

Post-Doctoral Researcher (1 Vacancy)

The Centre for Social Studies (CES) – Associate Laboratory - University of Coimbra (Portugal), invites applications for **one Post-Doctoral Researcher position** in the project “CONCILIARE – Confidently changing colonial heritage”, funded by the European Union under the framework program Horizon Research and Innovation Actions (HORIZON-CL2-2023-HERITAGE-01), granting authority the European Research Executive Agency (REA), Grant Agreement 101132582, and coordinated at CES by the Principal Investigator (PI) Claudino Ferreira.

Researchers in early phase of career, with experience of working on sociological approaches to culture, urban heritage, and colonial and postcolonial history in Portuguese and European societies are welcome to apply.

A. Project Description

CONCILIARE started on March 1st, 2024, with a duration of 36 months.

CONCILIARE focus the ongoing changes in colonial cultural heritage (CCH) with a threefold aim: 1) identifying and analyzing changes in CCH across four pivotal domains: textbooks, public spaces, museums and cultural consumption of products and traditions; 2) advancing knowledge on reactions to and representations of changes in CCH in the four domains held by diverse sociodemographics groups (ethnic, gender, generation, and cultural contexts); 3) propose four different methods – one per domain – to promote confidence in changes in CCH.

CONCILIARE proposes an interdisciplinary (social sciences and humanities studies) and multi-methodological (small scale applied qualitative and quantitative) approach. Each domain will be covered by a specific work package (WP1-4) with methodologies linked to two axes: Axis 1 respecting to CCH: changes, reactions and representations, and Axis 2 to promoting confidence in changes in CCH. Four small scale pilot trials will be carried out – one per domain – in different European countries to test the effectiveness of the four proposed methods in fostering confidence in CCH changes across the diversity of Europe.

Research to be developed by CES team is particularly focused on WP2, which aims at deeper understanding the essential role played by CCH in public spaces in the construction of individual and collective identities, as well as in the perceptions that shape intergroup relations. CES will also participate in activities related to WP5 (“Dissemination, communication and exploitation) and WP6 /Coordination and management).

WP2 specific objectives are:

2.1 To better understand the political, social and cultural processes and the actors that have historically shaped the – currently contested – CCH in European cities.

2.2 To map and analyze different forms of decolonial activism, their strategies of action in urban public spaces and in the public arena of debate (as expressed through the arts, the media and civil society initiatives), and the ways in which they are perceived and reflected by diverse audiences and actors.

2.3 To co-create and test in a small-scale pilot trial conducted in different European countries an evidence-based method (PAM) through plural and inclusive narratives and dialogues on the CCH in public space, with various actors (municipalities, activists, artists, media and civil society organizations)

Work to be developed in WP2 is organized in 3 successive tasks:

Task 1: Mapping traces of CCH in European cities

This task will focus on the identification and contextualization of CCH traces in nine European cities. This comparative research will be based on primary and secondary sources (local and national archives, newspapers, archives from stakeholders). CES is directly responsible for research on 3 Portuguese cities: Lisbon, Faro, and Lagos.

Task 2: Framing and overcoming the contemporary grounds of the dispute over CCH in the public space.

This task will analyze contemporary situations of disputes and controversies over CCH that are objects of contestation. The analysis will be particularly focused on the potential that those public controversies present for the means of building new forms of collective relation to CCH of a more integrative, inclusionary, and non-colonialist nature. Each selected case will be submitted to in-depth qualitative analysis, based on socio-anthropological, and socio-psychological approaches, combining interviews and focus groups, fieldwork/direct observation, document analysis, and audio-visual methodologies, adapted to each case. CES team will carry out this task in cases selected in Lisbon and Lagos or Faro.

Task 3: Developing PAM pilot trial. Co-creation and dissemination of inclusive decolonial narratives to foster confidence in change.

