



Name: Cheryl Matherly

Institution: Lehigh University

Job title: Vice President/Vice Provost, International Affairs

Short bio

Dr. Cheryl Matherly is Vice President /Vice Provost for International Affairs at Lehigh University and has responsibility for the strategic leadership of the university’s internationalization plan. Dr. Matherly is past president of AIEA, and was named by the Institute for International Education as SIO of the Year in 2020. She received two Fulbright grants for international education administrators (Germany/ Japan.) She has an Ed.D. in Education Leadership and Culture Studies from the University of Houston.

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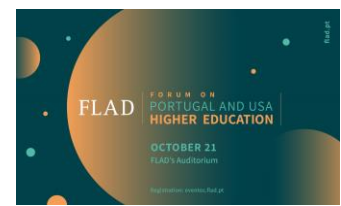
Title of the presentation:

Next Directions with Study Abroad: Opportunities for Portuguese and US HEIs

Description

This session will explore how global experiential learning—through internships, study abroad, service learning, and research—equips students with the skills and perspectives needed to tackle the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By engaging directly with real-world challenges in diverse cultural and geographical contexts, students develop a deep understanding of global issues such as climate action, poverty alleviation, and social justice. The session will introduce Lehigh’s Self-Other-World pedagogy (SOWL) as a framework for global experiential learning, and highlight model programs such as the Iacocca Institute’s Global Village and the UN Partnership.

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Name: Joel Ericson

Institution: IIE/Steppe Global Education

Job title: Head of Eurasia Representative Office

Short bio

Dr. Joel Ericson, has over 25 years of in-country experience in Russia and has served as Head of IIE Moscow and Director of the Fulbright Program Office for the past eleven years. He founded Steppe Global Education in Kazakhstan in April 2023 and is now based in Almaty, Kazakhstan to represent the Institute of International Education ([IIE](#)) in Central Asia. Prior to joining IIE, Dr. Ericson worked for American Councils in St. Petersburg and in Moscow, where he directed a network of eight offices and a portfolio of US government-funded programs for high school, university, and graduate students, English language teachers, and university faculty and researchers. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Toronto, a M.Phil. in Soviet and East European Studies from the University of Glasgow, and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California at San Diego.

Linkedin/professional profile URL : <https://www.linkedin.com/in/joel-ericson-5395b66a/>

Title of the presentation:

From “Undesirable Organization” in Russia to New Opportunities in Kazakhstan: The Odyssey of an International Office

Description

Following the Russian Federation’s illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the Eurasia Representative Office of IIE faced mounting political challenges which eventually led to its closure in Moscow, Russia and transfer of location to Almaty, Kazakhstan. IIE has established a Kazakh-US University Consortium to develop an international network of HEI’s while focusing on STEM,



IT, Renewable Energy, and Agriculture as fields of engagement while developing opportunities for research, commercialization, student and faculty exchange, which could act as pathways for replication for organizations and HEI's in other countries wishing to expand their globalization efforts into one of the world's most strategically and economically significant regions. While Kazakhstan is a landlocked country and Portugal is located on the Atlantic Ocean, there are a number of areas of co-interest worthy of exploration.

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Name: Nuno Comando

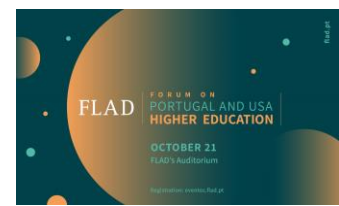
Institution: Casa do Impacto / SCML

Job title: Head of Programs, Investments & Communications

Short bio

Bio: Nuno Comando is the Head of Programs, Investments, and Communications at Casa do Impacto. Fusing his experience and diverse background in marketing and communications, digital, and entrepreneurship with his unwavering commitment to positive social change, he has contributed to Casa do Impacto's mission and has been involved with SCML's Hub since its founding.

Casa do Impacto, the most significant impact entrepreneurship Hub in Portugal, is on a mission. Since its opening in 2018, this 'Casa' has put Portugal on the map of the impact ecosystem, gathering the resources and network to grow an impact venture. Recognized by the Financial Times as one of Europe's Leading Hubs for Startups, Casa do Impacto is where stakeholders converge to change the business paradigm. The hub's unwavering focus on creating an exciting pipeline of solutions aligned with the 17



SDGs through acceleration, investment, and incubation programs ensures that its mission is in line with the global sustainability agenda.

