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Public Profile

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Sónia Alves

Integrated Researcher
DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte - Centre for Socioeconomic and Territorial Studies



Contacts

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Curriculum

Sónia Alves is a researcher in housing policy, urban governance and spatial planning, with an international academic trajectory developed across Portugal, Denmark and the United Kingdom. Her research focuses on housing and territorial inequalities, governance, institutional change and the design and implementation of public policy, combining comparative research with empirically grounded analysis.

She has published extensively in leading international journals in housing, urban studies and planning, with a substantial share of her Scopus-indexed publications appearing in Q1 journals, including Housing Studies, Progress in Planning, Housing, Theory and Society, Cities and Land Use Policy. Her work has addressed topics such as affordable housing, rental regulation, social mix and segregation, urban regeneration, housing vacancy and the territorial dimensions of inequality.

Her research has been developed through national and European-funded projects and international research networks, including roles involving scientific leadership, project coordination, co-leadership and work package responsibility. She has also contributed to comparative and interdisciplinary research involving academic, public-sector and policy partners across several European countries.

Alongside her academic research, she has collaborated with European institutions including the European Commission, the European Research Executive Agency (REA) and DG REGIO, contributing to the evaluation of research proposals and funded projects, as well as to policy-oriented studies and expert work in the fields of housing, urban development and territorial policy.

Research Interests

Housing policy; Housing systems; Housing inequalities; Housing vacancy and reuse; Urban and metropolitan governance; Institutional capacity Urban and regional planning; Territorial inequalities

Academic Qualifications

University/Institution	Type	Degree	Period
ISCTE-Instituto Universitario de Lisboa	PhD	Sociologia	2011
Universidade do Porto - Faculdade de Engenharia	M.Sc.	Planeamento Urbano	2002
Universidade do Porto - Faculdade de Letras	Licenciate	Geografia	1997

Supervisions

• M.Sc. Final Projects

- Concluded

	Student Name	Title/Topic	Language	Institution	Concluding Year
1	Inês Maria Bernardino dos Santos Bispo	A Neighborhood for All: Inclusive Housing and Social Sustainability.	Portuguese	Iscte	2021

Total Citations

Web of Science®	221
Scopus	228

Publications

• Scientific Journals

- Scientific journal paper

1	Alves, S. (2026). Planning historic-city expansion: Housing and social differentiation in Évora, Portugal, 1940s. Planning Perspectives, N/A. https://doi.org/10.1080/02665433.2026.2676632
2	Alves, S. & Vuksanovic-Macura, Z. (2026). 'It's a matter of politics': Selective knowledge use in Danish housing policy. International Journal of Housing Policy, N/A. https://doi.org/10.1080/19491247.2026.2668660
3	Di Giovanni, C. & Alves, S. (2026). A century of housing policy in Portugal and Italy: A comparative process-tracing analysis. Housing, Theory and Society, N/A. https://doi.org/10.1080/14036096.2026.2626714 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 1 - Times Cited Scopus: 1 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 1

4	Leal, M., Carreiras, M. & Alves, S. (2025). Decoding the spatial dynamics of sales and rental prices in a high-pressure Portuguese housing market: A random forest approach for the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. Cities, 158. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2024.105631 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 11 - Times Cited Scopus: 12 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 15
5	Alves, S. (2024). Repensar as políticas de habitação e de planeamento a partir do Bairro Novo de Évora. Scripta Nova. Revista Electrónica de Geografía y Ciencias Sociales, 28(2), 227?258. https://doi.org/10.1344/sn2024.28.42718 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 4 - Times Cited Scopus: 3 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 3
6	Canelas, P. & Alves, S. (2024). The governance of affordable housing through public-private partnerships: Critical entanglements. Land Use Policy, 143. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2024.107193 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 15 - Times Cited Scopus: 16 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 33
7	Branco, R., Canelas, P. & Alves, S. (2024). The governance of urban regeneration in Lisbon: Drivers of continuity and change. Cities, 154. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2024.105324 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 8 - Times Cited Scopus: 6 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 20
8	Alves, S., Branco, R. & Canelas, P. (2024). O município de Lisboa e a execução do Regime Especial de Comparticipação na Recuperação de Imóveis Arrendados (RECRIA): Entre as estruturas e a agência. Análise Social, 59(252), 2?33. https://doi.org/10.31447/202311 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 1 - Times Cited Scopus: 1 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 3
9	Alves, S., Azevedo, A. B., Mendes, L. & Silva, K. (2023). Urban regeneration, rent regulation and the private rental sector in Portugal: A case study on inner-city Lisbon's social sustainability. Land, 12(8). https://doi.org/10.3390/land12081644 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 15 - Times Cited Scopus: 15 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 26
10	Alves, S. (2022). Nuancing the international debate on social mix: Evidence from Copenhagen. Housing Studies, 37(7), 1174?1197. https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2018.1556785 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 23 - Times Cited Scopus: 31 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 51
11	Alves, S. (2022). Divergence in planning for affordable housing: A comparative analysis of England and Portugal. Progress in Planning, 156. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.progress.2020.100536 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 31 - Times Cited Scopus: 26 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 60
12	Branco, R. & Alves, S. (2020). Urban rehabilitation, governance, and housing affordability: Lessons from Portugal. Urban Research and Practice, 13(2), 157?179. https://doi.org/10.1080/17535069.2018.1510540 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 30 - Times Cited Scopus: 29 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 63

