculturais e transferência de conhecimentos. Mulheres como intermediárias no Império Ultramarino Português”. In POLÓNIA, Amélia, MANGAS, Francisco, *Mobilidades. Olhares transdisciplinares sobre um conceito global. VII Encontro CITCEM. Mobilidades*, 22 – 24 Novembro 2018. Porto: CITCEM, p. 165-178.

Other academic activities:

- External collaborator in the UNED postgraduate course La integración de la Historia de las Mujeres en la Educación Secundaria Obligatoria. From December 2, 2021 to May 18, 2022.
- Evaluation Panel for the Presentation of Thesis of the Inter-University Doctoral Program in History (PIUDHist). July 12, 2021.
- Review International Journal of Military History and Historiography. From August 26, 2021 to October 5, 2021.