

## Call for Applications – Research Position (project implementation)

### 1 STUDENTSHIP (POSTGRADUATE LEVEL)

The Centre for Social Studies (CES) – Associate Laboratory - University of Coimbra (Portugal), opens a call for applications for **one (1) research studentship (PhD student)** (CES/07/2025-BI-COMCHA) in the project *COMCHA - Community-based change: local and traditional knowledge(s) in NBS* (reference BiodivNBS/0001/2023), funded by the Biodiversa+ through the The Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), and coordinated by Luciane Lucas dos Santos.

CES provides a stimulating intellectual environment in the domain of social sciences and humanities. *COMCHA - Community-based change: local and traditional knowledge(s) in NBS* is part of the research group *DEMOJUST - Democracy, Justice and Human Rights*. Engaging with the centrality of the democratization of knowledge and the importance of the struggles and experiences of historically oppressed groups, the main objectives of the group Democracy, Justice and Human Rights are twofold. On the one hand, we aim to analyse the persistence of systems of oppression that are intertwined in the structures of racism, heteropatriarchy and capitalism. On the other hand, we examine the socio-legal, socio-political and socio-cultural resistances that, in the framework of the modern State and beyond, mark the presence of anti-discrimination policies and the constitution of alternative grammars of dignity.

#### a. Project Description:

*COMCHA - Community-based change: local and traditional knowledge(s) in NBS*

This project aims to shed light on environmental justice issues underlying NBS, stressing how marginalised communities can benefit from them, even if dealing with vulnerable lands, threatened by (1) environmental conflicts in rural contexts (rural settlements), (2) presence of mineral wealth (indigenous lands), (3) geographic or economic isolation or (4) processes of ghettoization in areas more exposed to environmental risks and constraints, such as lack of basic sanitation, unsafe water and so on. *COMCHA* departs from three hypothesis: (1) Community-based knowledge and practices can foster relevant regenerative processes in lands at permanent risk; (2) qualitative aspects associated with knowledge(s), social commitment, collective agency, sense of belonging and openness to experimentation may be of help for long-term change, and (3) collective processes towards just regeneration by underrepresented groups in NBS can challenge the prevalent sense of scale, being more connected with mobilisation for change rather than a market-based sense of productivity.

Main objectives:

1. Identifying the plurality of practices, social dynamics, and factors associated with the community-based change both in European and Overseas countries.

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2. Stimulating intercultural translation between NBS experiences in Europe (being catalogued or not) and non-conventional NBS grounded on traditional, local, and peripheral knowledge(s) in Brazil.
3. Mapping the NBS concepts and approaches applied to threatened communities, shedding light on community-based governance systems and forms of community economy in these threatened lands.

Expected duration of project execution: 36 months, starting April, 1, 2025.

**b. Scientific field:** Social Sciences and Humanities - preference for Sociology, Management, International Relations.

**c. Work plan:**

To support the scientific management of the project, the selected candidate is expected to have the following responsibilities:

1. Support the planning, design and organisation of communication and management of activities included in the work plan.
2. Manage and continuous update of the project platforms for internal communication.
3. Support the organisation of the online events and meetings for the launch of the project.
4. Collaborate on the launch and development of the COMCHA network (scientific nodes) in close work with the coordination of the project.
5. Support the setting up and regular communication of the project with the partners.
6. Support the project networking efforts with other relevant initiatives, partners and related projects.
- 7.

**d. Applicable Legislation and Regulations:**

Portuguese Law nº 40/2004, of August 18 (Scientific Research Fellow Statute) and following amendments, FCT's (National Agency for Science and Technology) Regulations for Advanced Training and Qualification of Human Resources, and Regulations for Fellowships at the Centre for Social Studies.

**e. Work place:**

The tasks will be performed at the Centre for Social Studies facilities in Coimbra or other locations when necessary for the good implementation of the work plan, under the supervision of the Project's PI, Luciane Lucas dos Santos.

**f. Duration of the scholarship**

A scholarship will be signed for the sole purpose of the execution of the workplan, the total duration of will be **03** months, starting, preferably, in April, 2025.

