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**MEMOIRS - CHILDREN OF EMPIRES AND EUROPEAN POSTMEMORIES**

European Research Council | 2015-2020

**MARGARIDA CALAFATE RIBEIRO**

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## PROJECT



### MEMOIRS - CHILDREN OF EMPIRES AND EUROPEAN POSTMEMORIES

**MEMOIRS** will offer a radical vision of contemporary European history, drawing on the colonial heritage. Its innovative nature is reflected in its research question, which has never been asked on a European scale: what is the impact of the transferred memory of the horrors accompanying the fall of European colonialism on the modern-day continent?

**MEMOIRS** focuses on the intergenerational memories of the children and grandchildren of those involved in the decolonization processes of colonies held by France, Portugal and Belgium in Africa. Through interviews and comparative analysis of the cultures influenced by the postmemory of the colonial wars and the end of empire, Europe's colonial heritage

will be reinterrogated. At the heart of the project is a desire to understand the effects of Europe's postimperial diversity. To deal with the full complexity of its central question, the scope of the project is interdisciplinary, bringing together specialists in literary and cultural studies, history, sociology, anthropology, arts and international relations.

**MEMOIRS** aims to maximize the impact of its findings through web based, open-access publications and an exhibit that captures multiple aspects of the representations of postmemory, and fosters a North-South dialogue.

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## HOST INSTITUTION

The **Centre for Social Studies (CES)** is a research and advanced studies institution in social sciences and humanities of the University of Coimbra. **CES** offers a stimulating research and intellectual environment where interdisciplinarity is daily practice. Its research staff include sociologists, economists, legal scholars, anthropologists, educators, literary and cultural studies scholars, architects, engineers, geographers, historians and medical doctors. At present, **CES** hosts 4 ERC Grants, and approximately 60 other projects or consultancies, with national or international funding. **CES** is currently co-responsible for 12 PhD programmes, hosting around 450 students. These programmes are thematically oriented and stand out for their interdisciplinary perspective and close articulation with advanced research carried out at **CES**.

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