

## Overview of American Studies in Portugal

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**Publisher**

European Association for American  
Studies

**Electronic version**

URL: <http://ejas.revues.org/432>

DOI: 10.4000/ejas.432

ISSN: 1991-9336

**Electronic reference**

Isabel Caldeira, « Overview of American Studies in Portugal », *European journal of American studies* [Online], Vol 1, No 1 | 2006, document 15, Online since 11 January 2006, connection on 30 September 2016. URL : <http://ejas.revues.org/432> ; DOI : 10.4000/ejas.432

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- 1 The practice of American Studies in Portugal evolved out of a philological tradition that might be seen in all of the courses taught at the five public Universities (Lisbon – Classic and New, Oporto, Coimbra, and Aveiro) and at the semi-private Catholic University until the Revolution of 1974. The following decade opened up new opportunities for the expansion of the field with the establishment of a few other public universities around the country (Évora, Minho, Algarve, Beira Interior, Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Open University, Madeira and Azores) as well as several private institutions.
- 2 In undergraduate teaching, language and literature have been traditionally privileged areas, but linguistics and culture have gained ground within the curricula in the classic universities since the late 1970s. As a response to the present crisis in the Humanities, an effort is being made to appeal to a wider range of candidates. Changes are being implemented in the curricula and new courses are being offered. As the following data will show, the newer universities seem to be more open to interdisciplinary studies, although many creative practices of interdisciplinarity can be detected in the traditional curricula of older universities. However, it is noticeable that there is a general tendency to respond to developments in the field of American Studies in the US, with a growing exploration of social science, history, women and gender studies, comparative cultural studies, studies of identity, minority and ethnic studies, cinema and other arts.
- 3 For years, American Literature was the only discipline that was taught in Portuguese universities, and only at Coimbra, Lisbon and Oporto. The first Doctorate in American Studies to be held by a Portuguese academic dates from 1973, and was earned by Maria Irene Ramalho de Sousa Santos at the University of Yale. The wide range of activity Professor Santos subsequently developed at the University of Coimbra, including the intensive supervision of numerous MA theses and PhD dissertations around the country, the longstanding collaboration with the Fulbright Program, and her many efforts toward internationalization greatly contributed to the growing visibility of American Studies in Portugal.

- 4 It was only in the 1980s that the first Master of Arts programs were created. Since then, over 100 MA theses have been produced all over the country (50% in the field of cultural studies, 50% in literary studies).
- 5 Current American Studies MA programs include the following seminars: Cinema and Literature, Studies of Identity, American Modernism (U Lisbon); History – Immigration, Historical Overview of American Studies, Theories of American Studies, History and Literature, Utopia in America, Science Fiction, Poetry and American Studies, African-American Literature and Culture (U Coimbra); Spaces and Memory: Representations of Place, Representations of America and of the South, (U Oporto); American History, American Culture, American Literature (Poetry and the Arts), Literature and Cinema, Educational Theories (Open U); Modernity in American Literature, Images of the West in 20<sup>th</sup>-century Literature and Art; Literature and Gender (Catholic U)
- 6 There are also other MA programs—in Anglo-American or Anglo-Portuguese Studies—that include seminars in American Studies: Cinema (U Coimbra); Spaces and Memories in Anglo-American Poetry by Women, Representations of the Non-Place: Spaces of Dystopia in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (U Oporto); American Culture (New University of Lisbon); American Literature (U Minho); 20<sup>th</sup>-century American Literature, 20<sup>th</sup>-century American Culture, Cinema, Theatre, Post-Colonial Studies (U Aveiro).
- 7 Although Doctoral seminars are still rare in Portuguese Faculties of Letters, a significant number of PhD dissertations in American Studies, predominantly focusing on literature, have been produced all over the country especially since the late 1980s. A transdisciplinary doctoral course created at Coimbra in 2004, "Languages, Identities and Globalization," includes two seminars in Anglo-American Studies.
- 8 The community of Americanists in Portugal is still very small, perhaps as few as 40 people affiliated with joint departments (Anglo-American, Anglo-German) or with larger groups (Social Sciences and Humanities, Languages and Literatures, Languages and Cultures). If in the past we would complain about large numbers of students and a heavy class load, the current crisis in the Humanities has completely changed the situation.
- 9 Although academic employment has been suffering many restrictions since the late 1980s, the present situation has put a stop to any increases of faculty in the foreseeable future. Besides an absurd amount of administrative work (characteristic of our traditionally bureaucratic society), democratic organization in small departments demands a lot from every individual. In addition to these factors, there is now a great pressure to revise curricula and invent new courses in a desperate attempt to survive the current crisis. Present economic strains in Portugal do not encourage research in the Humanities, and fewer and fewer institutions offer academic grants. All in all, we live in an environment that does not favor consistent and intensive scholarly production.
- 10 A cursory reading of the following list of selected publications by Portuguese Americanists in recent years gives us an immediate sense that the dominant interest is still literary analysis—comprising almost 75% of the listed items, notwithstanding the emphasis on cultural studies, visual arts, cyberculture, etcetera, in graduate teaching.
- 11 "Blurring of Boundaries/Intercultural Dialogues" (Teresa F. A. Alves, Teresa Cid).
- 12 "The City in American Literature" (Carlos Azevedo [coordinator], Maria João Pires, Maria Teresa Castilho, Ana Cristina Carneiro, Arminda João Seabra do Amaral, Clara Sarmento, Susana Cruz, Susana Magalhães).

