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Fernando José da Conceição Bessa

Associate Researcher

CIES-Iscte - Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (ESPP)
[Politics and Citizenship]



Contacts

E-mail

Fernando_Jose_Bessa@iscte-iul.pt

Curriculum

National Professional Career

Fernando Bessa joined the Portuguese army, in 1985, at the Centre for Special Operations, in Lamego. Between 1986 and 1988 he attended the officer course of the former Fiscal Guard and joined the permanent staff of this force where held several command/leadership and trainer positions, highlighting the role of platoon training commander; section head of physical education and sports (also responsible for the participation of the athletics teams in the military world championships) and commander of a group operating in the fiscal, customs and tax area in the Lisbon area.

In 1993, he joined the National Republican Guard (Portuguese acronym GNR for Guarda Nacional Republicana) and was placed at the Training School where he held various positions, among which section head responsible for planning and coordinating all training provided within the GNR; section head of physical education and sports; the activity of trainer for tax and customs legislation and the Commander of a Driving Training Company (responsible for training drivers of all categories in the GNR) where he was responsible for the management of human, material, administrative and logistic resources.

Between 2005 and 2010 he was transferred to the territorial service where he also held various positions, including Deputy Commander of the Territorial Group of Sintra where he was responsible for personnel management and logistics; Chief of Logistics of the 2nd Territorial Brigade; Liaison Officer for Safety and Rescue Operations in Lisbon; section chief of operations/intelligence and public relations of the Territorial Command of Lisbon.

In 2010, Col. Fernando Bessa was placed, by choice, at the Military Academy where he served until 2012 as the Director of Training Courses for GNR officers, responsible for all aspects related to the training and support of these cadets and in 2013 he was placed in the Coastal Control Unit where he was appointed Chief of Logistics and Financial Resources and in 2014 he was appointed as Chief of the GNR Operational Centre of Command and Control.

The cited officer successfully attended several training and specialization courses nationwide, among which: Special Forces Operations Course (1985); Mountaineering Course (1985); Military Physical Education Course (1989), Parachuting Course (1990); Specialized Training Course of Military Physical Education (1991-92); Captain's Promotion Course (1993); Senior Officer Promotion Course (2000); Journalism Technics Course (2002), Advanced Course in SPSS (2009) and National Defence Course (2010-11).

International career path

He began his international career in 1996-1998 with his participation in the United Nations peacekeeping missions in Angola (UNAVEM III and MONUA). In 1999 he attended the Motorcycle Course and in 2000 the Staff Officer Course both within the French National Gendarmerie. In 2003/04 he served as Staff Officer to the area of intelligence and operations in Iraq Freedom/Anticua Babilonia mission in the Multinational Specialized Unit in An Nasiriyah- Iraq. In 2004 he was appointed GNR liaison officer at the Carabinieri General Headquarters (Rome) to coordinate all matters relating to the participation of this force in Iraq. During 2008/09 he served in the EU missions in Kosovo (EULEX and EUPT) as an advisor to different community matters and finally, in 2012, he served in the UN mission in East Timor (UNMIT) as adviser to the Police Commissioner and Commander of the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) in all matters of security and connection between CIVPOL and PNTL forces.

In the context of peace operations, he attended the Non Military Crisis Management Course of the European Police College (Spain, 2001) and the Civil Crisis Management Course at the Institute of National Defence (Portugal, 2010), and has successfully completed several courses online: Hostile Environment Security Course (European Union); UN Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Abuse of Authority and Harassment in the Workplace; Integrity Awareness Initiative online learning program (UN); Basic Security in the Field II (UN); In the Advanced Security Field (UN); Common Security and Defence Policy (PfP LMS); Introduction to NATO (PfP LMS); United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: An Introduction (2014).

Academic achievements

Throughout his academic career, he completed his Ph.D. in Sociology (2012) and presented a thesis under the Internal Security (GNR officers - A sociological analysis), a Masters in Sociology of Labour, Enterprises and Work (2006) with a dissertation subject also to a security theme (Young people and the Portuguese Security Forces - comparative study) and a degree in Sociology and Planning (2002), at the Higher Institute of Business and Labour Sciences (ISCTE) of Lisbon. He participated in several conferences and workshops on the police and armed forces. He coordinated an investigation project at the Centro de Investigação e Desenvolvimento do Instituto Universitário Militar, which analyzed the cadets of the military academies in different dimensions and it was proposed to continue the project due to its pertinency and first achievement as the first project to do such analysis. He is also an investigator at Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia where he is developing a project about the cadets of the police forces. He is a member of the International Sociological Association, European Research Group on Military and Society, Portuguese Association of Sociology and National Defence Course Association.

He speaks and writes fluent English, French and Italian and can also communicate in Spanish.

