



Interviews with Brazilian researchers in Spain

As part of a focus on Spain published in the [EURAXESS Links Brazil quarterly newsletter 1](#), you'll find below interviews of Brazilian researchers who do or did research in Spain. They agreed to share their views with our readers and give advice to those interested in following their path.

If you are looking for recruitment and funding opportunities to carry out research in Spain, read the list of opportunities at both the national level (Spanish state) and regionally, as well as in the private sector [HERE](#).



Fernanda Pires is a Brazilian PhD student at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) focused on communication and media, with a **full-time grant offered by the Doctoral School of UOC**.

Interview with Fernanda Pires, Brazilian PhD researcher at the Open University of Catalonia, (UOC), Spain.

Tell us a bit about yourself. Where are you from? What is your research about?

My name is Fernanda Pires de Sá. I am from São Paulo, Brazil. My background is in social communications with a specialisation in film production. I've been living in Barcelona for the past four years. Here, I did an MBA at the Autonomous at University of Barcelona (UAB), a Master's Degree in Social Communications at Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), and I am currently developing my **PhD research at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC)**.

For my PhD research, I've been using a mixed method approach (qualitative-quantitative) for data collection and analysis with Brazilian users of social media sites and instant messaging applications.

In order to facilitate the data collection and immersion in the social-cultural context, I was a **visiting researcher at University of Sao Paulo (USP)** for a couple of months in 2015.

My study is focused on understanding the practices of television co-viewing in the connected context. Television consumption habits are changing and have expanded in recent years. We are progressively using connected technologies and platforms, multiple screen devices, and social media sites for developing different types of viewing activities. I believe that studying the changes and expansions in these practices is fundamental at the moment to understanding the shifts in viewing habits concerning time, space and platforms. In particular, since these shifts are touching the whole audiovisual and marketing industries.

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Spain belongs to the EURAXESS initiative that provides support to researchers and their families when arriving to the country (in key issues such as visas, housing, schooling, etc.). The Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) is the national coordinator of the Spanish network. There are almost 100 services and local centres ready to support incoming researchers. All the information can be found at <http://www.euraxess.es/en>



Also, every two years FECYT publishes exhaustive, up-to-date information about the labour situation, everyday life, and the specific characteristics of Spain, as well as the procedures necessary to become established in Spain: <http://www.euraxess.es/en/g/services/foreign-researchers-in-spain>

Where are you working at the moment? What kind of grant do you have at the moment?

I am currently working at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) as a member of the Mediaccions: Digital Culture research group and as a PhD candidate in the programme of Information and Knowledge Society. I have a full-time grant position offered by the Doctoral School of UOC.

What kind of paperwork did you need to do in order to get the grant and be able to work in Spain? Where did you find all the info you needed?

Every year, the doctoral school of UOC opens a call for grants around December-January. I highly recommend checking the requirements on the website when applying, as the requirements can change according to the year of the call.

Concerning paperwork, the research activity is one of the less complicated for applying for the working visa. Therefore, I recommend getting informed about the requirements and procedure directly on the Spanish embassy and consulate websites, also because these requirements can vary depending on the year and according to each person's situation.

How long have you been working in Spain? What made you decide to come to Spain?

I've been living and working here for the past four years. I can't say that there is just one reason that made me decide to come to Spain; rather, there are many. I believe the fact that I knew Spanish before coming contributed a lot to this decision. Nonetheless, the possibility of getting immersed in another culture and learning another language (in Barcelona people also speak Catalan) were the main motivations for coming to Spain.

What are your impressions about the Spanish R&D system? What do you think the Brazilian and the Spanish systems could learn from each other?

It is very complicated to talk about an entire system, when my experience is limited to a couple of institutions and mainly to my actual field of study (new media and digital culture). Nevertheless, I had the impression that both R&D systems from Brazil and Spain have many similarities and have a lot to improve.

Both countries lack good integration at the moment of engaging business industries in research. This dialogue is necessary for improving the economy and facing the economical and political crisis that both countries are experiencing. It is no surprise that other countries that are ahead in knowledge concerning technology and innovation invest heavily in R&D, and have a good dialogue between universities and industries.

It doesn't mean that we should ignore social sciences and humanities. Without a social consciousness and understanding of the entire society and industry, this integration becomes even harder. We should prompt less technological



phobia, and promote more interdisciplinary knowledge from basic to higher education and from the younger to the elder generations. Therefore, being less techno-deterministic is also fundamental for implementing such improvements and contributing to a better welfare state. Additionally, industrial doctorate programmes that are relatively new in both countries are something that should be expanded. Hence, I believe that research and innovation should be part of the mainstream socio-economical agenda of both countries.

On the one hand, despite the fact that Brazil has been cutting investments in R&D because of the economical and political crisis, a good example that Spain could take from Brazil is the Brazilian mobility programme called Science without Borders. This is a large-scale programme from the Brazilian government that supports students and researchers to gain human resources training in renowned institutions abroad and promotes their return to the country. Thus, prompting the internationalisation of universities and research centers in Brazil by making feasible the establishment of international partnerships without losing its human-force to other countries.

