

Luís Pais Bernardo

Political economist (international political economy / infrastructure politics) and anti-corruption practitioner.

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PROFILE

Political economist working on corporate power, infrastructure, and geoeconomic competition, combining academic research with applied anti-corruption practice. Current research examines how states and international organisations delegate strategic infrastructure to private operators — the EU's Global Gateway and EU–Africa relations in particular — and the integrity and accountability risks that delegation creates. Fifteen years of work across public integrity, anti-corruption, and public procurement, bridging doctoral-level analysis with hands-on policy practice.

CURRENT POSITIONS

- **Co-founder & Head of Research and Innovation**, EthosGov — Governance and Development. 2024–present. Lead research design and investigative methodology for strategic litigation against transnational corruption, asset tracing, and corruption prevention.
- **Associate Researcher**, CEsa — Centre for Studies on Africa and Development, ISEG, University of Lisbon. 2018–present. Corporate power, infrastructure politics, EU Global Gateway; coordinator of MULTIBIZ (2024–25).
- **Lecturer** (Professor auxiliar convidado), School of Economics, University of Coimbra. Feb 2020–Aug 2026. Economic history, history of international relations, contemporary history, social policy.

EDUCATION

DEGREE	FIELD	INSTITUTION	YEARS	DISTINCTION
PhD	Sociology	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin	2011–2018	<i>summa cum laude</i> (FCT grant SFRH/BD/68629); thesis: <i>Religious Diversity in the Portuguese Hospital Sector</i>
MA	Comparative Politics	Institute for the Social Sciences (ICS), University of Lisbon	2007–2010	18/20
BA	History	NOVA University Lisbon (FCSH)	2003–2007	16/20

Advanced training: Social Network Analysis Summer School (ISEG/FIOCRUZ, 2021); Advanced Process Tracing and ATLAS.ti (ECPR, Vienna, 2012); Qualitative Comparative Analysis and Fuzzy Sets (University of Oslo, 2011); Design of Social and Political Research, SPSS (ISCTE-IUL, 2008).

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND GRANTS

- **MULTIBIZ — Multiplexing Business Power: the EU and Global Infrastructure Competition.** CEsa/ISEG (CEsa investigator grant, funded 2024). Principal Investigator. 2024–2025. International network (Maastricht, Warwick, Amsterdam, Glasgow); produced a CEsa working paper and an international workshop (ISEG, May 2025).
- **Global Value Chain of Cotton and Sustainability Certification.** CEsa/ISEG (Oficina Global). PI. 2023–2024.
- **CO.R.E. — Corruption Risks in Emergencies.** University of Perugia (EC-funded). External evaluator. 2023–2024. Monitoring and evaluation of corruption in emergency public procurement; bespoke KPIs.
- **Aid2Growth.** CEsa/ISEG (FCT-funded). Research and communications consultant. 2020–2021. Comparative governance of Asian and European development finance institutions; data collection and web portal.
- **Evaluation of Caritas Portugal's COVID-19 emergency response.** CEsa/ISEG. Co-investigator. 2020–2021.
- **EU Integrity Pacts — Civil Control Mechanism for Safeguarding EU Funds (DG REGIO).** Invited expert. 2018–2021. Public-procurement integrity; built a COVID-19 procurement monitoring tool.

- **Innovation, the Private Sector and Global Development (Business4SDGs)**. CEAs/ISEG. Researcher. 2018–2019.
 - **Government Defence Anti-Corruption Index — Portugal**. Transparency International UK. Country assessor. 2014–2015 and 2020–2021. 200+ graded indicators per cycle.
 - **National Integrity System Assessment — Portugal**. ICS-UL. Assessor (civil-society pillar). 2011–2012.
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PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed articles

- Duggan, N., Haastrup, T., Hogan, J. J., Mah, L. & **Bernardo, L. P.** (2025). African agency in geopolitical times: playing with EU and Chinese ontological security. *Third World Quarterly*, 1–22. doi:10.1080/01436597.2025.2551134
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2022). A secularidade organizacional pública e o campo religioso português: reorientações e poderes entre Estado e religião (2001–2012). *Sociologia: Revista da FLUP*.
- Legido-Quigley, H., Karanikolos, M., Hernández-Plaza, S., de Freitas, C., **Bernardo, L. P.**, Padilla, B. & Sá Machado, R. (2016). Effects of the financial crisis and Troika austerity measures on health and health care access in Portugal. *Health Policy*, 120(7), 833–839. doi:10.1016/j.healthpol.2016.04.009
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2016). De la capellanía a la asistencia religiosa: el campo religioso portugués en los hospitales. *Sociedad y Religión*, 26(46), 181–200.
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2015). The political accommodation of Islam in Portugal and Ireland. *Revista Internacional de Estudios Mediterráneos*, 16.

Under review / revise and resubmit

- **Bernardo, L. P.** & Mah, L. Connecting Markets: Business Power and the EU Global Gateway. *Journal of European Integration* (revise and resubmit).
- **Bernardo, L. P.** The Delegation Trap: Corporate Operators and Infrastructure Power. *Review of International Political Economy* (under review).

Edited volume

- **Bernardo, L. P.** (org.) (2015). *Correntes Invisíveis. Neoliberalismo no séc. XXI*. Porto: Deriva.

