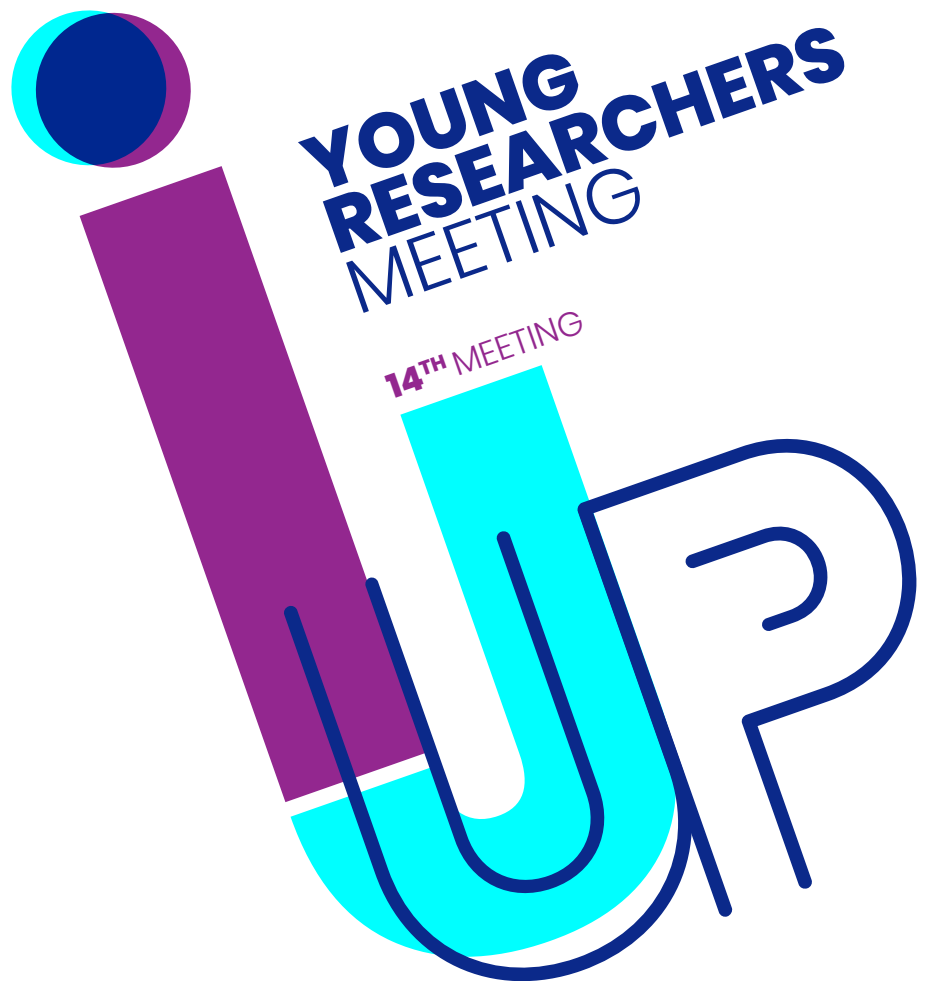




# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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## Memory (of) the Martyrium of Dom Gonçalo da Silveira. The Monóptero of Penas Róias, Mogadouro

*Capitão, Catarina, Faculdade de Arquitectura, Portugal*

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### **Abstract**

From the gloomy and secluded surroundings offered by the vastness of the agricultural fields, the Ribeira de São Gonçalo and the ruined São Gonçalo Chapel, the Monóptero de São Gonçalo suggest a complex design that mimics the sturdy granite rock that supports it, presenting itself as a cylinder raised from the ground through a stepped podium that supports six Solomonic columns, capped by a crown that hides the dome from the walking travelers. Despite all the commotion, the odd and functionally unreadable temple captures the silence carried by the oaks that dance with the breeze, by the chapel known as a former symbol of spiritual retreat, and by the echo of the water in the river, thus culminating in a display of emotions that together promote the mystery that surrounds the place.

This cryptic form raised doubts regarding its purpose, and after a meticulous analysis of the piece and its recorded history, it was concluded that it is a Martyrium temple. This narrative contradicts the local belief that the monoptero is devoted to S. Gonçalo de Amarante, arguing that the site is a memorial to D. Gonçalo da Silveira, a Jesuit martyr in Monomotapa and a respected member of the Távora family, former owners of both Quintas Nova and Nogueira. Thus, the date stipulated until now is also discussed, introducing a time gap between the 16th centuries - the time of D. Gonçalo da Silveira's life and death - and the 18th century - the date exposed by some authors -, supported by a study developed by crossing information, that opened the discussion about the hypothesis of authorship or influence of Francisco d'Ollanda and/or Nicolau Nasoni, with other relevant names in between.

In view of this, it is offered a study that exceeds the limits of the visible, alternating between architectural and symbolic issues of the temple that takes the observer on an enigmatic journey starting at the gate that delimits the land, to the river that runs through the valleys that elevate the monoptero.



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