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Title of the presentation:

Impact has the doors open for everyone

Description

Impact is a space where everyone is welcome, regardless of background or status. Impact should be at the center of society. For Impact to become the norm rather than the exception, it must be understandable and accessible. Only then will it reach all people. Democratizing Impact will help to centralize it in society, opening up the possibility of creating a new and better future for more and more people. If before we were the house (Casa) where everyone shared causes, now we are the open house that allows everyone to come in and act on them.

Casa do Impacto is the most significant impact entrepreneurship Hub in Portugal, and we are on a mission.

E-mail: casadoimpacto@scml.pt



Name: Paulo Zagalo e Melo

Institution: Virginia Commonwealth University



Job title: Senior International Strategist

Short bio

Senior internationalization strategist for Virginia Commonwealth University. President-Elect of the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA); Presidency starting March 2025. Previously held executive positions in higher education Western Michigan University, University of Montana, FLAD and Fulbright.

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Title of the presentation:

Partnership-Driven International Enrollment Strategy

Description

International enrollment strategies, with a focus on partnership-driven international enrollment, with an overview of trends in partnership development, and global partnership development from a Portuguese perspective.

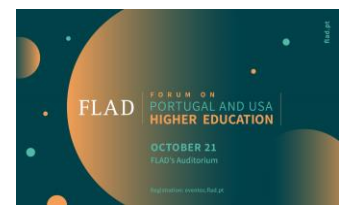


Name: Robert W. Glover

Institution: University of Maine

Job title: Associate Professor of Political Science

Short bio



Robert W. Glover is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Maine and the co-leader of the Maine chapter of the Scholars Strategy Network. His most recent research has examined drug policy attitude formation and the impacts of citizen involvement in election administration.

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Title of the presentation:

Service-Learning Research Partnerships to Drive Evidence-Based Public Policy

Description

Too often, universities and policymakers engage with timely, policy-relevant issues in isolation from one another, though the potential for collaboration abounds. In the United States, the desire to bridge this gap has driven higher education's widely shared call for community engagement, university-community research collaboration, and service-learning since at least the 1990s. Yet such partnerships can be challenging to initiate, manage and sustain. Furthermore, while involving student researchers in such partnerships can have transformative effects for all involved, it requires additional layers of intentionality. Dr. Rob Glover has spent over a decade successfully initiating, executing, and sustaining such projects with partners ranging from non-profit organizations to policy advocacy organizations to local government and elected officials. In this presentation, he will share insights and lessons learned from this award-winning work, with particular attention on those seeking to build such partnerships in Portugal. In addition, he will offer initial thoughts on the possibilities for transnational service-learning partnerships between institutions of higher education in the US and Portugal.

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Name: Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco

Institution: Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Job title: Professor Emerita of Ethnomusicology

Short Bio:

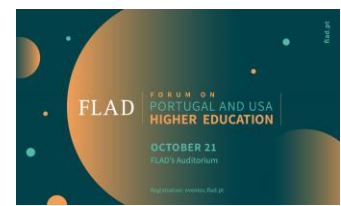
Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco earned her PhD in Ethnomusicology at Columbia University and is Professor Emerita of Ethnomusicology at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa (UNL) in Portugal. She is founder, past president (1995- 2020) and President Emerita of the Institute for Ethnomusicology – Center for Studies in Music and Dance at the same university. She was President of the International Council for Traditional Music (2013 – 2021), past Vice-President of the Society for Ethnomusicology and the International Council for Traditional Music; and Vice Chancellor of the UNL. Before joining the UNL, she was assistant professor at New York University (1979 – 1982). She was also visiting professor at Columbia University, Princeton University; Tinker Professor at the University of Chicago; Overseas Visiting Scholar at St. John’s College, Cambridge University; and Gulbenkian Visting Professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

Linkedin/professional profile URL:

<http://www.inetmd.pt/index.php/en/people/doutoradosen/299-salwa-el-shawan-castelo-branco-en>

Title of the presentation:

The Imperative of Internationalizing Portuguese Academia: A Personal Perspective



Description

In this presentation, I draw on my professional experience in US and Portuguese institutions of higher education to reflect on the internationalization of institutions of higher education in Portugal, especially in the arts and humanities. Following a brief historical perspective, I discuss some of the challenges and pathways towards internationalizing Portuguese academia and creating effective partnerships between Portuguese and US Universities.