In this task research teams will collaborate with various actors in the cities: persons and organizations gathering people of ethnic minorities from formerly colonized countries; local authorities and municipalities, decolonial activists and groups, local artists. Task 3 will co-create – through focus groups and the collaboration with local artists – PAM. It consists of visual narratives about contested colonial heritage that will be presented to schools and youth organizations. PAM will contribute to fostering confidence in changes in representations of colonial past bearded by CCH.

B. Scientific Field

Sociology and Social Sciences

C. Requirements

Applicants are required to have completed a PhD degree in Sociology or Social Sciences.

Applicants with an academic degree and diploma issued by a foreign Higher Education Institution must present proof of recognition of the academic degree by the Portuguese Higher Education System (law DL66/2018). Any candidate without the recognition of her/his degree will be admitted to the competition, but during the evaluation process the selection panel, cannot:

- 1) recognize the candidate's grades and assess according to the possession of such grades;
- 2) give equivalence to, or validate, the grade of her/his degree;
- 3) use that note or its conversion as an evaluation parameter.

Should that candidate be selected, she/he will need to provide proof of the recognition of her/his academic degree by the Portuguese authorities before signing the contract. The selected candidate will have to deliver the recognition of the degree within 30 days after the communication of the application results. After 30 days, the jury may decide to:

1. extend the deadline for the candidate to prove the recognition;
2. assign the position to another candidate;
3. or not fill the position.

D. Candidate' Profile

This call will select a candidate for **one Post-Doctoral Researcher position** with the following scientific profile: the selected candidate will have Sociology as the main scientific background. Applicants with a specialization in Post-Colonial Studies and/or Urban Cultural Heritage will be given preference. Research experience on cultural activities and policies, colonial/post-colonial issues and/or urban cultural heritage in Portugal is also a factor of preference.

Knowledge of Portuguese and English (speaking and writing) is a requirement.

Selected candidate will work under the coordination of the project's PI, Claudino Ferreira.

E. Selected Candidate's Responsibilities

The selected researcher will have the following responsibilities:

- a) Actively contribute to the intellectual life of the project, including, but not limited to: participation in working groups; participation in internal meetings of WP2 and the project's consortium; participation in meetings with the project's advisory board;

- b) Contribute to the planning of WP2 fieldwork; carry out fieldwork, namely with regard to the research tasks 1, 2, and 3 described in section A above; gather, analyze and organize data;
- c) Regularly publish research results in academic journal and books; and regularly participate in academic conferences to disseminate research results;
- e) Contribute to the organization of academic conferences and other events sponsored by the project;
- f) Contribute to the project's public outreach activities, including, but not limited to: maintaining the project's website; collaborate with the project's partners in the production and dissemination of audio and audiovisual materials resulting from the project's activities;
- g) Contribute to the elaboration of the project's reports to be delivered to EU sponsors;
- h) Contribute to the project's daily management tasks, namely those related to CES responsibilities in WP 2, 5, and 6, including: scientific reporting; monitoring of WP2 milestones; and all other tasks required to guarantee the successful implementation of WP2 and the participation of CES in WP5 and WP6;
- i) Write reports on all activities undertaken, according to a work plan set in the Description of Action and the calendar set with the PI.

F. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

The successful candidates will be hired under Law no. 57/2016, August 29, altered by Law 57/2017, which approves a doctoral hiring regime with a view to boosting scientific and technological employment in all areas of knowledge (RJEC). The hiring will also be governed by the Labor Code approved by Law no. 7/2009 of February 12, as currently worded.

G. Workplace

Research will be performed at the Centre for Social Studies facilities in Coimbra, Portugal. Selected researcher will occasionally need to travel to other locations to perform research tasks. Successful candidate is expected to move to Portugal for the duration of the contract.

H. Duration of the Contract

The contract will be signed for the sole purpose of the execution of the project, foreseeably starting in April, 2025. The contract is fulltime, in exclusive dedication to CONCILIARE, until the end of the project. Selected researcher is subject to yearly evaluations by the PI, upon which depends the continuation of the contract.

I. Monthly Salary

The monthly salary is 2 351,53 Euros gross plus two additional months of salary (total of 14 months of salary a year). Full protection by Social Security is included in the contract. Researchers will be covered by Portugal's national health insurance plan.

