



CATÓLICA

INSTITUTO DE ESTUDOS POLÍTICOS

LISBOA

Programme IEP COLLOQUIA 2026

“There is no conversation more boring than the one where everybody agrees.” (Michel de Montaigne)

“Restless World, Restless Democracies”

May 8, 2026 | Catholic University of Portugal | Library Building | Lisbon Campus

9.00 am

Welcoming and Registration

Lobby, Floor 2, Library Building

9.15 am

Opening Session | Exhibitions Room

Professor Isabel Capelo Gil, Rector, Catholic University of Portugal
Professor Mónica Dias, *Director*, IEP-Católica
Professor Livia Franco, *IEP Colloquia Scientific Coordinator*

9.30 am

Keynote Speaker | Exhibitions Room

Bruno Mações, Consultant and Scholar
World Builders: A new way to think about World Order
Q&A

10.30 am

Coffee Break

10.50 – 12.50 pm

Panel A: Sovereignty Questioned | Room: Exhibitions Room
Host: Raquel Duque (CIEP-Católica)

Francisco Proença Garcia (CIEP-Católica)

The Subversive Process and the Erosion of the Pillars of the State

Isabel Valente (CEIS20 da U. Coimbra) & Miguel Rocha (U. Azores)

Restless Democracies at the Atlantic Frontier: NATO, Geopolitical Competition, and Governance in the EU's Outermost Regions

José Manuel Marques Dias (GNR, PhD candidate FCSH-UNL)

Hybrid Fragmentation and Democratic Restlessness. Functional Sovereignty Dimensions under Russian Penetration in the Central African Republic (2016–2025)

Nadia Loureiro (FCSH-UNL)

Stability without democracy? Restless Sovereignty in the Mediterranean: Parliamentary Diplomacy and Hybrid Regimes in an Era of Permanent Instability

10.50 – 12.50 pm

Panel B: Democracies under Pressure | Room: 423
Host: Sónia Ribeiro (CIEP-Católica)

Adriana Martins & Diana Santos (CIEP-Católica, GNR)

The Role of European Agencies and the Challenges of the Rule of Law in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Migrant Smuggling

Nuno Sampaio (CIEP-Católica)

And After the Calm, the Storm? Populism in the European Union and the Portuguese Case

Daniela Silva (CIEP-Católica)

Demographic Pressures and the Strain on European Democracies

Vicente Paiva Brandão (U. Cabo Verde)

External Threats, Internal Security and the tension between Freedom and Order

10.50 – 12.50 pm

Panel C: Geoeconomics and Globalization at risk | Room: 424

Host: Miguel Morgado (CIEP-Católica)

Alberto Cunha (UL-IDN)

Zeitenwende 2.0: Germany as a Case of European Ordering Integrating Economic Governance and Security Strategy

André Azevedo Alves (CIEP-Católica) e Gonçalo Nabeiro (Journalist)

Measuring geopolitical risk in a restless world: a case study in quantitatively and qualitatively assessing political, economic, social, and international risks

Gonçalo Naves (FDUL)

Financial Censorship and Decentralized Money: Bitcoin's Role in Authoritarian Contexts

Martim Santos (LSE Graduate Student, IEP alumnus)

The US-China rivalry and Democratic Restlessness in the United States

1.00 – 1.45 pm

Buffet Lunch

Lobby, Floor 1, Library Building

2.00 – 4.00 pm

Panel D: Restless Societies | Room: 423

Host: André Azevedo Alves (CIEP-Católica)

Miguel Morgado (CIEP-Católica)

Joseph de Maistre's longing for order in a restless world

Pedro Franco (CADOS, CIEP-Católica)

Tackling polarization: Higher education, Character, and Civic friendship

Sebastião Dâmaso de Andrade (PhD Candidate IEP)

Restless Mind, Restless World: How our Psychological Predispositions Affect Politics

Lívia Franco (CIEP-Católica)