- 13 “Memory, Violence and Identity – New Comparative Perspectives on Modernism” (Maria Irene Ramalho de Sousa Santos, co-coordinator), collective research project, with a strong comparative design and multidisciplinary. It includes the following individual projects: “Sex and Sexuality in Modernist Poetics” (Maria Irene Ramalho S. Santos), “The Race of the Nation: From Modernism to Post-Modernism in the African-American Text” (Isabel Caldeira), “Memory and Forgetting in the Modernist Transnation: Carey McWilliams and Social Modernism” (Maria José Canelo), “Modernity in Cather and Faulkner” (Paula Mesquita); “Windows of Modernism: Pessoa, Joyce and Fitzgerald (Inês Lage Pinto-Basto), “Inverting the Middle Passage: Return and Modernity in African-American Narrative” (Ana Luísa Saraiva).
- 14 “The City in American Culture” (Maria Laura Pires); “Minorities in the US: History, Education and Culture” (António Simões), “Literature and the Arts” (Mário Avelar), “Feminist Movements in America” (Anne Cova), “Theory of Literature and Cultural Studies” (António Feijó).
- 15 “Literary Theory, Literature and Culture” (Maria Helena Paiva Correia, Coordinator) – translation of theoretical and critical texts in English; American literatures and cultures – studies of identity.
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- 16 “Deterritorialization of Words in *L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E* Poetry and in the Poetry by Portuguese Immigrants in the US” (Graça Capinha); “Nationalism and Literary Magazines in Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century” (Maria José Canelo), part of a collective project on “Globalization”, 2001;
- 17 Translation into Portuguese of *I’m Not Rappaport*, by Herb Gardner (João Paulo Moreira).
- 18 “Portugal and the Discovery of America” (Maria Laura Pires, Coordinator), René Garay, New York University (CUNY), Mário Avelar, University of Lisbon;
- 19 “Literature of Exile” (Maria Laura Pires, Coordinator)
- 20 “Two International Associations of Women of American Initiative: *International Council of Women* and *International Women’s Suffrage Alliance*” (Anne Cova, Coordinator);
- 21 “Multicultural Education and the History of Linguistic Minorities in the United States” (António Simões, Coordinator).
- 22 Teresa Botelho, New University of Lisbon: book on the history of the American press and an article on Asian-American crime fiction.
- 23 University of Oporto: Carlos Azevedo on urban space and representation in the Harlem Renaissance and on modernism in William Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying* and the South in *Yoknapatawpha County*”; Teresa Castilho on *Delta Wedding*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and utopianism in *The Scarlet Letter*.
- 24 University of Coimbra: Maria Irene Ramalho S. Santos, organization (with António Sousa Ribeiro and Isabel Caldeira) of a book on *Modernisms* (including essays by several other Americanists); “Tradition and Violence: A Comparative Study of Lyric Poetry in Modernity” (focusing mainly on American and Portuguese poets) and Maria José Canelo, “Violence and Language in *Common Ground*”—both part of a collective research project, coordinated by a Germanist—“The Representation of Violence and the Violence of Representation”;

