



MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS 2021

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HOSTING MARIE CURIE FELLOWS

HOST INSTITUTION

NOVA University Lisbon | School of Social Sciences and Humanities

RESEARCH GROUP AND URL

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

SUPERVISOR (NAME AND E-MAIL)

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SHORT CV OF THE SUPERVISOR

Iva Miranda Pires is Associate Professor at NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa; she holds a degree in Geography, from the University of Coimbra and a PhD in Human Geography, from the University of Lisbon. She is the coordinator of the Master and of the PhD programs in Human Ecology. She is a senior researcher at CICS.Nova, the Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences. Since 2018 she is the elected President of the Society for Human Ecology (SHE). In Portugal, she is on the advisory board of the National Committee for the Struggle Against Food Waste. She was involved in the coordination or as team member of several research projects funded by the Portuguese Science Foundation (FCT) as well as international projects. She coordinated two projects funded by FCT (2006-2013) and the project Making Science work in Society (2010-13), Acções Integradas Luso-Britânicas Luso- financed by CRUP. She co-coordinated a project on food waste in Portugal, PERDA (Project on the Study and Reflection on Food Waste) a Green Ideas Award 2011 that calculated the first estimate on food loss and waste in Portugal. She was the scientific coordinator of FELOW Mundus (2013-2017), an Erasmus Mundus mobility program led by UNL, joining 17 Universities, 6 European and 11 Latin American universities. She was the coordinator of the Portuguese team in an Erasmus+ project With Nature to Mutual Understanding (2016-2019) and she is presently coordinating an EU KA2 Erasmus+ project Read4Succeed (2019-2022). Her main scientific areas of research are human ecology, sustainable development, food waste, social and economic geography. As regards her academic experience she has several publications on these topics, including books – XX as an editor/coordinator - book chapters and academic papers. She was visiting professor at Brazilian as well as European Universities. She organized and participated in seminars, symposia, conferences, and national and international congresses and workshops. She also supervises several master and PhD thesis.

5 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Pires, I., Fernandez-Zamudio, M., Vidal-Mones, B., Beltrão-Martins, R. (2020). The Impact of COVID-19 lockdown on Portuguese household's food waste behaviors. *Human Ecology Review*, 26 (1):59-69.
- Pires, I. (2019). Sustainable food transitions, moving from visions to practices: World Agendas on Sustainable Development and Local initiatives, paper presented at the Conference Learning from Transformative Action and Thinking, 16-18 Outubro, Santiago do Chile
- Pires, I. and Jesus, C. (2018). Fruta Feia: A Portuguese cooperative saving "ugly fruit" from waste, paper presented at the XXIII Conference of the Society for Human Ecology on Navigating Complexity: Human – Environmental Solutions for a Challenging Future, 7-10 July, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Lisbon, Portugal.

- Pires, I. (2018). Desperdício Alimentar. Série Ensaios, nº86. Lisboa: Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos. Depósito Legal nº444169/18
- Lorena, D; Pires, I. (2016). Combating food waste in Portugal: a case study of a civil society initiative, in I. Anna S. Olsson, Sofia M. Araújo and M. Fátima Vieira (Ed.) Food futures: ethics, science and culture, 9789086868346 (e-book -online only), 618 pag, Pages: 107 – 112. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.3920/978-90-8686-834-6_15. Wageningen: Wageningen Academic Publishers. eISBN: 978-90-8686-834-6 ISBN: 978-90-8686-288-7.

PROJECT TITLE AND SHORT DESCRIPTION

Food Insecurity during COVID-19 Pandemic

Globally, about 1/3 of the food produced is lost or wasted. In the EU 88Mt of food is lost or wasted every year with associated environmental, economic, and social cost. Food donation plays a key role in reducing food waste at the same time it contributes to relief food insecurity.

Food insecurity is a complex and dynamic social phenomenon that affects families that at some time during their lives and due to several circumstances lack access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs. Food insecurity can be found in various degree and can be associated to economic and social inequalities, enhanced by COVID Pandemic that caused a chain effect by affecting the main food donors, namely restaurants and canteens, that reduced food donations. According to the study “React-covid inquérito sobre alimentação e atividade física em contexto de contenção social”, conducted by Direção Geral da Saúde, in May 2020, 32% of Portuguese population was found to be at food insecurity situation and 8% of interviewed reported financial difficulties to access food (DGS, 2020). The changing situation of vulnerable families in the Covid 19 pandemic cannot be answered from prior knowledge or research: the pandemic created a situation that did not exist before and a change that came unexpectedly, for which neither the families nor the social institutions have been prepared. The pandemic caused changing behaviour and practices of actors providing food security, especially actors that act in economic roles and suffer from financial losses through the pandemic (farmers, food producers, donors). Details about the new attempts of the vulnerable families to get access to food in the unexpected crisis are not yet known. It is only known that the institutional support for the families collapsed temporarily or for longer time (as, for the example, the support for health care for many elderly and sick people in the pandemic).

The research is required to build new resilient food donor systems, created through joint learning from the crisis. Ideas should be collected through from all actors involved to create food security systems that are better prepared for unexpected, connected crises of which the crisis of food donation is an important part. The vulnerable families and the weak social groups that cannot sufficiently act by themselves to improve their situation (children, poor, elderly, unemployed, socially excluded) are in focus in the research.

SCIENTIFIC AREA WHERE THE PROJECT FITS BEST*

Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)