

5-6/9/2025 | Faculty of Sciences - University of Porto, Portugal

GREEN MARBLE 2025

***Fracturing futures:
surviving the age of polycrisis***

Program & Abstracts

Presentation

The future is not written – it is fractured, uncertain, and full of possibility. We are entering an era of discontinuity, where old economic, political, and ecological systems are breaking down, creating both chaos and openings for radical change. What lies ahead will not be a single narrative but a mosaic of competing realities, demanding adaptability and entirely new ways of thinking.

This emergent “polycrisis” – a convergence of multiple, interrelated crises – defies linear solutions. Climate collapse, geopolitical instability, technological disruption, economic inequality, and social fragmentation constitute a web of mutually reinforcing shocks. Their cascading interactions overwhelm conventional responses and expose the inadequacy of incremental reform. In such a volatile landscape, survival demands more than resilience; it calls for systemic reinvention.

The scale and scope of disruption call for radical adaptive strategies: a wholesale reimagining of how we organize, govern, produce, and coexist. This includes transitions from extractive to regenerative economies, from centralized hierarchies to distributed networks, and from atomized individualism to collaborative interdependence. The imperative is to navigate collapse while actively cultivating viable alternatives – such as decentralized energy systems, post-capitalist economic models like cooperatives and circular economies, and participatory governance structures exemplified by citizens’ assemblies.

The question is not simply how to endure fragmentation, but how to transmute it into renewal. This requires adaptive frameworks that allow systems to evolve under pressure, radical pluralism that values diverse perspectives, and regenerative cultures that restore and

nurture communities and ecosystems, rather than depleting them.

To move beyond mere survival and toward the construction of a livable future, we must pivot from reactive crisis management to proactive world-making. This entails envisioning a post-crisis reality - and undertaking the work of actualizing it in the present.

This meeting is framed as a gathering not of passive observers, but of those actively shaping alternatives. It aims to bridge theory and praxis by convening visionaries, practitioners, and changemakers across disciplines. "Fracturing Futures" is a call to embrace complexity, experiment fearlessly, and collaborate across boundaries. It rejects doom-and-gloom fatalism in favor of agency, creativity, and strategic reinvention. The goal is not merely to weather the storm but to redesign the ship while sailing it, turning disruption into opportunity and charting a course toward a more resilient world.

Program

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Porto, Portugal

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International Meeting on Anthropocene Studies and
Ecocriticism

"Fracturing futures: surviving the age of polycrisis"

September 5

9h30 | Registration

10h00 | Opening talk

Orfeu Bertolami (University of Porto)

*What If the Anthropocene Were Formally
Recognized?*

11h00 - 13h00 | Session 1

Chair: João Ribeiro Mendes

11h00, Agostino Cera (University of Ferrara)

*An Exercise in Koinology (Neo-Modernity as a
Pharmakon Against Fracturing Futures*

11h30, Aistis žekevičius (Lithuanian Culture
Research Institute)

*Exploitative Geologies, New Temporalities: A
Case for Geoplanetary Biopolitics?*

12h00, Michael Hemmingsen (Tunghai University
International College)

*Ecological Curation and Moral Cost: the Nature
We Like*

12h30, Kristupas Sabolius (Vilnius University)
Ecosocial Imagination and the Compossibility of Coexistence.

13h00 - 15h00 | Lunch

15h30 - 16h30 | Invited talk

Magnus Nyström (Stockholm Resilience Centre)
Resilience and Sustainability in Turbulent and Uncertain Times

Presented by Orfeu Bertolami (University of Porto)

16h30 - 18h30 | Session 2

Chair: Maria do Carmo Mendes

16h00, Mantas Daknys (Lithuanian Culture Research Center)

Philotopy as Ecological Thinking: Sensuous Orientation in a Changing World

16h30, Maria Rosário Bastos (Open University) - Olegário Pereira (Nova University Lisbon) - Catarina Jónia (Nova University Lisbon) - José Carlos Ferreira (Nova University Lisbon)

Governing Coastal Change: Adaptive Responses to Portugal's Littoral Challenges

17h00, Cláudia Toriz Ramos (Fernando Pessoa University)

How Green Is the Future? A Perspective on Green Ideology and Politics

17h30, Maria do Carmo Mendes (University of Minho)

Islands Under Strain: Oceanic Ecocriticism and Colonial Legacy

September 6

10h00 - 13h00 | Session 3

Chair: Sérgio Lira

10h00, Katarina Podušelová (Institute of Philosophy of the Slovak Academy of Sciences)

Becoming Homo Climaticus: Rethinking Temporality and Crisis in the Context of the Anthropocene

10h30, Emanuele Capozziello (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa)

Metamorphosis Beyond Resilience: A Shamanic Way to Ecological Adaptation

11h00, Ashley Jun (Independent Scholar)

Contemporary Crises of Sovereignty, and the Question of Arctic Indigenous Engagement

11h30, Sérgio Lira (Green Lines Institute for Sustainable Development)

Did You Ask for Authoritarianism?

