Refugees in a changing city. Questions of space, housing and citizenship in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area.

Silvia Leiria Viegas

Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra (CES-UC)

My presentation follows the theme of the conference, Cities in a changing world: questions of culture, climate and design, having as a key-subtopic Affordable housing and the right to the city, as radically advocated by Lefebvre in 1968. It focuses on recent socio-spatial experiences of asylum seekers and refugees in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area, with the aim to reflect and critically analyse pre/post COVID-19 practices concerning access to housing and the construction of a more complete form of citizenship. To achieve this goal I will present my field-work experience and my collaboration with the Fórum Refugee Portugal, in 2019/2020, a platform for dialogue with the society, the state and the academia, promoted by refugee associations, including the participation of ex-refugees. In this context, my presentation Refugees in a changing city. Questions of space, housing and citizenship in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area intends to contribute to a constructive criticism around the conditions of living of refugees in Portugal and the search for new horizons, as denoted at the General Assembly of the Refugee Forum held in Bobadela in late 2019. Furthermore, my presentation will elaborate on the rapidly changing environment of the capital due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all the while reflecting on contrary subjects as resilience and resistance,
reform or revolution, in a strong neoliberal context in reconfiguration. As an architect and urban planner, I will start with a bird eyes view on the issues of socio-spatial inclusion and housing for refugees in an intercultural condition. Then I will cross-check these disciplines with the views of others from different although interrelated backgrounds. Moreover, I will highlight the role of the academy and former refugees as key-players in the process of socio-spatial transformation. I will conclude by drawing out probable and possible scenarios and pointing out tendencies.

• **Author Biography** (200 words):

Silvia Viegas concluded a PhD in Architecture at the University of Lisbon (2015), with the thesis: "Luanda, (un)Predictable city? Government and Urban and Housing Transformation: Paradigms of Intervention and Resistances in the New Millennium"; participated in the "Global Report on Culture and Sustainable Urban Development: Regional Survey for Portuguese Speaking Countries" (2016), coord. by Walter Rossa and produced by the UNESCO for the "New Urban Agenda", in the context of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations); participated in the "Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project" (2017), coord. by Yves Cabannes/Barbara Lipietz, produced by the UCLG/Bartlett(UCL); is a member of the Urban Socio-Territorial and Local Intervention Study Group whilst participating in the project "Africa Habitat: From the sustainability of habitat to the quality of inhabit in the urban margins of Luanda and Maputo (2018/2021)", coord. by Isabel Raposo and sponsored by FCT/Aga Khan; is a member of the Inter-Thematic Group on Migration of the CES-UC, since 2017; is an FCT scholarship holder (2017-2023) for the post-doctoral research "INSEhRE 21. Socio-spatial and housing inclusion of refugees in contemporary Europe: Lessons from the African diaspora in Portugal", while belonging to the CES-UC; produced a myriad of scientific outputs, as identified [here](#).