Tocqueville, democratic condition and human restlessness

Roberta Freitas (U. Federal Fluminense)

Political Promiscuity and the Theater of Appearances: The Erosion of Authentic Representation in Parliament

2.00 – 4.00 pm

Panel E: Restlessness in the Greater Middle East | Room: 424

Host: Nuno Sampaio (CIEP-Católica)

Corina Lozovan (PhD Candidate, CIEP-Católica)

Geopolitics of Polycrisis: Reconfiguring Order in the Middle East

Genwa Hassan, (IEP-Católica Alumna)

From Comprehensive Agreements to Incrementalism: Understanding the Shifting World Order through Contemporary Peace Processes

José Tomaz Castello Branco (CIEP-Católica)

Liberal Values or Individual Wealth – Assessing the Azimuth of the Arab Youth

Victor Madeira dos Santos (Diplomat)

The Institutional Failure of the Afghan Republic: Electoral System SNTV and the Erosion of Democratic Consolidation.

2.00 – 4.00 pm

Panel F: New Threats vs. Order | Room: Exhibitions Room

Host: Carlos Marques de Almeida (CIEP-Católica)

Vitaliy Venislavskyy (Investigador UL)

The Restless Demos: Cognitive Warfare and the Erosion of Democratic Consent

Henrique Monteiro (PhD Candidate, U. Autònoma Barcelona)

Do Threats Unite? NATO's Institutional Adaptation After Russia's 2022 Invasion of Ukraine

Catarina Abreu de Pinho (PhD candidate IEP)

Singapore as a Restless City-State: Infrastructure, Legitimacy, and Order-Making in the Indo-Pacific

Catarina Tello de Castro (CEPS-U. Minho)

Democracy as Resilience

4.00 pm

Coffee Break

4.30 – 6.30 pm

Panel G: Collective Activism, Restless Politics | Room: 423

Host: Inês Gregório (CIEP-Católica)

Eduardo Gonçalves (PhD Candidate, Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence)

Powered by Distance: Collective mobilisation in the peripheries and the case of anti-mining activism in Barroso (Portugal)

Lucie Calleja (CIEP-Católica)

Empowering women as peace educators in fragile communities: a case study of Portugal

Henrique Patrício (Phd Candidate IEP-Católica)

Preachers, Democracy, and the Coup that wasn't: Narratives of the Evangelical Right after the 8 January attacks

Maria Vazão Clemente (IEP Alumna)

Anti-Gender Policy as a Symptom of Backsliding in a Restless Democracy: Analysis of Discursive Delegitimisation in Elite Speeches

4.30 – 6.30 pm

Panel H: World Disorder | Room: 424

Host: Francisco Proença Garcia (CIEP-Católica)

Mónica Dias (CIEP-Católica)

Restlessness and Rupture: The crisis of the UN in a stormy world

Tomé Ribeiro Gomes (CIEP-Católica)

The Athens' Trap: Thymos and the dilemma of American strategy in a restless world

Jorge Botelho Moniz (Univ. Lusófona)

Blocpolitik: Religion and the Return of Civilizational Spheres of Influence

Ana Martinho (CIEP-Católica)

Perspectives on the Crisis of the Liberal International Order

Michael Sanfey (CIEP-Católica)

Yes, restlessness is a problem, but the bigger problem is reckless state behaviour

6.30 pm	Closing Session
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About the conference:

- The working language of the conference is English.
- The conference will feature thematic panels composed of individual paper presentations followed by discussions.
- Individual paper presentations will be allocated 15 minutes for presentation. Each panel will have around 35 to 45 minutes for discussion.
- In addition to paper presentations, it will also have one keynote speaker and opportunities for networking. We look forward to fostering meaningful discussions on the critical topic *Restless World, Restless Democracies*.

Contact Information:

To attend the panels and for any inquiries, please contact the conference organizing committee at ci.iep@ucp.pt