

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

HOST INSTITUTION

Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

RESEARCH GROUP AND URL

CHAM – Center for the Humanities
Research Group: Environment, Interactions, and Globalisation (<https://cham.fcsh.unl.pt/en/research-groups-presentation.php?p=1425>)

SUPERVISOR (NAME AND E-MAIL)

Leonor Plácido de Medeiros – leonormedeiros@fcsh.unl.pt

SHORT CV OF THE SUPERVISOR

Leonor Medeiros is an archaeologist based in Lisbon, Portugal, and Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of NOVA University Lisbon (NOVA FCSH), where she currently coordinates the undergraduate degree in Archaeology. Her teaching focuses on Industrial Archaeology, Building Archaeology, Archaeological Heritage Communication, and methodological approaches to archaeological recording.

She holds a PhD in Heritage and Industrial Archaeology from Michigan Technological University (USA, 2018), with a dissertation on *“Heritage-led Development in Postindustrial Areas: A Systemic Approach to Industrial Landscapes”*, and an MA in Heritage Management from the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage (University of Birmingham, UK, 2008), where she researched comparative approaches to managing mining landscapes in Portugal and the UK.

Her academic and professional work is dedicated to the documentation, interpretation, and public engagement of cultural heritage, especially in connection with post-industrial communities. She is particularly interested in how industrial and architectural archaeology can support sustainable development and local empowerment. Her current research includes the Erasmus+ project *“Miradas sobre la Ciudad”*, exploring how interdisciplinary heritage approaches can improve urban life; *“Fornos de Cal Lx”*, an investigation into the production and use of lime in Lisbon since the 18th century; and *“INCPI”*, a collaborative platform for the inventory of industrial heritage.

She is an integrated researcher at CHAM – Centre for the Humanities, President of APAI – Portuguese Association for Industrial Archaeology, member of ICOMOS – PT, and board member of TICCIIH – The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage.

Beyond academia, Leonor is an active science communicator, participating in public talks, workshops, and creative outreach formats such as stand-up comedy. In 2011, she was the Portuguese national winner of FameLab, an international competition for science communication.

5 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Medeiros, L. (2022). **Heritage-led Development - A Systemic Approach**. In S. L. Viegas (Ed.), *Other landscapes of cultural heritage(s): History and politics* (pp. 119–134). Edições Colibri
- Medeiros, L. & Garcia-Fernandez, J. (2020). **Making Sites and Objects Talk: Experiences in Academic Research, New Technologies and Community Engagement**. *Int. Arch. Photogramm. Remote Sens. Spatial Inf. Sci.*, XLIV-M-1-2020, 263–270, <https://doi.org/10.5194/isprs-archives-XLIV-M-1-2020-263-2020>, 2020

- Medeiros, L. (2018). **Heritage-Led Development in Postindustrial Areas: A systemic approach to industrial landscapes**. PhD Dissertation, Michigan Technological University. <https://digitalcommons.mtu.edu/etdr/673/>
- Medeiros, Leonor. (2013). **Turismo Industrial na Faixa Piritosa Ibérica: visões e aplicações de ambos os lados da fronteira**. In Jacinto, Rui (coord), Coleção Iberografias: Nº 25 - Condições de vida, Coesão social e Cooperação Territorial. Centro de Estudos Ibéricos.
- Medeiros, Leonor. (2009) **Managing Mining Landscapes – Some issues and cases in Portugal and the UK**. in *Rosetta* 7.5: 9-13. <http://www.rosetta.bham.ac.uk/issue7supp/managing-mining-landscapes/>

PROJECT TITLE AND SHORT DESCRIPTION

Transforming Territories: Archaeology, Heritage, and Community at the São Domingos Mine (T-ARCH São Domingos)

The Transforming Territories project proposes a multi-year, community-based archaeological intervention at the São Domingos Mine, located in the municipality of Mértola, southern Portugal. The main goal is to investigate, document, and enhance the industrial and social heritage of this historically rich and environmentally complex landscape.

Rooted in archaeological work focused on the mine's extensive legacy — a network of extraction areas, processing facilities, industrial infrastructures, workers' housing, and supporting settlements that stretch over 15 kilometres — the project engages with more than 150 years of continuous mining activity that has profoundly shaped both the territory and the lives of those who inhabited and laboured in it. From the mid-19th century until the mine's closure in 1966, São Domingos was a symbol of the country's modernization, but it also meant struggle, contestation and colonial conflict, leaving behind both material remains and a living archive of memories and identities.

The project seeks not only to expand the historical and archaeological understanding of this landscape — supporting archival research and oral history — but also to develop and test inclusive methodologies for integrating the local community in the processes of research, interpretation, and heritage management. The initiative draws upon diverse approaches, including industrial archaeology, community archaeology, landscape archaeology, building archaeology, and anthropology, to foster a dynamic dialogue between past and present, and to co-create new meanings and strategies for the future of the site.

We are looking for team members who are passionate about socially engaged archaeology, and who value collaboration, care, and long-term commitment to place. The project recognises both the tangible heritage of the mining infrastructure and landscapes, and the intangible dimensions of memory, identity, and experience that continue to shape the community of São Domingos today.

Participants will be expected to contribute actively to all aspects of the fieldwork, including excavation, stratigraphic recording, architectural and landscape survey, and digital documentation techniques such as photogrammetry, 3D modelling and GIS mapping. Equally important is participation in the community component, which includes public archaeology events, memory workshops, open days, co-creation sessions, and collaboration with local schools, associations, and residents. A particular emphasis will be placed on intergenerational dialogue and on making the project's results accessible, relevant and meaningful to the people of São Domingos.

This is an opportunity to join a long-term, interdisciplinary, and community-driven project, in which archaeology becomes a vehicle not only for understanding complex industrial pasts, but also for supporting local agency, reflection and regeneration. Team members will be part of a collective effort to reimagine the legacy of mining — not as a static monument to decline, but as a living heritage with the potential to inspire care, creativity, and sustainable futures.

SCIENTIFIC AREA WHERE THE PROJECT FITS BEST*

Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)