**g. Application dates:**

- Call opens on: March 20, 2025
- Call closes on: April 3, 2025 (23h59 Lisbon time)
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**h. Application process:**

Applications must include:

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- a) Presentation/Motivation letter in English demonstrating experience in project management, dissemination of results and networking activities, with clear and documented examples of the type of activities carried out (max. 2 pages);
- b) Curriculum Vitae - 5 page maximum;
- c) Copies of degree certificates; (note: candidates must meet the eligibility conditions and conditions indicated in point k.);
- d) Copy of the enrolment for the PhD, in the academic year 2024/2025 (note: candidates must meet the eligibility conditions and conditions indicated in point k.);
- e) Other relevant documents for eligibility purposes.

Applications should be sent by email to [concursos@ces.uc.pt](mailto:concursos@ces.uc.pt) until the final deadline, and will be valid only after a reading receipt is sent. Applications must include a clear indication of the reference of this call (CES/07/2025-BI-COMCHA).

**i. Preferred selection criteria and corresponding weight:**

- a) Master's degree in Sociology, Management, international Relations or other social science and humanities subjects (20%)
- b) Professional experience supporting project coordination, including project management activities, event organisation, organising dissemination activities, and/or action-research projects (25%)
- c) Experience in project management and internal communication (20%)
- d) Proficiency in Portuguese and English and excellent communication skills (15%)
- e) Experience in the use of project management and communication tools (20%)

**j. Monthly allowance:**

The monthly stipend will be 1.309,64 euros, according to the table of values of the Regulations for Research Scholarships of the Centro de Estudos Sociais ([https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela\\_valores\\_SMM\\_2025.pdf](https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf)). The payment of the Voluntary Social Insurance and the Personal Accident Insurance adds up to this amount.

**k. Mandatory requirements:**

1. Hold a master's degree in Sociology, Anthropology, Management or International Relations (see conditions in b.).
2. Availability for working in-person at Centre for Social Studies.
3. Be enrolled in a doctoral degree course.
- a) Applicants must provide proof of enrolment in a doctoral or non-academic degree course, in the current academic year. If at the time of application, the applicant does not have a valid document proving their enrolment, they must send a declaration of honour in which they state to undertake the enrolment within a maximum period of 30 days after the communication of the results, under penalty of not contracting the scholarship.
- b) 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

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System, (law DL66/2018). Any candidate without the recognition of the degree(s) will be admitted to the competition, but during the evaluation process the selection panel, cannot:

- i. recognise the candidate's grades and assess according to the possession of such grades;
- ii. give equivalence to, or validate, the grade of her/his degree;
- iii. use that note or its conversion as an evaluation parameter.

In case of selection, the scholarship contract can only be signed after the recognition of the academic degree by the Portuguese authorities, under the terms of the Law-decree n66/2018, August 16. The selected candidate must deliver the recognition of the degree within 30 days after the communication of the results. After the 30 days, the jury may decide to 1. either extend the deadline for the candidate to prove the recognition; 2. assign the fellowship to the second place; 3. or not award the fellowship.

## I. Selection process

Applicants will be selected based on curricular evaluation. In case of equivalent curricular evaluations, the strongest applications will be invited to an interview, conducted in English and Portuguese, meant to assess the applicants' potential in integrating the project's scientific dynamic. In case the jury conducts a second stage for interviews, each evaluation method will weigh 50% of the final score.

The jury reserves the right not to award the grant if none of the candidates fits the required profile.

## m. Selection panel:

- Luciane Lucas dos Santos (president)
- Sheila Holz (permanent member)
- Gustavo Garcia-Lopez (permanent member)
- Beatriz Caitana (invited member)
- Rita Calvário (substitute member)
- Cláudia Pato Carvalho (substitute member)

## n. Communication of Results:

All candidates will receive the results by email. The meeting minutes of the selection panel will become available publicly. After communicating the results, applicants have 10 working days to present a redress to the evaluation and the result by email.

## Additional information

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, territory of origin, and disability.

(Law nº 93/2017, 23 August; Law nº 4/2019, 10 January).

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## *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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