On his tour of duty, he was praised 11 times and was awarded national and foreign medals, highlighting the degree of Commander of the Order of Aviz, the Medal of Military Merit (2nd Class) and medals for Distinguished Service to Public Safety (Gold and Silver).

Research Interests

Sociology of police and armed forces.

Academic Qualifications

University/Institution	Type	Degree	Period
ISCTE_IUL	PhD	Sociologia	2012
ISCTE_IUL	M.Sc.	Sociologia	2006
ISCTE_IUL	Licenciate	Sociologia e Planeamento	2002

External Professional Activities

Period	Employer	Country	Description
2016 - 2017	Universidade Lusfada	Afghanistan	Assistant Professor
2015 - 2017	Instituto Universitário Militar	Afghanistan	Coordinator

Supervisions

• M.Sc. Dissertations

- Ongoing

	Student Name	Title/Topic	Language	Status	Institution
1	Paulo Gomes	--	Portuguese	Developing	Instituto Universitário Militar

Total Citations

Web of Science®	4
Scopus	3

Publications

• Scientific Journals

- Scientific journal paper

1	Bessa, F. & Malheiro, L. (2020). A agenda Mulheres, Paz e Segurança: um olhar sobre as forças de segurança. Nação e Defesa. 156, 123-143
2	Bessa, F. & Malheiro, L. (2020). Migração e (in)segurança: conhecer para agir. Proelium. 5, 79-98
3	Carreiras, H., Bessa, F., Ávila, P. & Malheiro, L. (2020). Cadets in Portuguese military academies: a sociological portrait. Sociologia, Problemas e Práticas. 93, 9-29 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 4 - Times Cited Scopus: 3 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 10

• Books and Book Chapters

- Book author

1	Bessa, F. (2018). De Trás-os-Montes a Angola: trajetórias (im)prováveis. Porto. Fronteira do Caos.
2	Bessa, F. (2015). Oficiais da Guarda Nacional Republicana - uma análise sociológica. Porto. Fronteira do Caos.

- Book chapter

1	Bessa, F. & Malheiro, L. (2020). Decidindo o que decidir sobre ambiente. In Estudos em homenagem ao Professor António Martins da Cruz. Lisboa: Universidade Lusíada.
2	Bessa, F. (2010). Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU) - Um novo conceito de actuação em missões humanitárias. In Guarda Nacional Republicana (Ed.), A GNR no Iraque - 2003-2005. (pp. 40-44). Lisboa: PERES-SOCTIP - Indústria Gráfica, SA.

• Conferences/Workshops and Talks

- Talk

1	Bessa, F., Carreiras, Helena, Ávila, P. & Malheiro, L. (2019). Cadetes in the Portuguese Military Academies. 15th ERGOMAS Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, 17-21 June 2019.
2	Bessa, F. & Malheiro, L. (2019). MIGRANTS: IDENTITIES AND BORDERS MANAGEMENT. 15th biennial conference of ERGOMAS (European Research Group on Military and Society), Lisbon, Portugal, 17-21 June 2019.
3	Carreiras, Helena, Ávila, P., Bessa, F. & Malheiro, L. (2018). Institutional representations and professional aspirations of Cadets in Portuguese Military Academies. XIX World Congress of Sociology.
4	Bessa, F. & Malheiro, L. (2017). Innovation in Law Enforcement. Conferência CEPOL Research and Science subordinada .
5	Malheiro, L., Bessa, F., Xavier, A., Carreiras, Helena & Ávila, P. (2017). Sociological Portraits of Cadets in Portuguese Military Academies. CEPOL 2017 Research and Science Conference INNOVATIONS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT - Implications for practice, education and civil society.
6	Bessa, F., Carreiras, Helena, Ávila, P. & Xavier, Ana Isabel (2016). CADETES NAS ESCOLAS SUPERIORES MILITARES PORTUGUESAS: uma abordagem sociológica. Portugal Território de Territórios.
7	Bessa, F., Carreiras, Helena, Ávila, P. & Xavier, Ana Isabel (2016). BECOMING AN OFFICER: SOCIOLOGICAL PORTRAITS OF CADETS IN PORTUGUESE MILITARY ACADEMIES. RC01/ISA Conference "Transformations of the Military Profession.
8	Bessa, F. (2014). A GNR nos 40 anos de democracia. 40 Anos de Democracia(s) - Progressos, Contradições e Perspectivas.

• Other Publications

- Other publications

1	Bessa, F. & Malheiro, L. (2020). COVID-19: imperativo continuar a proteger!. IDN Brief.
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Research Projects

Project Title	Role in Project	Partners	Period
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Cadets of the Portuguese Police Forces	Global Coordinator	CIES-Iscte - Leader	2016 - 2018
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Professional Associations

International Sociological Association (Since 2016)

European Research Group on Military and Society (Since 2016)

Associação Portuguesa de Sociologia (Since 2016)

Associação de Auditores dos Cursos de Defesa nacional (Since 2013)