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Patrícia Alexandra Marrafa

PhD Scholar

CEI-Iscte - Centre for International Studies (ESPP)
[Global Politics and Security]



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Curriculum

Patrícia Alexandra Correia da Silva Marrafa is a PhD Scholar in International Studies at Iscte-Instituto Universitario de Lisboa with affiliation to the Center for International Studies at Iscte and the Macao Scientific and Cultural Center of Lisbon. During her academic path, her research has focused on Chinese politics, history and culture and its growing global presence. She formulated her master's thesis on the topic "The Chinese discourse for Africa: The importance of FOCAC and the Forum Macau on China's regional diplomacy" and has presented varied papers regarding China's political discourse in several conferences in Portugal. Such as the "III International Congress Portugal-China Intercultural dialogues" at Aveiro University; "Europe as a Global Actor- International Conference" and "XII Congresso Latino Americano de Ciência Política" from Iscte-Institute University of Lisbon. She is currently working under funding from the FCT-CCCM (Macao Scientific and Cultural Center) partnership on the topic "China meets the Global South: Chinese Political discourse and foreign policy from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping (1978-2022)" for her doctoral thesis, with the aim of understanding the evolution of China's discourse and relations with countries in the Global South and how Chinese foreign policy integrates and is influenced by Chinese philosophical and traditional concepts, such as the one's based in confucianism.

Academic Qualifications

University/Institution	Type	Degree	Period
ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa	PhD	International Studies	2026

ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa	M.Sc.	International Studies	2022
Universidade de Lisboa Faculdade de Letras	Licenciate	Arts and Humanities with Major in Asian Studies and Minor in Comunication and Culture	2020

Publications

• Conferences/Workshops and Talks

- Talk

1	Marrafa, P. & borges, D. (2025). China's Pincer Approach to the Atlantic – Securing the BRI and Rare Earths . The 23rd annual conference of the Transatlantic Studies Association.
2	Marrafa, P. & borges, D. (2025). Europe at a Crossroads: Leveraging a Global Gateway and Belt and Road connection as a response to US Trade Pressures . Europe as a global actor 2025.
3	Marrafa, P. & borges, D. (2025). China's Perspectives on Central Asia: Analyzing the Evolution of Bilateral Relations through Political Discourse. VI Eurasian Research on Modern China and Eurasia conference.
4	Marrafa, P. (2025). O legado das expedições de Zheng He na estratégia naval moderna da China . IV Simpósio Internacional de História do Oriente.
5	Marrafa, P. (2025). Between Tradition and Transformation: A Discourse Analysis from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping through the Lenses of Jauss, Lotman, and Bourdieu. CCCM Spring Conferences 2025: Sessão Young Scholars.
6	Marrafa, P. (2025). O arquiteto diplomático da China moderna: O papel de Zhou Enlai na transição política e económica da China. CCCM Spring Conferences 2025.
7	Marrafa, P. (2025). Reviving Tradition: The Integration of Confucianism into China's Foreign Policy Framework (1978-2022) . IV Congresso Internacional "Diálogos Interculturais Portugal-China" .
8	Marrafa, P. (2024). Exploring the discourse: China's Perspective on Strengthening Sino-Latin American Relations . XII Latin-American Congress on Political Science.
9	Marrafa, P. (2024). Foreign policy from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping (1978-2022): The revival of Confucianism in political discourse and its implications on the country's approach to the Global South. CCCM Spring Conferences 2024: Sessão Young Scholars.
10	Marrafa, P. (2024). Foreign policy from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping (1978-2022): The revival of Confucianism in political discourse and its implications on the country's approach to the Global South. 10º edition Doctoral Coloquium ESPP.
11	Marrafa, P. (2024). China's Discourse on Southeast Asia: South-South Cooperation and the Region's Growing Significance in Beijing's Foreign Policy . Encuentro Intelectual Sur-Sur, RISUR, Madrid, 2024.
12	Marrafa, P. (2024). China's Perspectives on Central Asia: Analyzing the Evolution of Bilateral Relations through Political Discourse . CESRAN2024: the 11th Annual Conference on International Studies.

13	Marrafa, P. (2024). Reviving Confucianism: The Resurgence in Chinese Political Discourse and Its Impact on Chinese Foreign Policy. CCCM Spring Conferences 2024.
14	Marrafa, P. & Costa, C. M. (2023). Shaping Europe through political discourse - the Chinese perspective. International Conference- Europe as a Global actor.
15	Marrafa, P. (2023). China meets the global South: Chinese political discourse and foreign policy from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping (1978-2022). Conferências da Primavera 2023: Sessão Young Scholars.
16	Marrafa, P. (2023). The Chinese discourse for the Portuguese-speaking world: The importance of Forum Macau for China's foreign policy in the 21st Century. III International Congress on Intercultural Dialogues Portugal-China .
17	Marrafa, P. (2023). China meets the global South: Chinese political discourse and foreign policy from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping (1978-2022). Conference 10 years CEI-Iscte.

• Other Publications

- Other publications

1	Marrafa, P. (2025). Trends in political science research: Confucian political thought. International Political Science Abstracts. 75 (5), 757-773
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- Master's Dissertation

1	Marrafa, P. (2022). The Chinese discourse for Africa: The importance of FOCAC and the Forum Macau on China's regional diplomacy.
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• Scientific Journals

- Editorial

1	Costa, C. M., Yichao, L. & Marrafa, P. (2026). Africa and China: A Global South Relationship in a World on Transition. Cadernos de Estudos Africanos.
2	Marrafa, P., Costa, C. M. & Yichao, L. (2025). Confucian Ethics and Strategic Dimensions in China's Global Diplomacy. Frontiers in Political Science.

Research Projects

Project Title	Role in Project	Partners	Period
China meets the global South: Chinese political discourse and foreign policy from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping (1978-2022)	PhD Scholar	CEI-Iscte, MSCC - (Portugal)	2023 - 2027

Academic Management Positions

Secretário(a) (2022 - 2023)
Unit/Area: [0379] Erasmus Mundus in Tourism Development & Culture

Secretário(a) (2021 - 2022)
Unit/Area: [027] Hospitality and Tourism Management

Secretário(a) (2021 - 2023)
Unit/Area: [0286] Erasmus Mundus in Psychology of Global Mobility, Inclusion and Diversity in Society

Secretário(a) (2021 - 2023)
Unit/Area: [0127] Erasmus Mundus in Social Work with Families and Children