



EUTOPIA
Doctoral Summer School 2026
17-21 JUL

4th edition

17-21 JUL 2026

→ Convento da Arrábida

EUTOPIA Doctoral Summer School

NOVA University Lisbon

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Get to know the 2026 Edition of EUTOPIA Doctoral Summer School

Purpose

The purpose of this course is twofold. On the one hand is to discuss the role of interdisciplinary approach to modern, complex topics of scientific research. On the other hand, we want to provide doctoral students an out-of-the box experience that will widen their research horizons by proving the power of interdisciplinary in their own specific research fields. Participants will have to develop a draft project during the programme. At the end, the best project will win the School's Award!

Local Committee

Prof. Paula Macedo [course coordinator]
(NOVA Medical School)

Prof. Kevin Gallagher
(NOVA School of Science and Technology)

Prof. Iva Miranda Pires
(NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities)

—————> **Break away
from your normal routine
and dive into this immersive
and transformative
programme.**







a hillside Monastery overlooking the sea

— the *Convento da Arrábida*

There are places that, due to their location and characteristics, remain faithful to their origins. *Arrábida* is one of those places - there is silence, introspection and serenity, you can hear the crickets chirping, the wind caressing the trees and the sound of the sea in the distance. There is an undeniable beauty in everything.

And this is exactly what the Franciscan friars sought here - "if I'm not in Heaven, I'm in its suburbs", said Frei Martinho de Santa Maria in 1542.

The *Convento da Arrábida* stands in the middle of the mountainside. Founded in 1542 by the Franciscan Frei Martinho de Santa Maria, after the land was given to him by D. João de Lencastre, it has undergone several changes over the years. Even before it was built there was the *Ermida da Memória*, a pilgrimage site where the first four *Arrábidos* friars lived in holes dug in the rocks.

In 1990 it was sold to *Fundação Oriente*, which is now responsible for its preservation and historical importance.

it is here, in this idyllic setting, that the Course participants stay.

EUTOPIA Doctoral Summer School course includes plenary sessions with keynotes, brainstorming sessions with the aid of mentors and work in teams.

This course is ideal for participants with the following profiles:

→ **Keynote Speaker:**

an active researcher specialized in the area, able to explain how his/her research relates to other areas of knowledge;

→ **Mentors:**

mature interdisciplinary researchers in the topic's area of knowledge;

→ **PhD Candidates:**

students in PhD programs from all areas of knowledge in order to stimulate cross-fertilization.

Program/Activities

Day 1. Exposure and Integration			
12:00	Welcome meeting and introduction – announcement of the challenge theme by keynote speaker 1 (30 min)	15:30	Keynote speaker 3 (45 min) followed by 15 min discussion
13:00	Networking lunch	16:30	Philosophical Coffee Break
14:00	Keynote speaker 2 (45 min) followed by 15 min discussion	17:00	Closing session for the day and constitution of working groups. Basic rules: - each group between 3/5 elements; - no two elements from the same university; - no two elements from the same are of knowledge

Day 2. Team Building and Identifying the Challenge			
9:00	Team work in order to identify a topic-related challenge using the different competences of all the team elements (so each one of them can contribute)	14:00	Presentation of the challenge picked by each group and open public discussion
12:00	Keynote speaker 4 on team work	16:00	Work in teams: restructuring the topic-related challenge in view of the feedback from the public presentation, with the aid of mentors
13:00	Networking lunch		

Program/Activities

Day 3. Transforming the challenge into a research project (group work)			
9:00	Brainstorming with the aid of mentors in order to define a. Title of the project b. Research question c. Interdisciplinary Methodology d. Clear definition of each member's contribution	13:00	Networking lunch
		14:00	Literature review on the project topic from the different areas of knowledge.
12:00	Keynote speaker 5 on challenges on interdisciplinary research	16:00	Brainstorming with the aid of mentors over the structure of the project's report to be presented

Day 4. Putting down in writing (group work)			
9:00	Individual writing of each member's part, as follows from arranged structure	13:00	Networking lunch
11:00	Presentation and discussion across the group with the aid of mentors of the different parts of the text	14:00	Writing down of a unified document
12:00	Keynote speaker 6 on challenges on multi-author scientific writing	17:00	Preparation of a Power Point presentation of the project

Day 5. Public presentation of the Research Project			
10:00	Presentation of the projects	12:00	Objective feedback from the jury on the different presentations
10:30 11:00	Networking Coffe-Break (break during which the jury meets to decide on the quality of the projects)	12:30	Closing remarks with NOVA's Rector Professor João Sáágua
		12:45 14:00	Farewell Cocktail Garden in front of Rectorate Building

meet the trainers who teach the Course:

Paula Macedo

→ [Course coordinator]

Professor Maria Paula Macedo is a Full Professor, Pedagogic Council Member, and coordinates doctoral programs at NOVA Medical School. She holds a PhD from the University of Manitoba, and a Masters in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Lisbon University. Her career spans academia and healthcare advocacy, with roles as an Invited Full Professor at Aveiro University and is a member of the board at APDP where she is also the Coordinator of the Education and Research Center. Prof. Macedo's extensive research, significantly contributes to our understanding of Physiology, Endocrinology, and Metabolism. She investigates genetic and environmental factors affecting insulin clearance and resistance in prediabetes, while also exploring the interconnected roles of the gut, brain, and liver in regulating diabetes, obesity, and Steatotic Liver Disease. Her active roles in the steering committee of the European NAFLD Group, Council of the European Society for Clinical Investigation, and Global Nash Council underscore her commitment to promoting science. Prof. Macedo has served as adviser of the Minister of Science, Technology, and Higher Education in Health Sciences. Currently, she serves as Vice-President of the Portuguese Clinical Research Agency and Biomedical Innovation.

