

CURRICULUM VITAE | MARIA FRANCISCA DE MELLO CHAMPALIMAUD SOROMENHO VIEGAS SANTOS  
ASCENSO

Date of birth: November 5<sup>th</sup> 1991 | Nationality: Portuguese

Address: Rua do Miradouro, Lote 87, Quinta da Moura, Barcarena, 2730-296 Barcarena, Oeiras, Portugal

E.: [mfmcss@gmail.com](mailto:mfmcss@gmail.com) | [fsoromenho@fd.ulisboa.pt](mailto:fsoromenho@fd.ulisboa.pt)

T.: PT +351 91 872 65 27

[CiênciaVitae](#) | [ORCID](#)

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2021 – 2025 **FACULDADE DE DIREITO DA UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA (FDUL)**

*Lisbon Law School, University of Lisbon*

**Ph.D. in History of Law at the University of Lisbon**, *cum laude* (2025/06/26), having concluded the curricular part of the degree with a gradescore of 18/20.

2015 – (frequency) **Master's Degree in Theory of Law** (*Mestrado em Direito*). Conclusion of the curricular part of the Masters Degree with the attainment of a **Specialization Post-Graduate Degree in History and Theory of Law**.

2009 – 2015 **Undergraduate Degree in Law** (*Licenciatura em Direito*), Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Final grade: 14/20 (top 20%), with honors in Roman Law (18), Philosophy of Law (18), History of Legal Thought (18), International Law – Law of the Sea (19).

*Frequency and conclusion of the following intensive courses:* Fundamental Rights facing Globalization; Introduction to the Law of the United States; Derecho Constitucional Europeo.

*Positions held in the School:* Member of the Internal Evaluation Committee (Comissão de Avaliação Interna) 2013-2014, Member of the Directive Board (Conselho Académico) 2012-2013, Member of the Pedagogic Council (Conselho Pedagógico) and the Commission for the Revision of the Evaluation Model (Comissão de Revisão do Regulamento de Avaliação) 2011-2012.

2023 **CENTRO DE INVESTIGAÇÃO DE DIREITO PRIVADO (CIDP)**

*Centre of Investigation for Private Law, Lisbon Law School, University of Lisbon*

**Post-graduate Degree in Equality Law**, concluded with 19/20.

2018 – 2019 **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL**

**Master in Law, LL.M. in Law** (GPA 3.56/4, May 2019), with a **Fulbright Scholarship**

2017 – 2018 **TEORIA E HISTÓRIA DO DIREITO, CENTRO DE INVESTIGAÇÃO DA ULISBOA (THD-ULisboa)**

*Investigation Centre for Theory and History of Law of the University of Lisbon*

*Lisbon Law School, University of Lisbon*

**Post-graduate Degree in History of Law**

2017 – 2018 **CATÓLICA GLOBAL SCHOOL OF LAW**

*Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Escola de Lisboa*

(frequency) **Master of Transnational Law**

2015 – 2016 **LL.M. Law in a European and Global Context**

2015 – 2017 **INSTITUTO DE DIREITO ECONÓMICO FINANCEIRO E FISCAL (IDEFF)**

*Institute for Economic, Financial and Tax Law*

*Lisbon Law School, University of Lisbon*

(frequency) **Advanced Postgraduate Degree in Tax Law**

June 2015 **CENTRO DE INVESTIGAÇÃO DE DIREITO PRIVADO (CIDP)**

*Centre of Investigation for Private Law*

*Lisbon Law School, University of Lisbon*

**Post-graduate Course in Bioethics**

2010 – 2012 **UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS**

**Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy and International Relations** (joint honours).

Frequency of the undergraduate programme.

## CURRENT POSITIONS

2025 – 2030 **NOMINATED MEMBER, Group III (Civil Society)**

(pending appointment by the Council of the European Union)

*European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)*

- 2025 – **MEMBER OF THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE**  
*CEPLIS — European Council of the Liberal Professions*
- 2025 – **GUEST AUXILIARY PROFESSOR** (Professor Auxiliar Convocado), History of Law Department  
**Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Lisboa (FDUL)**
- 2018 – 2025 **GUEST LECTURER / TEACHING ASSISTANT**  
*Lisbon Law School, University of Lisbon*  
2018-2025: Guest Lecturer and Teaching Assistant in the Department of History of Law. Teaching practical seminars and lectures on the following disciplines: **History of Legal Thought, Sociology of Law, Philosophy of Law, History of International Relations** (electives) and **History of Portuguese Law** (core module) to Undergraduate students in Law, both to domestic students and interchange students (in English).
- May 2025 – **ASSOCIATE RESEARCHER**  
*NOVA Centre for the Study of Gender, Family, and the Law*
- 2020 – **ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FELLOW**  
*IURIS — Institute of Interdisciplinary Research*
- April 2016 – **MANAGING PARTNER**  
*Olimelga, Sociedade Agricola, Lda.* – overseeing a medium sized agro-business in the production of olive oil. Young Farmer under European Funding.

**PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE**

February 2022 – Aug 2024 **OF COUNSEL**

*Azevedo, Ascenso & Associados, Sociedade de Advogados SP RL — AAMTLegal*

Managing internal operations and procedures. Head of the Legal Translations Department. Drafting of legal documents. Engaged in procedures in Public Law.

January 2020 – 2022 **LEGAL CONSULTANT**

*Ascenso & Associados, Sociedade de Advogados, SP RL*

*Ascenso & Associados Law Firm*

Head of Client Relations. Head of Legal Translations. Real Estate Advisor. Involved in operations concerning Public Law, among others.

January 2018 – August 2018 **TRAINEE LAWYER**

*José Ascenso Advogados* – lawyer in individual practice.

**Final stage trainee lawyer, enrolled but with suspended practice in the Portuguese Bar Association** (Ordem dos Advogados – Conselho Regional de Lisboa), 1<sup>st</sup> Group of Trainees 2015.

January 2017 – May 2017 – **TRAINEE LAWYER**

*Vieira de Almeida & Associados, S.P. R.L.* – VdA Law Firm

Trainee Lawyer in the Public Law Department, working in several projects related but not limited to Administrative Law, Constitutional Law, Civil Law, Banking and Finance.

April 2016 – January 2017 – **CONSULTANT & PROJECT MANAGER**

*Palimargest, S.A* – consultancy in technical and legal aspects, manager of touristic rentals.

December 2015 – December 2016 – **TRAINEE LAWYER**

*José Ascenso Advogados* – lawyer in individual practice.

2015 – 2025 **CONTENT WRITER**

Content writer for several newsletters and digital publications, including but not limited to Medium and TinyLetter.

2015 – 2025 **COPYEDITOR**

Edition and post-edition of several documents for various clients.

2014 – 2025 **LEGAL TRANSLATOR**

*Freelance*, with certification (2018) from **APTRAD – Portuguese Association of Translators and Interpreters**.

October 2013 – July 2015 **ACADEMIC TUTOR**

*Lisbon Law School, University of Lisbon*

Tutoring Philosophy of Law, History of Legal Thought, Sociology of Law, Roman Law

and Legal Research.

- April 2013 – April 2014      **PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD**  
*Associação Académica da Faculdade de Direito de Lisboa (AAFDL)*  
*Lisbon Law School Students Association*
- April 2012 – April 2014      **EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
*AAFDL Law Review* (Revista Jurídica AAFDL)
- 2012 – 2025      **TRANSLATOR**  
*Freelance*
- July 2011 – August 2011      **SUMMER TRAINEE**  
*Merrill Lynch*  
Summer Trainee at Merrill Lynch Global Investment Programme 2011
- September 2009 – December 2011      **INTERN**  
*Germac SGPS, SA*