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Name: Sandra Soares

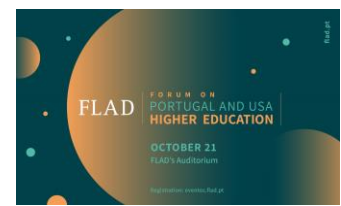
Institution: University of Aveiro

Job title: Vice-Rector

Short bio

Sandra Soares holds a PhD in Psychology, by the Karolinska Institute and is currently the Vice-Rector for Education and Training and internationalization at the University of Aveiro, as well as the Coordinator of the Specialized Internationalization Commission at [CRUP](#) (Council of Rectors of Portuguese Universities). In 2018-2022, she assumed the position of Pro-Rector for curricular innovation and internationalization of 1st and 2nd cycle of training and, before that, she was a member of the Pedagogic Council and Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee for Evaluation and Teaching Quality. She is involved in several European projects related to the transformation of teaching and learning, notably under the European Universities initiative with the ECIU University.

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Title of the presentation: New shapes of education in HigherEd in an evolving world

Description

Higher Education offers scientific, cultural and philosophical assets to society that mere skills training does not. Notwithstanding, employers need employees with diverse and evolving skills. Very quickly, we in Higher Education have learned that having a career requires people to upskill continuously. So, education and experience cannot be decoupled because it is clear that a content-centered approach alone is no longer enough to satisfy the learners' life choices and needs. More flexible higher education systems are better positioned to respond to crises, improve learning and create a significant impact in society. A flexible learning model can be designed to give the freedom of choice where learners can build their learning path from different subject fields while including different forms of learning. At ECIU University, learners engage in Challenge Based Learning (CBL) through real-life challenges and micro-modules, and their skills are documented in a competence passport. Meanwhile the ECIU University offers learner support via the newly developed User Support Services, while Community-building events and online hubs have strengthened connections among students, researchers and teachers. This is underpinned by our emphasis on mobility through the establishment of a mobility fund. Therefore, at ECIU University our starting point is the learner experience, and from there we work backwards, to offer flexible higher education and training with excellence and relevance to our evolving world.

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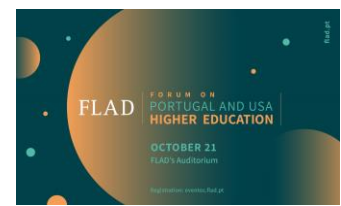


Name: Luís Pais

Institution: Bragança Polytechnic University (Instituto Politécnico de Bragança)

Job title: Vice-president

Short bio (up to 300 characters) and photo:



Luís Pais is vice-president of the Bragança Polytechnic University (IPB, Portugal) since 2006, being in charge of the academic affairs, internationalization and pedagogic modernization. He contributed to the transformation of IPB into an international institution, with 38% of non-Portuguese students (4000 out of 10500 students).

Title of the presentation:

Creative Internationalization in Higher Education: strategies and numbers at the Bragança Polytechnic University

Description

How can higher education institutions be creative and innovative in internationalization? How can we share our resources to produce more results and impact, building a sound international academic community?

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Name: Luisa Mota Ribeiro

Institution: Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Faculty of Education and Psychology, Research Centre for Human Development

Job title: Assistant Professor

Short bio:

Luísa Mota Ribeiro, PhD is assistant professor at the Faculty of Education and Psychology, Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

She coordinates, with Carmo Themudo (Unit for the Integral Development of the Person), the CAPS Project – Católica and Service-Learning: Innovation and Social Responsibility, which aims to promote the Service-Learning methodology in the 4 campuses of UCP, allowing students to learn while working with the real needs of the community, with vulnerable groups.

She is responsible for the Community Service program of the Psychology degree, which was recognised by the OECD - Institutional Management in Higher Education as a quality teaching and pedagogical innovation initiative.

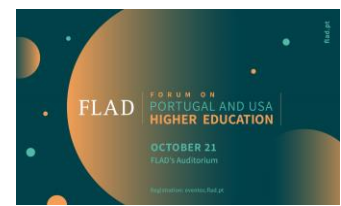
In the Transform4Europe European Alliance (T4EU), she is responsible for the task of developing a T4EU life-long-learning center and promoting curricular service-learning.

Title of the presentation:

Service-Learning at UCP: A Journey from Institutional Commitment to Global Partnership

Description

This work will present a reflection on the journey that UCP has been taking in the implementation of service-learning across its different campuses and the institutionalization of this methodology



throughout the university. It will also outline the next steps and challenges within the scope of the European alliance T4EU - Transform4Europe.

This work will present a reflection on the path that UCP has been taken in implementing service-learning on its different campuses and in institutionalizing this methodology throughout the university. It will also outline the next steps and challenges within the framework of the European alliance T4EU - Transform4Europe.

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