MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS 2020
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HOSTING MARIE CURIE FELLOWS

HOST INSTITUTION

NOVA FCSH | School of Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Unit: CICS.Nova

RESEARCH GROUP AND URL

Cities, Environment and Regional Development
URL: https://www.cics.nova.fcsh.unl.pt/research/research-groups/3-cities-environment-and-regional-development

SUPERVISOR (NAME AND E-MAIL)

Alison Laurie Neilson
E-mail: aln@fcsh.unl.pt

SHORT CV OF THE SUPERVISOR

Alison Neilson is an interdisciplinary researcher who transcends boundaries between arts/sciences, academic/non-academic and researcher/researched in knowledge creation and fisheries governance. She works on environmental justice issues in small-scale fishing communities of the Azores Islands Portugal. She conducts narrative and arts-informed research on the way sustainability is understood and used in education and fishing policy. She looks at the way knowledge, wisdom and politics are mixed together. Alison is also associated with the Centre for Social Studies, CES, University of Coimbra and a member of multiple networks related to people and the sea (e.g., OceanGov COST, SIHD-ICES). She is also a trained facilitator and accredited teacher trainer.

Current projects:

- 2018-2021: 9 Islands, 1 Book Azores Fishing Communities – photo narrative book, research/community collaborative crowdfunded initiative
- 2018-2021: ALL Artist-Led Learning in Higher Education. EU Erasmus+

5 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


**PROJECT TITLE AND SHORT DESCRIPTION**

**SEA-ALF: Fishing for ocean literacies that nourish / Pescar alfabetizações oceânicas que nutrem**

SEA-ALF begins from the premise that Ocean Literacy is filled with contested ideas about “living in”, “living from”, “living as” and “living with” the ocean, but dominant narratives and ways of communicating hide all others. This research project seeks to uncover the ways that knowledge and worldviews from the very people most connected with oceans is missing from much of what passes as Ocean Literacy today. We draw from decades of living on islands and working with small-scale fishing communities in multiple research collaborations about participation, education, ocean governance, knowledge construction and sustainable justice. But we begin this research by seeking the voices of the people who live in small coastal communities and on islands in the Atlantic Ocean, making their livelihoods primarily from fishing. The first research activity is to seek diverse expressions of ocean-entwined worldviews from Portuguese and Spanish fishers and their families, as they go about their daily activities. As such we seek informal conversations which we hope will lead to a collection of short video taped messages of the type that we regularly see posted on social media by fishermen and fisherwomen to their friends, family and community. These expressions of why the ocean is important and what these people need to sustain their livelihoods and coastal cultures will form the basis for our comparison to the narratives that we uncover in the subsequent parts of this research. After a series of document analysis, mapping 4 different sites of learning, we return again to the fishing communities to engage with them through citizen science and participatory research to learn about the ways that the ocean feeds their minds and stomachs. Finally, in addition to communication in scholarly journals, we share the results of the research through a facilitated process of creative collaborative story writing with community members so that we will co-create Ocean Literacy materials and pedagogy that can nourish these communities.

I am looking to build a larger team of social scientists (or researchers from humanities) who work on fisheries related issues in the Azores. For the past 12 years, I have managed numerous research grants and education projects in the islands. Currently I supervise a PhD project based on participation and governance in Azores fisheries and I collaborate with another PhD student who studies justice and compliance with regulations and laws. We collaborate with various fisheries biologists as well. I have strong working relations with the fishing associations on all 9 islands, women’s associations and multiple other local associations, FLAGs, government depts, etc. This is a very strong base from which to continue to do social and environmental justice projects, such as the proposed SEA-ALF, or others proposed by interested researchers.
Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
Interdisciplinary social sciences, particularly starting from Education or Fisheries or Community Development, but Humanities are also welcome, especially any arts-informed/based scholarly practices.