

Jangada – Rede Internacional de Cátedras, Centros de Investigação e Associações

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I Cátedra Internacional José Saramago | Universidade de Vigo | Faculdade de Filoxía e Tradución | Prazas das Cantigas, s/n | 36310 Vigo (Galiza, Spain)

Jangada – Rede Internacional de Cátedras, Centros de Investigação e Associações

Jangada – International Network of Lusophone and Galician Chairs, Research Centers and Associations,

Jangada – Rede Internacional de Cátedras, Centros de Investigação e Associações is an International Network of Lusophone and Galician Chairs, Research Centers and Associations, which was founded in 2019, in Pontevedra (Galicia).

The name *Jangada* refers to the title of the novel *Jangada de Pedra, The Stone Raft*, by Portuguese Nobel Prize-winning author, José Saramago. This novel was published in 1986, when Portugal and Spain joined the former European Economic Community, today's European Union. The premise of the novel is that the Iberian Peninsula has broken off the European continent and finds itself floating freely in the Atlantic Ocean. Politicians around the world are forced to deal with the traumatic effects, while five characters coming from Portugal and Spain get involved in a journey across the peninsula as the landmass goes on moving until it stops between Africa and South America.

The novel is of course an allegory of the need to expand European perspectives and identities. This idea of the Iberian Peninsula as a raft between Europe, Africa and the Americas became the founding idea behind our network, and it is also obviously connected to different aspects of migration.

The network comprises the nine Saramago chairs existing worldwide, 3 of them are located in Spain, and the other four are in Italy, Argentina, Mexico, Bulgaria, Peru and Brasil.

Other members are five chairs of Lusophone studies in Portugal, Spain, France and Colombia, as well as five research institutes in the US, Galicia/Spain, Brazil, Portugal and

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France. There are also another international network plus an international pedagogical association that have joined *Jangada*.

Furthermore, along with the institutions and organisations previously mentioned, there are already numerous individual associate members from different universities around the world.

Detailed information on this network, its partners and their individual activities is available in Portuguese above.

The **general objective** of the **Jangada** network is to create synergies and to promote collaboration among its members in relation to the projects and activities that are being developed and carried out within the scope of current Lusophone Studies, be it through teaching, research or extension activities, and always privileging interdisciplinary approaches.

It seems obvious to us that today's Lusophone Studies call for transversality, internationalization and interdisciplinarity. We could refer, for example, to the interrelations among literature and justice, law, human rights, anthropology, philosophy, politics, feminism, post-colonialism and ecocriticism, along with others.

Our partners belong to different academic, cultural and national systems, on whose support we depend to a greater or lesser extent. But the transversality that we intend to create, the decentralization and the deterritorialization to which we aspire, the mutual support and the convergences that we can generate might help us to achieve a greater autonomy in relation to our academic and political systems.

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Thus, the network aims to strengthen, within our respective contexts, the critical spirit and the impulse to action and change which José Saramago always demanded and practiced.

Joint research and other activities, dissemination projects, knowledge transfer and all kinds of innovations within Lusophone Studies are **specific objectives** of the Jangada network.

With this network we are trying to respond to **three central ideas** that can be deduced from the work and thought of the Portuguese Nobel Prize laureate José Saramago.

Firstly, the concept of transiberism, which was coined by Saramago in order to highlight the need for the Iberian Peninsula, and Europe as a whole, to understand themselves as being interwoven, not only culturally, but also ethically, with the many and diverse cultural spaces that emerge from colonialism. This includes the notion of Europe taking responsibility for colonialism, the idea of, in Saramago's words: "a finally ethical Europe".

Therefore, we consider it is essential to emphasize all kinds of minorities and underprivileged groups. The fact that the impulse to create this network was born in Galicia is itself paradigmatic. Galicia, a nation without a state, historically colonized by Spain and Spanish culture, drowned in self-hate and still suffering from a sort of an inferiority complex, had been, nonetheless, the cultural and literary cradle not only of the Portuguese-speaking world, but also of a fundamental part of the Ibero-Romance world in general.

The **second central idea** that instigated the creation of the network is the “Universal Charter of Duties and Obligations of the Individuals”, suggested by José Saramago as a necessary complement to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. An [English translation of the text](#) may be found, together with further information, on this [link](#) of the website of the International José Saramago Chair.