Salary is set in accordance with the provisions of Portugal's scientific employment law, namely line a) number 1, of article 15, Law nº 57/2017, corresponding to level 33 of the single salary scale approved by Decree no. 1553-C/2008 of December 31.

J. Selection Process

Applicants will be selected based on their scientific merit, curricular path, research experience in topics and methodologies to be used in WP2 tasks, and motivation to engage with CONCILIARE's objectives.

The selection process combines two successive stages of evaluation:

a) curricular merit assessment, based on documentation presented in the application; applicants will be scored on a scale of 0 to 20; only applicants with 14 points or more will be considered for phase b); if more than 5 applicants will obtain 14 points or more, only the 5 applicants with higher scores will be selected for phase b);

b) interview with the applicants selected from phase a) (maximum 5), focused on applicants' previous research experiences, their mastering of the theoretical frameworks of the project and of the methodologies to be used, and their motivation in relation to WP2 and CONCILIARE's goals. Interviews will be scored in a scale of 0 to 20. For applicants selected for phase b) each phase (curricular merit assessment and interview) will weigh 50% in the final score.

The jury reserves the right to not select any applicants for the positions, if applications do not meet the necessary standards and/or profiles in terms of absolute merit.

K. Selection Criteria

Applicants must demonstrate expertise on the topics of the project, by fulfilling the following criteria, to be applied for assessment in both phases 1 and 2:

1. Academic background and research experience in the area of Sociology or Social Sciences, with an emphasis in: a) training and research experience on culture, urban heritage and colonial/post-colonial issues in Portugal; b) training and research experience in methodologies to be used in WP2 (30%);
2. Previous scientific outcomes: scientific publications, (co-)authorship of scientific reports, participation in scientific projects, participation in scientific meetings with presentation of papers (20%);
3. Excellent language skills in both oral and written Portuguese and English, including ability to independently write in those languages (20%);

4. Experience in research management and dissemination (including social media and website editing); previous experience in EC-funded projects will be valued (10%).

5. Motivation and engagement with CONCILIARE's goals and objectives (20%)

L. Selection Panel

- Claudino Ferreira (President)
- Paula Abreu (permanent)
- Paulo Peixoto (permanent)
- Antonieta Reis Leite (substitute)
- Cláudia Carvalho (substitute)

M. Communication of Results

All candidates will receive the results of the selection process by email. The meeting minutes of the selection panel will become publicly available.

N. Application Deadline:

Call opens on: March 6, 2025

Call closes on: March 20, 2025

After March 20, 2025, applications will not be considered for evaluation.

O. Application Documents

Applications must include:

- a) Presentation/Motivation letter (max. 3 pages);
- b) Curriculum Vitae of max. 10 pages, highlighting the items most relevant to the topics and requirements of the call;
- c) Copy of qualification certificates and other relevant documents for eligibility purposes (applicants need to have a PhD degree by the deadline of this call). If, for the duration of the application period, the applicant does not have proof of recognition of their academic degree by the Portuguese Higher Education System (law DL66/2018), they must submit a declaration of honor committing themselves to deliver the recognition of the degree within 30 days after the communication of the application results.

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d) Electronic copy of the PhD dissertation and 2 relevant publications.

Applications should be sent by email as a PDF document to concursos@ces.uc.pt until the final deadline. Applications must include a **clear indication of the reference of this call "CES-06-2025-PD-CONCILIARE"** and the name of candidate.

Additional comments

Equality of opportunities:

CES abides by the national law that regulates the prevention, prohibition and fighting against discrimination on the grounds of racial and ethnic identity, colour, nationality, family background, and territory of origin (Law nº 93/2017, 23 August).

Data protection:

By submitting your application, you are agreeing with the use of your personal data by CES administrative services for the sole purpose of the current call, namely to be contacted directly by CES services and allow the communication of results as in point n. of this call. CES abides by the principles of GDPR.

Contact:

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