



MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS 2025
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HOSTING MARIE CURIE FELLOWS

HOST INSTITUTION

IPRI-NOVA and NOVA FCSH

RESEARCH GROUP AND URL

Democracy and governance: <https://ipri.unl.pt/index.php/pt/>

SUPERVISOR (NAME AND E-MAIL)

João Cancela joaocancela@fcs.unl.pt

SHORT CV OF THE SUPERVISOR

João Cancela is a political scientist and Assistant Professor at NOVA University Lisbon, where he teaches courses on democratic theory, political behaviour, and research methods. His research focuses on electoral participation, political representation, and the comparative study of democracy, with a particular emphasis on Southern Europe. He has published in journals such as *South European Society and Politics*, *Party Politics*, and the *Political Geography*. He is a member of the editorial board of *Relações Internacionais* and of the executive board of the Portuguese Institute of International Relations (IPRI). His current projects examine the political consequences of non-voting, the effects of participation in armed conflict on political attitudes, and the impact of natural disasters on elections.

5 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Cancela, J and Santana Pereira, J (forthcoming) Mecanismos e Impactos da Abstenção Eleitoral em Portugal, Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation
- Magalhães, P. C., & Cancela, J. (2025). Political neglect and support for the radical right: The case of rural Portugal. *Political Geography*, 116, 103224. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2024.103224>
- Palau, A. M., De Giorgi, E., Muñoz, L., & Cancela, J. (2023). The effect of ideological distance on voting behaviour in parliament under changing economic conditions: A comparison between Portugal and Spain. *Representation*, 60(3), 435–461. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00344893.2023.2237045>
- Cancela, J. (2022). Electoral turnout. In J. M. Fernandes, P. C. Magalhães, & A. C. Pinto (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Portuguese Politics* (pp. 291–304). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192855404.013.19>
- Quaranta, M., Cancela, J., Martín, I., & Tsirbas, Y. (2021). Trust, satisfaction and political engagement during economic crisis: Young citizens in Southern Europe. *South European Society and Politics*, 26(2), 153–179. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13608746.2021.1901969>

PROJECT TITLE AND SHORT DESCRIPTION

Uneven Development and Electoral Geography: Explaining Radical Right Support in Rural Europe

This project investigates how subnational disparities in human development shape political behaviour, with a focus on the rural vote for radical right parties. While existing research attributes the radical right's success

to economic stagnation or cultural backlash, this project explores a more nuanced hypothesis: that the persistence or decline of state-provided public goods — such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure — interacts with economic inequality to foster political neglect and resentment. Using Portugal as a starting case, the project will employ a mixed-methods approach to map the territorial variation of development indicators and link them to electoral outcomes. It aims to produce a typology of “left-behind” regions that moves beyond economic metrics, offering insights applicable to other European democracies experiencing similar political and territorial divides.

SCIENTIFIC AREA WHERE THE PROJECT FITS BEST*

Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)