- 25 Graça Capinha, “L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E School: Poetics and Citizenship”; Translation into Portuguese of the Selected Poems of Robert Duncan and revision of the translation into Portuguese of the Collected Poems of Robert Creeley (Graça Capinha); *Female Voices in the Poetry of Portuguese Immigrants*; *Poetry between Portuguese Discoveries and Portuguese Immigration*;
- 26 Teresa Tavares: comparative American studies - immigration.
- 27 Isabel Caldeira: comparative work between Lusophone African writers and African-American writers; translation of African-American texts.
- 28 University of Aveiro: David Callahan: publications on James Fenimore Cooper and James Welch, Diane Glancy, Susanna Moore, Janett Turner Hospital; Anthony Barker on American Cinema; Reinaldo Silva on Lusophone American Literature and Representations of the Portuguese in American Literature.
- 29 “Fashioning One’s Life After a Land of Lost Borders: Mary Austin’s *Earth Horizon*.” *Novas Histórias Literárias/New Literary Histories*, Ed. Isabel Caldeira et al. Coimbra: MinervaCoimbra, 2004;
- 30 “Cânone e Diversidade”, *Cadernos de Anglistica* 9, Lisboa: Colibri e CEAUL, 2003;
- 31 “Autobiographies of Women in the 'Promised Land'”. *Feminine Identities. Cadernos de Anglistica* 5 (Lisboa 2003), 133-160;
- 32 “Imprisonment and Madness: The Patterns of the Entrapped Self”. *Identity Matters. Anglo-Saxónica, Série II* 16/17 (Lisboa 2002), 183-195;
- 33 “'Some Enchanted Evening'—Tuning In the Amazing Fifties, Switching Off the Elusive Decade”, *American Studies International*, XXXIX/3 (October 2001), 25-40;
- 34 “Gazing at the River, Throwing the Line, Daring the Waters”. *Rivers and the American Experience*. Lublin, 2000, 13-33;
- 35 “O conto como oficina da arte de narrar”. *A palavra e o canto: miscelânea de homenagem a Rita Iriarte*. Lisboa, 2000, 301-8;
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- 49 “*The ancient earthworks and temples of the American Indians*, de Lindesey Brine”, *Anglo-Saxónica*, 2000;
- 50 “What Happened to the American Dream?” *Sociedade e Cultura Norte-Americanas*. Ed. Maria Laura Bettencourt Pires. Lisboa: Universidade Aberta, 1997;
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- 52 *Sylvia Plath - O rosto oculto do poeta*. Lisboa: Cosmos, 1996;
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- 133 Mesquita, Paula. "Vestida para matar: *The Unvanquished*", in Volume de Homenagem a Margarida Losa.
- 134 \* Besides being selected, these are partial lists due to my difficulty in collecting more comprehensive ones.
- 135 Faculty Exchange Program with Georgetown University in Washington; Collaboration with Brown University in a project concerning Portuguese American Literature and Culture;
- 136 Participation and chairing of sessions in EAAS, ASA, Society for the Study of the Short Story (SSSS), and Modernist Studies Association (MSA).
- 137 SOCRATES Programme – Erasmus – Thematic Networks (TN), Rosi Braidotti, Universiteit Utrecht (Coordinator); Ana Gabriela Macedo, Department of English and North American Studies, University of Minho

- 138 [http://www.let.uu.nl/womens\\_studies/international/athena.php](http://www.let.uu.nl/womens_studies/international/athena.php)).
- 139 Exchange program with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with mobility of students, faculty and researchers (João Paulo Moreira: Director of UW Undergraduate Students at Coimbra;
- 140 M. Irene Ramalho S. Santos: International Affiliate, Department of Comparative Literature, UW-Madison (2004- );
- 141 M. Irene Ramalho S. Santos – First International Representative on the Women's Committee 2003-05, Chair 2004-05 and Program Committee 1999);
- 142 Participation in ASA (M. Irene Ramalho S. Santos, Isabel Caldeira, Graça Capinha; Participation in EAAS (Graça Capinha, João Paulo Moreira, Isabel Caldeira, Maria Irene Ramalho S. Santos, Stephen Wilson);
- 143 The International Meetings of Poets, organized by the Department of Anglo-American Studies at the University of Coimbra, since 1993 (Irene Ramalho S. Santos, President of the Organizing Committee);
- 144 Graça Capinha: collaboration and interchange with the Poetics Program at the University of New York at Buffalo (Directed by Charles Bernstein, Robert Creely, and Robert Bertholf);
- 145 Teresa Tavares: participation in Conferences of the Edith Wharton Society; and in the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Argentinian Association for American Studies, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Santa Fe; 4<sup>th</sup> Conference on Languages of Mercosul, Resistencia, Chaco; and lecture at the Universidad Argentina de la Empresa, Buenos Aires, 2005; Fulbright Summer Seminar, Multinational Institute of American Studies, New York University, 2003;
- 146 Isabel Caldeira: co-organization of a workshop in the EAAS, 1998 (with Kathleen Ashley, U. of Maine); regular participation in Conferences of the Toni Morrison Society (TMS); participation in Collegium for African American Research (CAAR), MELUS and Modernist Studies Association (MSA).
- 147 5<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Poets, 2004 – **University of Coimbra**
- 148 Colloquium on “Literatura e Qualidade de Vida” – **Open University**
- 149 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on "The Short Story in English" (21-29 June, 2006) – **University of Lisbon;**
- 150 Lecture Series on Dialogues between Literature and Art - **Open University;**
- 151 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Portuguese Association for Anglo-American, “Crossroads of History and Culture”, April 2006 – **New University of Lisbon (org.);**
- 152 6<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Poets, 2007 – **University of Coimbra.**

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**Keywords:** Literature, history, Poetry, minorities, women studies, gender studies, comparative cultural studies, identity, ethnic studies, cinema, arts