13	Alves, S. (2017). Poles apart? A comparative study of housing policies and outcomes in Portugal and Denmark. Housing, Theory and Society, 34(2), 221?248. https://doi.org/10.1080/14036096.2016.1236036 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 33 - Times Cited Scopus: 28 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 67
14	Alves, S. (2017). Conflitos institucionais no âmbito da Capital Europeia da Cultura Porto 2001. Finisterra – Revista Portuguesa de Geografia, 52(104), 39?56. https://doi.org/10.18055/FINIS6964 - Times Cited Scopus: 2 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 6
15	Alves, S. (2017). Requalificação e gentrificação no centro historico do Porto. Scripta Nova. Revista Electrónica de Geografía y Ciencias Sociales, XXI(557), 1?32.
16	Alves, S. (2017). Assessing the impact of area-based initiatives in deprived neighborhoods: The example of S. João de Deus in Porto, Portugal. Journal of Urban Affairs, 39(3), 381?399. https://doi.org/10.1080/07352166.2016.1245081 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 17 - Times Cited Scopus: 14 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 34
17	Alves, S. (2016). Spaces of inequality: It's not differentiation, it is inequality! A socio-spatial analysis of the City of Porto. Portuguese Journal of Social Science, 15(3), 409?431. https://doi.org/10.1386/PJSS.15.3.409_1 - Times Cited Scopus: 15 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 26
18	Alves, S. (2015). Welfare state changes and outcomes – The cases of Portugal and Denmark from a comparative perspective. Social Policy and Administration, 49(1), 1?23. https://doi.org/10.1111/spol.12075 - Times Cited Web of Science®: 32 - Times Cited Scopus: 24 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 60
19	Alves, S. (2011). Construção, densificação, declínio e demolição de uma área urbana em crise: Uma história de desassossego em torno do abandono e das políticas. CIDADES, Comunidades e Territórios,(23), 41?59. - Times Cited Google Scholar: 6
20	Alves, S. (2008). A Geografia do Desemprego no Porto. Comunidades e territórios com maior vulnerabilidade à pobreza e à exclusão social. Cidades - Comunidades e territórios,, 43?67. https://doi.org/10.7749/citiescommunitiesterritories.jun2008.016.art03 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 10

• Books and Book Chapters

- Book author

1	Alves, S., Hans Thor Andersen, Els Keunen & Zlata Vuksanovic-Macura (2026). Social Housing Opportunies and Challenges – Perspectives from Denmark, Germany, Portugal and Serbia. https://doi.org/10.60683/49V1-JZ17 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 2

- Book chapter

1	Alves, S., Alda Botelho Azevedo, Allegra, M., Filipa Leite, Inês Calor & Pedro Moura Ferreira (2026). The Portuguese Report.. https://doi.org/10.60683/kd9j-fn22

2	Alves, S. & Guimarães, Pedro (2024). Housing and Inequality: the case of Portugal. Inequality: Economic and Social Issues. Routledge. - Times Cited Scopus: 4 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 5
3	Rosa Branco & Alves, S. (2020). Outcomes of Urban Requalification Under Neoliberalism: A Critical Appraisal of the SRU Model. Inequality and Uncertainty, M. Smagacz-Poziemska, M. Gómez, P. Pereira, L. Guarino, S. Kurtenbach, J. Villalón (eds) (pp. 139?158). Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.17863/cam.81827 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 8
4	Alves, S. (2019). The social and non-profit rental sectors in Portugal and Denmark. Issues of supply, housing quality, and affordability (pp. 73?108). Pisa University Press.
5	Alves, S. & Rosa Branco (2018). With or without you: models of urban requalification under neoliberalismo in Portugal. Changing societies: legacies and challenges. Ambiguous inclusions: inside out, outside in (pp. 457?479). Imprensa de Ciências Sociais. https://doi.org/10.31447/ics9789726715030.19 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 15
6	Alves, S. (2015). The University of Oporto and the Process of Urban Change: An Ambiguous Relationship. Global Universities and Urban Development: Case Studies and Analysis (pp. 246?274). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315704043-21 - Times Cited Scopus: 1 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 5

