

**Title:**

Entrepreneurship as a Social Mobility and Inclusion Strategy

Acronym:

EntrepTrainingSocial

Project leader:

Miguel Ferreira

Host organisation:

Nova School of Business and Economics

Main purpose of the project:

Our project will conduct an experimental evaluation of an accelerated management training program targeting small businesses in retail and manufacturing in Portugal. The program will include both training in cognitive skills and inspirational talks to lift non-cognitive behavioral barriers that may be hampering firm performance.

Design/methodology/approach:

The experimental sample will include 200 firms. Half will be randomly selected to receive training (treated group), while the other half will receive training later (control group). We will track the investment policy, financial policy, and performance of treated and control groups over several years using survey and administrative data.

Potential results:

We expect that the management training will improve business practices and knowledge, which will act as mechanisms to improve performance indicators, such as the scale of operations, investment, job creation, and profitability. We also expect that non-cognitive training will be complementary to the cognitive skills training in improving performance.

Social relevance of the research:

Our project will provide insights to policy makers to design policies and training programs that can improve the prospects of small businesses, and hence job creation, social mobility, and inclusion. This training program can be a cost-effective strategy to promote sustainable development that is worthy of large-scale replication.

Originality/value of the project:

We will focus on business managers without a college degree, who are most likely to benefit from the training. We will also examine the relative importance of the cognitive versus non-cognitive skill mechanisms in small business growth.



Title: Return-to-school after covid-19: the key roles of family, school and communities on children growth and motor development.

Acronym: RUSH

Project leader: José Maia

Host organization: Universidade do Porto

Main purposes of the project: To examine children growth and motor development, and to follow their developmental trajectories during 12 months after the COVID-19 pandemic using a novel technological device during their physical education (PE) classes.

Design/methodology/approach: The sample comprises 1,000 Portuguese primary school children aged 6 to 10 years. Data will be collected on children, families, school and community environments. Further, we will use the Educativo® platform, an innovative technological tool to assist PE teachers monitoring children motor development during 12 months, with episodic assessments made every six months. Multilevel statistical models will be used to account for the data structure, i.e. children nested within families and schools which are nested within communities.

Potential results: Outcomes are expected to have significant impacts in several domains. The project will describe the post-pandemic course of children's growth and motor development, healthy behaviors and fitness, and will also provide PE teachers with a useful and innovative device to help them in their education programs. The results will help reduce inequalities and improve the quality of education (goals 4 & 10 of the UN 2030 Agenda) by increasing our understanding of the entwined relationships between children's growth, motor development and behaviors within the environments in which they live after the COVID-19 crisis.

Social relevance of the research: RUSH social relevance is expected to drive a significant threefold impact: (1) the generation of a unique data set in Portugal devoted to children's growth, motor development, healthy behaviors, physical fitness, overweight and obesity within the context of their families, schools and communities laboring after the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis; (2) a prime cooperation with the educational community since they will further explore and use an innovative technological tool linked to a more efficient PE teaching and monitoring in the primary school years; (3) a systematic and far-reaching partnership connecting researchers, policy makers, and PE teachers towards the development and promotion of long-term intervention programs related to children's physical growth and motor development within their multifaceted contexts.

Originality/value of the project: Questions on how children's motor development unfolds within the joint novel effects of their school contexts, familial ambiance and environmental settings remain to be fully answered. There are apparently no extensive studies examining the afterwards of the impact of COVID-19 on children's growth and motor development multivariate facets. Potential changes in health behaviors during COVID-19 may negatively impact their normal physical growth and motor development. The proposed RUSH project is embedded in Bronfenbrenner's bio-ecological holistic theory of human development.



Title: Exploring Intersectionality of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence: Needs, Impact and Services Effectiveness

Acronym: IntersectVAW&DV

Project leader: Mariana Gonçalves

Host organisation: Universidade do Minho, Portugal

Main purpose of the project: To study diversity within social groups to identify the complexity of victims' experiences, i.e., exploring the interacting effects of gender, ethnicity, class, immigrant status, and other characteristics (victims' social location) in violence against women and domestic violence; to analyze the professional skills, culturally and trauma-informed concordant support victim services and approaches (critical analysis of institutions).

Design/methodology/approach: Using a quantitative methodology, this project will collect primary data with victims (study 1) to understand their needs and victimization impact through an intersectional approach; and with professionals (study 2) to understand practices in the protection system in Portugal (e.g., cultural competences and intersectional trauma-informed care).

Potential results: This project pretends to contribute to the development and integration of indicators of intersectional categories in data collection about VAWDV in Portugal; To inform the already recognized need to review risk assessment tools; and to contribute to more inclusive and adjusted practices in the Portuguese victim protection system.

Social relevance of the research: To contribute to some millennium goals, specifically producing knowledge and ameliorating practices in Portugal to reduce all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, and to promote professional practices anchored in social justice and equity.

Originality/value of the project: Traditionally the study of VAWDV is based on individualized and dichotomized approaches (e.g., gender-based) that fail to recognize the power dynamics and structural inequalities. The originality/value of this project is to adopt a more comprehensive and integrative perspective, capable of considering the role of structural, social and institutional processes to explain victimization, impact and address professional practices.



Title: The Role of Accountability and Efficiency: Information with Impact

Acronym: TRACE

Project leader: Isabel Horta Correia

Host organisation: Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Main purpose of the project:

Lack of traceability, accountability and information about public policies objectives and efficiency is likely to jeopardize trust in state capacity. The goal of this project is to provide a comprehensive framework on the impact of information about public policies efficiency on citizens' support to governmental intervention.

Design/methodology/approach:

Using a survey, we will evaluate citizens' beliefs about the impact of public policies (Paper 1). We will design a lab-in-the-field experiment to estimate the causal impact of information on adherence to public policies (Paper 2). We will use crowdfunding to related trust in state capacity and donations (Paper 3).

Potential results:

The project will shed light on the relationship between information and trust in state capacity. Providing traceable and reliable information about the implementation and impact of public policy should increase citizens' support and trust in government and institutions, especially among the low trust individuals.

Social relevance of the research:

The expected results will show the importance of setting up evaluation systems for public policies, taking into account the role of information and perceived transparency, not only to ensure their effectiveness, but also to ensure that citizens adhere to them.

Originality/value of the project:

Previous research on public policies focuses on how traceability increases public policies efficiency by improving the process through which these interventions are operated. We take a step further to provide evidence that government's accountability and transparency may have longer-term impact by playing on citizens' trust in State capacity.