



UNIVERSIDADE  
**NOVA**  
DE LISBOA

**MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS 2018**  
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HOSTING MARIE CURIE FELLOWS**

**HOST INSTITUTION**

NOVA School of Sciences and Humanities – CRIA Research Unit

**RESEARCH GROUP AND URL**

Circulation and Place-Making

<http://cria.org.pt/wp/en/circulation-and-place-making/>

**SUPERVISOR (NAME AND E-MAIL)**

Francisco Freire

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**SHORT CV OF THE SUPERVISOR**

Education:

BA (1999, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas da Universidade Nova de Lisboa), MA (2003, Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa); PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology (2009, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas da Universidade Nova de Lisboa - Muito Bom com Distinção e Louvor, por Unanimidade).

Research:

PI of the CAPSAHARA research project (ERC-StG-716467, Critical Approaches to Politics, Social Activism and Islamic Militancy in the Western Saharan Region).

Member of the Research team of the project “Consolidación y declive del orden colonial español en el Sahara, 1956-1976” (N. HAR2012-36414) (2014 / 2016).

Visiting Research Fellow at the African Studies Center (Leiden University) (January / February 2011).

Post-Doctoral researcher at CRIA (May 2009/ May 2015), under the supervision of Abdel Wedoud Ould Cheikh (CNRS) and Maria Cardeira da Silva (FNOVA FCSH). Project funded by the FCT.

Supervisor of the Marie Curie Action Grant HASSANMUSIC (ID 792187, 2017), by the candidate Violeta Ruano Posada. This submission was awarded the “Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Seal of Excellence”

Areas of Expertise:

Social and cultural history of western Africa; western Sahara, oral history, Islam, race, ethnography.



## 5 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2018, "Weapons of the weak, and of the strong: Mauritanian foreign policy and the international dimensions of social activism," *The Journal of North African Studies*. (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13629387.2018.1454654>)
- 2017, "The Hemeila Riddle: Genealogical Reconfigurations of Pre-colonial Encounters in Southwestern Mauritania," *History and Anthropology* 28 (2): 149-165. (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02757206.2016.1214824>)
- Cultures du Politique, Politiques de la Culture dans l'Ouest Sahrien: Arts, Activisme et État dans un Espace de Conflits, Igé, L'Etrave, 2017 (co-edited volume). (<http://www.editions-etrave.fr/pub-inclass-sahara.html>)
- 2014, "Saharan migrant camel herders: Znaga social status and the global age", *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 52 (3): 425-446. (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-modern-african-studies/article/saharan-migrant-camel-herders-znaga-social-status-and-the-global-age/263FE53DB7C5801E2183480271D5903F>)
- 2011, "The 'Narziguas', Forgotten Protagonists of Saharan History", *Islamic Africa* 2 (1): 35-65. ([https://brill.com/abstract/journals/iafr/2/1/article-p35\\_4.xml](https://brill.com/abstract/journals/iafr/2/1/article-p35_4.xml))

## PROJECT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION

### **CAPSAHARA: Critical Approaches to Politics, Social Activism and Islamic Militancy in the Western Saharan Region**

This project proposes an analysis of the reconfigurations established in the socio-political vocabulary of the western Saharan region from the post-empire to the contemporary period.

The methodology used in this project is based on readings associated with different social sciences, with a particular focus on anthropology, history, and political science. The members of the research team, with experience and linguistic competence in the different geographies involved in this project, are expected to conduct original field enquiries, enabling a significant enhancement of the theoretical and ethnographic knowledge associated with this region. The project's main goal is to analyse the types of interplay established between pre-modern socio-political traditions and contemporary political expression and activism, in a particularly sensitive and academically disregarded region. Its effort to integrate a context that is usually compartmentalized, as well as to put together a group of researchers generally isolated in their particular areas of expertise, geographies, or nations, should also be valued. The project's results should enable the different contexts under study to be integrated into the wider maps of current scientific research, providing, at the same time a dissemination of its outputs to an extended audience.

For more information, see: [https://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/208451\\_en.html](https://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/208451_en.html)

## SCIENTIFIC AREA WHERE THE PROJECT FITS BEST

Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)