Kevin Gallagher

Assistant Professor at the NOVA School of Science and technology and a researcher within NOVA LINCS. Completed his PhD in Computer Science and Engineering on 2019 at the New York University Tandon School of Engineering, his Master in Computer Science and Engineering in 2016 at New York University Tandon School of Engineering and his Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science in 2014 at CUNY Hunter College. He has published 3 articles in journals, 3 articles in conferences, and 3 in workshops and has supervised 9 MSc dissertation(s) and co-supervised 4. He has received 1 award for excellence in teaching. In addition to his academic work, is a co-founder of the non-profit association DEFEND OUR PRIVACY ASSOCIATION (PrivacyLx) and a Tor Core Contributor.

Iva Miranda Pires

Associate professor with tenure at the NOVA University of Lisbon – School of Social Sciences and Humanities (NOVA FCSH); she holds a degree in Geography, from University of Coimbra and a PhD in Human Geography, from University of Lisbon. She teaches at the Sociology Department where she also coordinates the PhD program in Human Ecology. She has a long experience in research and managing research projects and as a team member of projects funded by the Portuguese Science Foundation

(FCT) and EU funded projects. She has extensive experience in supervising theses, both master's degrees and PhD (14 theses have been completed, 7 of which have been awarded grants, 5 from the Foundation for Science and Technology, 1 CAPES grant (Brazil) and a grant from a French foundation) and post-doctoral. She has several publications, including books, both as author of chapters and as editor, and articles in national and foreign journals. She actively participates in academia by presenting papers at national and international conferences, serving on the scientific committee of conferences and organizing special sessions. She has also been a lecturer and guest speaker at national and international conferences. Her main scientific areas of research are social and economic geography, human ecology, food supply chains and food waste.

Practical Information

→ From July 16th to 20th

Convento da Arrábida

1. Bus transportation*:

- July 16 - 9:00 AM

Campolide Campus - Convento da Arrábida

2. Own transportation:

- check-in at *Convento da Arrábida* around 10 AM

→ July 20th [last day]

1. Bus transportation*:

- July 20 - 9:00 AM

Convento da Arrábida - Campolide Campus

2. Own transportation:

- check-in at *Campolide Campus* around 10 AM

→ Transportation*

Participants will be provided with bus transportation from Campolide Campus to *Convento da Arrábida* and back. If you wish to change the transportation option you made on the form, you should contact NOVA Doctoral School as soon as possible (nova.doctoral.school@unl.pt or 210436891/2). If you choose not to use the transportation provided by the University, you will be responsible for the respective costs. **The Monastery has limited parking spaces.**



LISBOA

**CAMPUS
CAMPOLIDE**

A12

A2

EN 10

SETÚBAL

**CONVENTO
ARRÁBIDA**

Convento da Arrábida

50 KM

from Lisbon

15 KM

from Setúbal

GPS

38° 28" 27.34 N

8° 59" 45.05 W

[There is no public transport network to the Monastery]

Practical Information

→ Meals

Meals will be provided during the course.

If you have specific dietary requirements, make sure to notify the organization in advance.

→ Services and Amenities for an exceptional experience

The five days of the course unfold in activities and experiences. They unfold in learning. In enthusiasm.

- Participants are accommodated in shared double rooms;
- There is a room available 24 hours a day for all retreat participants to gather;
- There are rooms reserved for groups, available during work sessions;
- The outdoor space is ideal for group activities.

→ Clothing

Comfortable clothes and shoes are recommended throughout the course. The use of **sunscreen**, a **hat**, and **sunglasses** is advised. The accommodation includes a swimming pool available for use, so participants should bring a towel for the pool. **Bedding and bath towels are provided**, but any additional essentials for the stay may be brought, just as one would in a regular hotel.

Guarantee your place in the 4th edition of EUTOPIA Doctoral Summer School

→ **1000€**
Normal Fee

→ **850€**
EUTOPIA Universities' participants

→ **Free**
NOVA PhD Students

This fee includes:

- Lectures content;
- Unrestrictive use of the facilities for classes and group work;
- Housing in shared double-rooms at the Arrabida Covent;
- Full meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) during the program;
- Transport to and from the Covent (meeting point at NOVA central office);
- An award for the final winning project among the groups.

*+ a unique experience in
your academic journey*

Register Here





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Contacts

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