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This charter, submitted by the Saramago Foundation to the United Nations in 2018, was developed by an international committee of experts and was inspired by the speech delivered by Saramago at the Nobel Banquet in 10 December 1998. The following quotation, which also precedes the Charter, explains the main objectives of our network perfectly well:

"Nobody performs her or his duties. Governments do not, because they do not know, they are not able or they do not wish, or because they are not permitted by those who effectively govern the world: The multinational and pluricontinental companies whose power – absolutely nondemocratic – reduce to next to nothing what is left of the ideal of democracy. We citizens are not fulfilling our duties either. Let us think that no human rights will exist without symmetry of the duties that correspond to them. It is not to be expected that governments in the next 50 years will do it. Let us common citizens therefore speak up. With the same vehemence as when we demanded our rights, let us demand responsibility over our duties. Perhaps the world could turn a little better." (José Saramago, 1998)

Finally, the **third central idea** of the network stems from the awareness that truly important and meaningful changes can be achieved only if we adopt, at the right moments, extra-systemic positions and actions. This is to say that we must never forget that our educational, academic and scientific systems increasingly depend on economic and political conditions, on lobbyism and oligarchies, and so on.

The ideals of a secular humanism, as a democratic and ethical life stance, that fosters the right and responsibility to achieve meaningfulness and allows young people to freely shape their own individual personalities, are being gradually withered away from our educational and university systems.

Our network is obviously aware that we must continue to resist to these dynamics within the system. That we must try, as Saramago said, to "turn the world a little better" by contributing to build an ethic based on human and ecological values, not abandoning those who already

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are and/or want to stay within the system. But we are also aware that the system is in itself unsustainable, and that one of our moral duties and obligations is to bring education, in general, and the university, in particular, directly to the people, without the fees, ratings or grades we know today.

Our first joint publication has been the volume on *José Saramago e os desafios do nosso tempo* (Barcelona: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona 2021), exploring many interdisciplinary approaches to the political questions in Saramago's writing and thinking.

Besides, in 2022, on the centenary of José Saramago's birth, several partners of this network organised many different activities. An example of such initiatives was the [Itinerant Conferencens - José Saramago Centenary "Escrevo para compreender"](#), where 4 European Saramago's chairs hosted 4 independent conferences that took place in Barcelona, Sofia, Rome and Vigo.

The *Jangada* network will always be pleased to receive your questions or proposals. You can contact us via the José Saramago Chair of the University of Vigo: catedrasaramago@uvigo.gal.

MEMBERS LIST

Founding members

I Cátedra Internacional José Saramago (CJS-UVigo, Universidade de Vigo). Coordination: Burghard Baltrusch.

Cátedra Libre José Saramago (Universidad Nacional de Córdoba). Coordination: Miguel Koleff.

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Cátedra José Saramago (Università degli Studi Roma Tre). Coordination: Giorgio de Marchis.

Cátedra Extraordinária José Saramago (Universidad Autónoma de México). Coordination: Alma Delia Miranda.

Cátedra José Saramago (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona). Coordination: Jordi Cerdà Subirachs.

Cátedra José Saramago (Universidad de Granada). Coordination: Ana Isabel García López.

Cátedra Mário Cesariny (Universitat de les Illes Balears). Coordination: Perfecto Cuadrado.

Cátedra Solange Parvaux CREPAL - Centre de recherches sur les pays lusophones, EILA / Paris 3 (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3). Coordination: Olinda Kleiman. Membro integrado na *Jangada*: Egídia Souto.

Cátedra Poesia e Transcendência Sophia de Mello Breyner Andresen (Universidade Católica Portuguesa / Porto). Coordination: José Rui Teixeira.

Cátedra Fernando Pessoa (Universidad de los Andes). Coordination: Jerónimo Pizarro.

Center for Portuguese Studies (University of California, Santa Barbara). Coordination: **Élide Valarini Oliver**. The Center for Portuguese Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara was founded with an endowment from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation for the purpose of promoting and developing studies about the Portuguese speaking world

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in California and in the United States of America. The Center sponsors students and activities related to the Portuguese speaking world. The Center also provides support for teaching and degree programs and promotes the study of the literatures, language and cultures of the Portuguese-speaking world. The Center has also received support from various institutions, among which the Instituto Camões, the Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento, the Junta Nacional de Investigação Científica e Tecnológica, the Comissão Nacional para a Comemoração dos Descobrimentos Portugueses, the Fundação Oriente, The União Portuguesa do Estado da Califórnia, the Luso-American Education Foundation, and from individuals and alumni. The Center encourages donations from foundations and individuals interested in the continuation of its mission to promote the study and dissemination of the Portuguese speaking world in the United States and elsewhere. Portuguese, as aforementioned, is spoken by more than 200 million speakers in the world. It encompasses a diverse and rich corpus of different cultures, literatures, art, cinema, music, architecture and so much more. However, it is considered a "Critical Language" by the United States Government - the only European language designated as such - meaning that Portuguese is understudied in the United States despite playing a key role in global commerce, politics and culture worldwide. It is the mission of the Center for Portuguese Studies to support students invested in learning the skills necessary to bridge this gap and to envision a future where Portuguese plays an important role in their future careers. The Center for Portuguese Studies at UCSB publishes the *Santa Barbara Portuguese Studies*, which is an online publication dedicated to the promotion of the literatures and cultures of the Portuguese speaking world. As a peer reviewed journal, it invites the submission of articles about literature, culture and interdisciplinary fields related to the Portuguese speaking world in the following languages: Portuguese, English, French, Italian and Spanish.