## ORGANIZATIONS

- 2021 –      **APMJ – Associação Portuguesa de Mulheres Juristas**  
Member of the *Portuguese Association of Women Jurists*.
- 2021 –      **APDMGP – Associação Portuguesa Pelos Direitos da Mulher na Gravidez e Parto**  
Member of the *Portuguese Childbirth Rights Association*. Member of the board (2023-2024).
- 2021 –      **ANPL – Associação Nacional dos Profissionais Liberais**  
*National Association of Liberal Professionals*  
Founding member; Member of the Board (2021-2025), Member of the General Assembly (2025-).
- 2018 –      **APTRAD – Associação de Profissionais de Tradução e de Interpretação**  
*Portuguese Association of Translators and Interpreters*  
Member No. 396 certified by the Portuguese guild of translators and interpreters.
- 2017 – 2019      **Fulbright Commission Portugal**  
Recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship for a Master's Degree for an LL.M. in general Law in the United States of America, for the Academic year of 2018-2019.
- 2017 –      **AABA – Associação de Agricultores do Baixo Alentejo**  
**Baixo Alentejo Farmers Association**  
Participant in many formative courses part of the Young Farmer's compulsory training to receive a European subsidy for an agricultural project.
- April 2013 – April 2014      **Associação Académica da Faculdade de Direito de Lisboa (AAFDL)**  
**Lisbon Law School Students Association**  
*President*      *Positions by inherence:* Manager of the Students Publisher (Editora AAFDL), Chief of the Executive Commission of the Lisbon Law School Editions, Member of the Senate of the University of Lisbon (Senado da Universidade de Lisboa), Member of the School Council/Assembly (antiga Assembleia de Faculdade, atual Conselho de Escola), Member of the Directive Board of the School (Conselho Académico) Member of the Pedagogic Council.
- April 2012 – April 2013      *Vice-President of Student Affairs*
- June 2013 –      **Conselho Nacional de Estudantes de Direito**
- September 2009 –      **Associação Académica da Universidade de Lisboa (AAUL)**
- December 2004 –      **Associação dos Amigos da Torre do Tombo (AATT)**
- January 2003 –      **Centro Nacional de Cultura**

## CERTIFICATIONS

- March 2017 –      **TOEFL iBT score: 115/120**  
TOEFL
- May 2015 –      **International Legal English Certificate**  
Oxford School
- June 2009 –      **Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)**  
Cambridge English Language Assessment
- June 2008 –      **Zertifikat Deutsch (ZD)**  
Goethe Institut

## PERSONAL SKILLS

## Languages

Mother tongue: **Portuguese**

Others: **English** (proficient level, *Certificate of Proficiency in Use of English, CPE*). Understanding (Listening and Reading): C2. Speaking (Spoken Interaction and Production): C2. Writing: C2.

**French** (advanced level). Independent user. Understanding (Listening and Reading): C1. Speaking (Spoken Interaction and Production): B2. Writing: B1.

**Spanish** (intermediate level). Independent user. Understanding (Listening and Reading): C1. Speaking (Spoken Interaction and Production): C1. Writing: B1.

**German** (beginner-intermediate level, *Zertifikat Deutsch, ZD*). Three years of schooling. Understanding (Listening and Reading): B1. Speaking (Spoken Interaction and Production): B1. Writing: A2.

**Arabic** (beginner level). One year of schooling. Understanding (Listening and Reading): A2. Speaking (Spoken Interaction and Production): A1. Writing: A1.

**Hebrew** (beginner level; self-taught). Understanding (Listening and Reading): A2. Speaking (Spoken Interaction and Production): A1. Writing: A1.

**SOFT SKILLS:** Excellent use of Microsoft Windows XP, Vista and 7, as well as IOS X versions 10. and above, Microsoft Office 2007 and above (Outlook, Word, PowerPoint and Excel), Internet Explorer, Safari and Mozilla Firefox. Public Speaking, Team Leadership, Event Planning.

## RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS:

- 2025 **“A Violência Obstétrica como lesiva do Princípio da Igualdade na Família”**, co-authored with Vânia Simões, in Rosa Martins, Maria Margarida Silva Pereira, Ana Margarida Simões Gaudêncio, and Brisa Paim Duarte (eds.), *Comunicações da 1.ª Conferência Justiça, Igualdade e Género na Família*, Coimbra: Editora da Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Coimbra [in press]
- 2024 **“Feminism, Essentialism, Intersectionality and the Law — A Critical Outlook on Intersectionality as a Practical Methodology for the Advancement of Women’s Rights”**, in Maria Margarida Silva Pereira (ed.), Daniel Vieira Lourenço (coord.), *Estudos de Igualdade e Família*, Lisbon: Editora AAFDL, Chapter No. 2, pp. 21-73
- 2023 **“A Violência Obstétrica e a lei — um caminho de mãos dadas?”**, in co-authorship with Vânia Simões and Maria de Almeida, in *Miscellanea – Revista da Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima*, No. 19, January 2024, available online at [https://apav.pt/apav\\_v3/index.php/pt/1291-miscellanea-apav](https://apav.pt/apav_v3/index.php/pt/1291-miscellanea-apav)
- 2023 **“Obstetric Violence as a form of Gender Based Violence”**, in co-authorship with Catarina Barata and Vânia Simões, in *The Emerald International Handbook of Feminist Perspectives on Women’s Acts of Violence*, Leeds: Emerald Publishing Limited, pp. 203-218, <https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-80382-255-620231014>
- 2022 **“Do Direito à Maternidade ao direito das crianças no caso Soares de Melo c. Portugal”**, in co-authorship with Maria de Almeida e Vânia Simões, in Margarida Medina Martins, Mariana Cunha, and Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque (eds.), *Direitos Humanos das Mulheres*, Lisbon: Universidade Católica Editora, Chapter 10, pp. 253-270
- June 2016 **‘Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Gender Diversity in the Board of Directors’**, in *Governance Lab*, Working Paper No. 2/2016, available online at <https://governancelab.org/breaking-the-glass-ceiling-gender-diversity-in-the-board-of-directors/>
- March 2014 **‘Por uma Europa Sem Medo’**, in *A Austeridade Cura, a Austeridade Mata*, coord. Eduardo Paz Ferreira, Lisbon: Editora AAFDL
- March 2013 **‘A Esquizofrenia de uma Geração’**, in *Troika Ano II*, coord. Eduardo Paz Ferreira, Lisbon: Edições 70

## OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

- January 2025 Teaching of the seminary **“A legal perspective on the Refugee crisis in the Mediterranean”**, (*“Uma perspetiva jurídica sobre a(s) crise(s) de Refugiados no Mediterrâneo”*), in the class of Operations in the Mediterranean and the refugee crisis, in the **VII Post-Graduate Degree of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights in Situations of Conflict**, organized by ICJP/CIDP — Center of Research in Public Law, the European Institute of the Lisbon Law School, IDN – National Defense Institute, in partnership FCT Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, 2025-01-20, *online*.
- Novembro 2024 Presentation of the Communication: **“Obstetric Violence as the new frontier of sexual violence: towards a stronger protection of women’s rights — na intersectional perspective”** in the Conference **Convenção de Istambul – 10 Anos Fortalecendo Compromissos**; org. Associação Portuguesa de Mulheres Juristas / Lisbon Public Law Research Center / Faculdade de Direito de Lisboa, 2024-11-22.
- January 2024 Teaching of the seminary **“A legal perspective on the Refugee crisis in the Mediterranean”**, (*“Uma perspetiva jurídica sobre a(s) crise(s) de Refugiados no Mediterrâneo”*), in the class of Operations in the Mediterranean and the refugee crisis, in

the **VI Post-Graduate Degree of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights in Situations of Conflict**, organized by ICJP/CIDP — Center of Research in Public Law, the European Institute of the Lisbon Law School, IDN – National Defense Institute, in partnership FCT Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, 2024-01-22, *online*

- January 2024      Communication on “**Migrants and Refugees**”, at the Conference “Migrantes e Refugiados: Um estudo sócio-antropológico da identidade étnica”, IURIS — Instituto de Investigação Interdisciplinar de Direito, 2024-01-04
  
- December 2023      Training to judges on “**Informed consent on obstetrical care**” (*Consentimento Informado em Obstetrícia*), in the Seminary of human rights of women in the context of obstetrical violence (*Seminário sobre direitos humanos das mulheres em contexto de violência obstétrica*), of the Center of Judiciary Studies, (CEJ – Centro de Estudos Judiciários), Lisbon: Auditório Álvaro Laborinho Lúcio, 2023-12-04
  
- October 2023      Expert commentary in several news specials, namely on CNN Portugal and SIC Notícias, on the Hamas-Israel conflict
  
- October 2023      “**É possível ser-se sionista e pró-Palestina**”, (“It is possible to be Zionist and Pro-Palestinian”), opinion piece selected by the publisher José Manuel Fernandes, in *Observador*, 2023-10-12, available online em <https://observador.pt/opiniao/e-possivel-ser-se-sionista-e-pro-palestina/>
  
- 2021-2023      Several publications for the political section of the Jesuit online publication *Ponto SJ*, available online in <https://pontosj.pt/autor/francisca-soromenho/>

**SPORTS** Competitive practice of horse riding (*dressage*) and fencing.

**INTERESTS**      Nordic horror and all types of horror, John Ajvide Lindqvist, Stephen King, Joan Didion, creative writing, fitness and weight-lifting, running, feminism, nutrition, sustainable farming and permaculture.