

# Associations and associative movement in the 30 years of Educational Sciences in the University of Porto



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## Abstract

The recognition of the importance of the role played in Portuguese society by many associations and the awareness of its educational dimensions (resulting from the involvement and participation of thousands of people) makes of them important field of study for educational sciences. Thus, the associative movement is studied in many subjects of the degree and master's in educational sciences. In Portugal (and especially since the European economic crisis) education is intimately linked with school (Ferreira, 2011), but other forms of education can play a significant role in a quality education, contributing to the achievement of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. We argue that associations can play a significant role in a quality education since they are places of socialization, personality construction where each person may learn how to live, how to participate and how to be a citizen (Lesne, 1977; Dominicé, 1988; Canário, 2006; Medina et al, 2013). In fact, the participation in associations "means access to a very broad range of learning opportunities, given the amount of activities offered by the associations, but also by the fact that any member, from his life experience participate in the democratic management of the association itself" (Cardoso & Medina, 2014)

In the school year of 2017/2018 the university of Porto is commemorating the 30 years of existence of the degree in educational sciences. These commemorations led to the development of a research project focused on the contribute of the associative

movement in the training of the students of educational sciences at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Porto (FPCEUP). This research project has the following goals: 1) identification of undergraduate and master's paper works carried out in the different courses; 2) identification of master's and doctoral thesis defended at FPCEUP that focus associations and associative movement; 3) identify associations that have collaborated in the training of FCPEUP's students; 4) analyse master's and doctoral theses taking into consideration a reflection on the "role of associative movement as an object of the educational".

This is an ongoing project, until the moment is was constructed a detailed database with following items: author(s), supervisor, title, year, subject, degree, field, abstract (when existing), key-words (when existing), methodology (when existing) and association in study.

At this moment we identified 131 paper works developed by 257 students, 24 master's thesis and 2 doctoral thesis were developed, involving around 100 associations (some of them were studied by more than one student/group, some students/groups analyse different associations in different courses). Among the different dimensions of analysis of the paper works and thesis, it is possible to highlight the relevance of informal education processes experienced in associations.

**Key words:** informal education; associative movement, communities

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Carla Cardoso** is a PhD student of educational sciences, at the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, University of Porto (FPCEUP). She holds a grant from the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology to develop her PhD on youth cultures and participation in groups of young Catholics: experiences, trajectories and educational processes.

She has been working on topics as informal and non-formal education, youth and associative movement. Currently she is also co-developing a project named: «Associations and associative movement in the 30 years of Educational Sciences in the University of Porto».

**Teresa Medina** is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Porto (FPCEUP), Portugal, and a full member of the Centre for Research and Intervention in Education (CIIE) of the University of Porto. She also acts as collaborator member of CEAUP (Centre of African Studies of University of Porto), IHC (Institute of Contemporary Story) and of the research group of education, work and society of Federal University of Uberlandia – Brazil.

Her research interests focused in adult education and training, school-to-work transitions, experiences and memories of the labour movement of Porto, educational dimension of social participation, development education, and peer mentoring.

**Sofia Nunes** is a student on the last year in degree of Educational Sciences, by the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences in University of Porto (FPCEUP). She is in a project of research initiation, named “Associative movement in 30 years of Educational Sciences in the University of Porto”.

She has participated in several associations: religious, environmental, political, cultural, sports and philanthropic. Now, she is doing volunteering work in a cultural association.

**Ricardo Soares** is Portuguese student on the last year of the degree in Educational Sciences at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Porto (FPCEUP). He has participated in 2 research projects, one of them about the educational dimensions of participation in associative movement. Also, he has participated in numerous conferences, seminars and workshops related to several topics from education, psychology, and others. Furthermore, he was a member of the organizing committee of a seminar about Research Methodologies, where he also presented an oral communication. He participated in some volunteer activities and is a mentor and collaborator in some projects at FPCEUP.