Book chapters

- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2019). State and Religion in Peripheral Europe: State–Religion Relations, Corporatism and Islam in Portugal and Ireland (1970–2010). In Khan, A., Martikainen, T. & Mapril, J. (eds.), *Muslims at the Margins of Europe*, 45–66. Leiden: Brill. doi:10.1163/9789004404564_004
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2017). Caregiving as Spiritual Expertise: Spirituality and Lived Religion among Portuguese Hospital Chaplains. In Mapril, J. et al. (eds.), *Secularisms in a Postsecular Age?*, 253–273. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-43726-2_12
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2017). Poderes invisíveis: A corrupção em Portugal entre a aquiescência e a revolta individualizada. In Monteiro, B. M. & Domingos, N. (eds.), *Portugal em Falta. Atlas Improvável*, 152–156. Lisboa: Santillana.
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2015). Islam in Contemporary Portugal. In Burchardt, M. & Michalowski, I. (eds.), *After Integration*. Berlin: Springer. doi:10.1007/978-3-658-02594-6_12
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2015). As Mentalidades da Portugalogia. In Monteiro, B. M. & Domingos, N. (eds.), *Este País Não Existe*. Porto: Deriva.
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2015). O poder político e a sociedade civil em contexto local. In Sousa, L. et al. (eds.), *A Reforma do Poder Local em Debate*, 193–200. Lisboa: Imprensa de Ciências Sociais.
- **Bernardo, L. P.**, Correia, T. & Silva, M. (2014). A Saúde Pública como Investimento Social. In Barata, A. & Carmo, R. M. (eds.), *Estado Social. De Todos para Todos*. Lisboa: Tinta da China.
- **Bernardo, L. P.** & Mah, L. (2013). Cidadania social em xeque? In Lobo, M. C. (ed.), *Portugal e a Europa. Novas Cidades*. Lisboa: Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos.

Working papers and policy reports

- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2025). Multiplexing Corporate Power: Navigating Corporate Autonomy in the EU Global Gateway. *CEAs/ISEG Research Working Paper 206/2025*.
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2025). Finança para o Desenvolvimento e Multipolaridade: Notas sobre Cooperação, Desordem e Incerteza. *Mundo Crítico*, 12.

- **Bernardo, L. P.**, Mah, L. & Silva, A. L. (2024). *A cooperação europeia para o desenvolvimento em 2024: desafios e perspectivas*. Lisboa: Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD.
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2024). *A certificação de sustentabilidade na Indústria Têxtil Portuguesa: um estudo exploratório*. Lisboa: Oficina Global.
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2023). *Algodão, uma fibra global*. Lisboa: FEC / Oficina Global.
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2021). Assessment of Portugal — Government Defence Anti-Corruption Index. Transparency International UK.
- Silva, A. L., **Bernardo, L. P.** & Mah, L. (2021). *The Future of International Development Cooperation*. Lisboa: Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD.
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2020). *Sector Privado, Inovação e ODS*. Lisboa: CEsA/ISEG.
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2020). *Inovação para os ODS*. Lisboa: CEsA/ISEG.
- **Bernardo, L. P.** (2018). *Religious Diversity in the Portuguese Hospital Sector*. PhD dissertation, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. doi:10.18452/19502

TEACHING (UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA, SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS)

Sole lecturer, undergraduate to doctoral level, 2019/20–2025/26:

- Economic History (BA Economics) — 2019/20–
- History of the Modern World (BA Sociology) — 2020/21–
- History of Modern International Relations (BA International Relations) — 2023/24–
- History of Modern Portugal (multi-degree) — 2021/22–
- Economic and Business History (BA Management) — 2021/22–2022/23
- History of Political Ideas and Institutions (MA Sociology) — 2019/20–2023/24
- Social Policy, Financialization and Inequality (PhD Sociology of the State, Law and Justice) — 2023/24–
- Human Rights and Development (PhD Human Rights in Contemporary Societies, guest) — 2023/24
- International Political Economy (executive education) — 2023/24

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- EISA Pan-European Conference, Bologna (2025): "The EU's Global Gateway: Navigating Corporate Autonomy in a Multiplex World Order."
- WINIR Conference, Catania (2023): "Regional Development Banks and Private Sector Development Units: A Comparative Analysis."
- WINIR Conference, Lund (2019); "The World(s) of the Refugee," Lisbon (2019); IMISCOE / Organizing Migration, Gothenburg (2019).
- European Association for the Study of Religion, Groningen (2014); ESA Sociology of Religion network, Belfast (2014).

SERVICE, MEMBERSHIPS AND EARLIER ROLES

- **Co-coordinator**, Section on Comparative and International Political Economy, Portuguese Political Economy Association (APPEC). 2025–
 - **Editorial board**, *Le Monde Diplomatique* (Portuguese edition). 2013–
 - **Member**, International Studies Association (2022–); Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (2023–).
 - **Project Manager**, Portuguese Refugee Council. 2016–2018. Refugee reception network across 19 municipalities; trained 1,000+ practitioners under the European relocation scheme.
 - **Columnist**, *Diário Económico*. 2012–2016.
 - **Journalist**, *O Independente*. 2003–2004. International affairs.
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LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

LANGUAGE	UNDERSTANDING	SPEAKING	WRITING
Portuguese	native	native	native
English	C2	C2	C2
Spanish	C2	B2	B2
French	C2 (reading) / B2	B1	B1
German	B1–B2	B1	B1
Italian	B1–B2	A1	A1

Methods and software: qualitative analysis (MAXQDA, ATLAS.ti); social network analysis and entity resolution; qualitative comparative analysis (fuzzy sets); process tracing.

Last updated: June 2026.