12h00 - 14h00 | Lunch

14h00 - 15h30 | Invited talk

Rosa Fernandez Martin (Keele University)

Circularity in an era of crisis of values

Presented by Cláudia Toriz Ramos (Fernando Pessoa University, Porto)

15h30 - 17h30 | Session 4

Chair: João Ribeiro Mendes

15h30, Ângelo Milhano (University of Évora)

Anthropocene, Care and AI: Digital Transition and the Process of Technological Resignification of the World and the Human.

16h00, Ricardo Elísio (University of Porto)

Towards a Theory of Crises and Polycrisis.

16h30, Tiago Mesquita Carvalho (University of Porto)

*The Nature of Catastrophes and the
Obsolescence of Evil.*

17h00, João Ribeiro Mendes (University of Minho)

*Paul Virilio's Ominous Warning: Is the Collapse
of the Technosphere Inevitable?*

17h30 | CLOSING REMARKS

Abstracts

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***GOVERNING COASTAL CHANGE: ADAPTIVE
RESPONSES TO PORTUGAL'S LITTORAL CHALLENGES***

Abstract. Portugal's 900 km Atlantic coastline has become the site of pronounced territorial imbalance, marked by dense coastal occupation and the progressive desertification of inland regions. Today, over 80% of the population lives within 50 km of the coast, exposing these areas to increasing vulnerabilities, ranging from climate change impacts to environmental degradation, and intense urban pressures. Historically, the situation was different. During the Middle Ages, coastal zones were largely uninhabited, perceived as perilous spaces due to both natural hazards and human threats. Populations tended to settle 75-100 km inland. This pattern, however, shifted during Portugal's maritime expansion, which gradually stimulated settlement closer to the shoreline. The 19th and 20th centuries accelerated this reconfiguration: modern transport networks, airports, and the rise of coastal leisure and tourism encouraged mass coastal settlement, while inland areas declined. This historical evolution now poses significant challenges for spatial planners and environmental policymakers. Climate risks are especially acute in coastal zones, and the legacy of uneven development allied with the heavy dependence on grey infrastructure (e.g. groynes and seawalls) for protection, presents challenges for governance. To address these issues, the proposal urges for a reassessment of highly exposed and vulnerable coastal areas, the implementation of adaptive governance strategies suited for crisis contexts, and the promotion and integration of more sustainable approaches. Nature-based solutions, which enhance protection while

supporting biodiversity and human health and wellbeing, should be prioritized as part of long-term resilience strategies. Equally important in the active involvement of citizens in the planning process. Only through integrated, forward-looking spatial planning and meaningful public engagement can Portugal achieve more resilient, equitable, and sustainable territorial dynamics in the face of escalating coastal pressures.

Keywords: Historical coastal settlement; Environmental vulnerability; Risk-based planning; Socio-ecological education

Short CVs. ⁽¹⁾ Maria Rosário Bastos earned her Bachelor's degree in History and her Master's in Medieval History from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Porto. In 2006, she completed her Ph.D. at the Aberta University (Portugal), where she currently serves as a Professor of History in the Department of Social Sciences and Management. In 1998, she was awarded the "Vasco de Carvalho" History Prize for her Master's dissertation, *Santa Maria de Oliveira: A Monastic Domain in Entre-Douro-e-Minho in the Late Middle Ages*. In 2009, her doctoral thesis, *The Lower Vouga in Medieval Times: From the Prelude of the Monarchy to the End of King Dinis' Reign*, received the A. de Almeida Fernandes Award - Grand Prize for Medieval History. She has taught courses and workshops in Portugal and Brazil and currently supervises doctoral and postdoctoral research projects in Portugal. She is an integrated researcher at CITCEM - Transdisciplinary Research Center for "Culture, Space, and Memory" (University of Porto). Additionally, she is a member of Report(h)a - Portuguese Network for Environmental History, the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH), and a founding member of the BRASPOR International Research Network. She also serves as Vice-President of the Pedagogical Council at the Open University. Institutional Affiliation: Department of Social Sciences and Management, Open University &

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