Instituto Galego de Análise e Documentación Internacional (IGADI). Coordination: Daniel González Palau. **de Análise e Documentación Internacional (IGADI)**. [*Galician Institute for International Analysis and Documentation.*]

Centro de Estudos Humanísticos (CEHUM) (Universidade do Minho, Braga / Guimarães) [*Centre for Humanistic Studies of the University of Minho*], represented through the **Grupo de Investigação em Estudos Humanísticos em Migrações e Marginalização (EHum2M)** [*Research*

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group: Humanistic Studies on Migration and Marginalization.]. **Coordination: Orlando Grossegeese.**

Grupo Estudos Sobre o Romance (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte).
Coordination: Pedro Fernandes de Oliveira Neto. [*Research group on novels.*]

Rede da GaliLusofonia. **Coordination: Gonzalo Constenla.** [*Network of different Galician and Portuguese entities aiming to promote relations between Galicia and the lusophone world.*]

Asociación Cultural e Pedagóxica PONTE...NAS ONDAS! **Coordination: Santiago Veloso Troncoso.** [*Ponte... nas ondas/ Bridge over the waves Cultural and Pedagogical Association*]

Ana Paula Ferreira (University of Minnesota). Professor of Spanish and Portuguese Studies.

Kathrin Saringen (Universität Wien, Institut für Romanistik). Professor of lusophone literature and communication science.

Membros that joined the Jangada network after 1 December 2019:

Cátedra Lindley Cintra (Universidade Marie Curie-Skłodowska). **Coordination: Barbara Hlibowicka-Węglarz.**

Centro de Estudos Portugueses da Universidade Federal do Paraná (CEP-UFPR) – Administration -Board: Antonio Augusto Nery, Marcelo Corrêa Sandmann e Patricia da Silva Cardoso. [*Centre for Resarch on Portuguese Studies – Federal University of Paraná.*]

Cátedra José Saramago (Universidade de Sófia Sveti Kliment Ohridski). Coordination: Yana Andreeva.

Cátedra de História da Cultura Portuguesa "José Saramago" (Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru). Coordination: José Ballón Vargas / Luís Novais. [*José Saramago Chair for the History of Portuguese Culture.*]

Cátedra José Saramago (Universidade Federal do Paraná). Coordination: Patrícia da Silva Cardoso.

Paris Institute for Critical Thinking. Coordination: Evrim Emir-Sayers. The Paris Institute for Critical Thinking (PICT) is a non-profit research and educational association based in Paris, France. Our goal is to take learning, scholarship, and discussion about the Arts and Humanities out of the academic milieu and open it up to the general public. PICT has been active since 2018 and organizes a variety of courses, workshops, public lectures, and conferences, mostly in Paris. Our website hosts a number of journals, podcast series, and videos; and we also run our own publishing imprint, PICT Books. While our team is fully international, our primary language is English as the current *lingua franca* of the world. PICT is a fully independent, volunteer-run organization that rejects state or corporate funding and is only supported by individual membership contributions. To remove economic barriers to participation, our entire in-person Arts & Humanities program is free for our members, all our online resources are open-access, and our books are affordably priced according to our non-profit ethos. Our faculty members are free to create and design their courses according to their own interests, and our courses are open to everyone regardless of factors such as education level and age. To ensure lively discussion, courses are capped at 10 participants. We reject online teaching as well as credits, grades, diplomas, and any other means of standardizing or commodifying the learning experience.

Our online and printed publications aim to be jargon-free and driven by genuine concerns rather than the so-called publish-or-perish imperative endemic to academia. While our journals and books follow strict review guidelines, we are particularly concerned with giving a voice to persons, topics, and styles that are silenced by the gatekeeping functions of traditional academic publishing and peer review. PICT hopes to show that a different kind

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of education is possible. However inevitable any institutionalized system confronting us might seem, we as individuals can always bond in solidarity to produce alternatives to it. The only real inevitability is change, and we aim to offer a concrete example of such change, an example that we hope will serve as inspiration to others.

Individual members, who joined the Jangada network on 1 December 2019 during the IV International José Saramago Conference of the University of Vigo:

Luís Ricardo Duarte

Rita Pitada

José Vieira

Victoria Ferrara

Luísa de Pinho Valle

Miriam Ringel

Carlos Machado

Marisa Piehl

Wagner R. Araújo

Ana Cláudia Henriques

Maria Rijo

Renan Antônio da Silva

Antonio Augusto Nery

[For more detailed information on Jangada members, please see the Portuguese version in our website:

<https://catedrasaramago.webs.uvigo.es/pt/rede-jaricca/> .]