On the other hand, Brazil and the other member states of Mercosur could gain inspiration from projects like Horizon 2020 (which Spain is also part of), since it places social challenges as some of its priorities related to research and innovation. These are related to a citizen's wellbeing, bio-economy (food, agriculture and other safe and clean resources), green and integrated transportation, security to society by protecting the freedom and security of Europe and its citizens.

How do you like Spain outside of work?

The life quality in Spain is great and generally safer when compared to Brazil. The Mediterranean food and landscape are excellent!

In Barcelona, in particular, the weather is good during the whole year and the city is appropriate for developing a lot of interesting social-cultural activities as well as sports. I enjoy attending neighborhood festivals, interesting events such as music festivals, workshops and conferences that are organised constantly in the city. I think this is the best part of living here - there is always an attractive event to attend.

Additionally, in Spain, as well as in Europe, there are people from different parts of the world, which contributes to a very intercultural experience and knowledge exchange.

What would you recommend to a Brazilian who is thinking about coming to work in Spain?

First, I would recommend studying Spanish but to also have in mind that, depending on the region you come, people also speak other languages inside institutions and on the streets (like Galician, Basque and Catalan that are also official languages of Spain).



Second, English is very important for developing research, not just here but everywhere.

Third, I suggest to search and to apply for grants and research positions offered by both governments (Brazilian and Spanish), by research centers, universities and by the European Union.

Fourth, I recommend before coming, getting well informed by the Spanish embassy and consulate about documentation and visa procedures, so as to avoid unnecessary trouble.

Finally, I suggest to those who want to move to any foreign country to legalise all documents in the Brazilian Ministry of International Relations as well as at the corresponding embassy or consulate before leaving Brazil.



Luciana Ferrari Montemezzo is a Brazilian researcher focused on Spanish Literature and Translation.

Bachelor of Arts (Spanish translation of habilitation) from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (1995), Master of Arts from the Federal University of Santa Maria (1999) and PhD in Theory and Literary History at the State University of Campinas (2008).

Since 1996, Luciana is a professor at the Federal University of Santa Maria.

She recently conducted research at the **Facultad de Traducción Interpretación and the University of Granada, Spain** (January and February 2016), with a **scholarship from the Fundación Carolina** (Movilidad of Teachers and Researchers Brazil-Spain).

Interview with Luciana Ferrari Montemezzo, Brazilian research on Spanish Literature, former Fundación Carolina fellow.

Tell us a bit about yourself. What is your research about?

My name is Luciana Montemezzo, I am a Spanish Literature and Translation professor in Brazil, and my research topic is the dramatic work of Federico García Lorca. I have translated *Bodas de Sangre* (*Bodas de Sangue*), *Yerma* (*Yerma*) and *La Casa de Bernardo Alba* (*A Casa de Bernarda Alba*) to Portuguese.

Where are you working on the moment? What kind of grant do you have at the moment?

Back in Brazil, I have been teaching at the Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM) since 1996. I obtained a grant from the Fundación Carolina to do research in Granada.

What kind of paperwork did you need to do in order to earn the grant and to be able to work in Spain? Where did you find all the information you needed?

I needed the approval of the University of Granada (UGR) in addition to the Fundación Carolina grant. From the side of my home university, I needed their approval to leave the country. The Fundación Carolina provided me with all the necessary instructions to obtain the documentation needed.

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How long have you been working in Spain? What made you decide to come to Spain?

I was in Granada for two months and have been back in Brazil for less than a week now. My decision to go to Spain was due to the fact that all my professional life is related to this country, and because I believe this is the best place possible for doing research on Federico García Lorca.

What are your impressions about the Spanish R&D system? What do you think the Brazilian and the Spanish systems could learn from each other?

My impressions could not be better. Spain is a well-organised country, although there are still some social issues. Nevertheless, none of these are comparable to some of the issues we have in Brazil. The university systems seem to me quite similar, but I have noticed the fact that professors in Spain tend to exchange their classes keeping in mind the importance of their research. Through these arrangements it is possible for them to devote a semester to teaching and a semester to research. I believe this is something that could be important in Brazil too, and my intention is proposing it within my own university.

How do you like Spain outside of work?

Spain is of great interest to me at all levels: not only the educational system, but also all of its culture, history and diversity.

What would you recommend to a Brazilian who is thinking about coming to work in Spain?

To keep in mind the cultural differences, particularly regarding professor-alumni relationships, which tend to be less formal in Brazil (although I believe I have been very lucky because on average people in Andalusia are quite similar to us).

The information contained in this publication is intended for personal use only. It should not be taken in any way to reflect the views of the European Commission nor of the Delegation of the European Union to Brazil.

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