• Conferences/Workshops and Talks

- Publication in conference proceedings

1	Travasso, Nuno & Alves, S. (2024). Habitação vaga e instrumentos de política pública: o debate em torno do arrendamento coercivo. In F. P. Oliveira (Ed.), Atas do III Congresso de Direito do Urbanismo, pp. 221–241.. Almedina. - Times Cited Google Scholar: 1
2	Alves, S. (2017). Ethnic Housing Segregation and the Roma/Gypsy Population: a Portuguese perspective. Lisbon AESOP Annual Congress'17: book of proceedings. Lisboa: Universidade de Lisboa (pp. 1472?1480). https://doi.org/10.17863/cam.33520 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 7

• Other Publications

- Non-peer-reviewed papers

1	Alves, S. (2018). Requalification and gentrification in the historical centre of Porto. Apollo - University of Cambridge Repository,. https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.24941

- Other publications

1	Alves, S., Pedro Moura Ferreira, Alda Botelho Azevedo, Malheiros, Jorge, Mendes, L., Carreira, Marina...Pereira, Sónia (2021). Requalificação urbana sustentável e populações vulneráveis no centro histórico de Lisboa, 2020. O principal objetivo do SustainLis é investigar os efeitos das políticas e práticas de habitação e de requalificação urbana em cidadãos com elevados níveis de vulnerabilidade, isto é, idosos, imigrantes e jovens adultos residentes no centro histórico de Lisboa. Este projecto destaca a importância de uma abordagem territorial no estudo de tais efeitos em populações vulneráveis. No contexto de uma s,.
2	Alves, S., Alda Botelho Azevedo & Pedro Moura Ferreira (2020). Tendências e perfis dos arrendatários seniores nos principais centros urbanos, 2001-2011.. https://doi.org/10.17863/cam.56791
3	Alda Botelho Azevedo, Pedro Moura Ferreira & Alves, S. (2019). Azevedo, A. B. Ferreira, P.M. and Alves, S. (2019). Arrendamento urbano e envelhecimento em Portugal: tendências e perfis [Urban renting and ageing in Portugal: trends and profiles]. Instituto do Envelhecimento Policy Brief 1/2019. Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon...
4	Alda Botelho Azevedo, Pedro Moura Ferreira, Alves, S., Alves, Sónia, Alda Botelho Azevedo & Pedro Moura Ferreira (2019). Arrendamento urbano e envelhecimento em Portugal: tendências e perfis. No século XXI, a população residente em Portugal apresenta uma estrutura etária envelhecida e distribui-se no território assimetricamente, concentrando-se sobretudo nos grandes centros urbanos (Gomes et al. 2016, Ferreira & Azevedo 2017). De acordo com os dados do recenseamento de 2011, em Portugal, residem 2 010 064 indivíduos com 65 e mais anos, ou seja, 19% da população residente. Uma em cada s,.
5	Alves, S. & Alves, Sónia (2017). Recensão do livro "No Centro, à Margem. Sociologia das intervenções urbanísticas e habitacionais do Estado no centro histórico do Porto"..
6	Alves, S., Veludo, Ricardo & Ferrão, João (2014). Diagnóstico estratégico (2º relatório), Estudo técnico de fundamentação de uma estratégia de reabilitação urbana para o Município de Vila Franca de Xira 2O14-2020, 21/07/2014..
7	Alves, S., Veludo, Ricardo, Ferrão, João & Alves, Sónia (2014). Relatório Final, Estudo técnico de fundamentação de uma estratégia de reabilitação urbana para o Município de Vila Franca de Xira 2O14-2020, 19/12/2014 (com Ricardo Veludo e outros)..
8	Breda-Vázquez, Isabel & Alves, S. (2003). Universidade e Transformação Urbana: efeito da deslocalização de instituições universitárias nas condições de utilização do centro do Porto..

- Master's Dissertation

1	Alves, S., Alves, Sónia & Alves, Sónia (2001). Planeamento colaborativo em contextos de regeneração urbana.. - Times Cited Google Scholar: 37

- Doctoral Thesis

1	Alves, S. & Alves, Sónia (2010). O social, o espacial e o político na pobreza e na exclusão: avaliação de iniciativas de regeneração de áreas urbanas "em risco" na cidade do Porto.. - Times Cited Google Scholar: 44

- Newspaper article

1	Alves, S. (2022). Construído para durar?..

2	Alves, S. & Alda Botelho Azevedo (2022). Arrendamento e políticas de habitação. Público,.
3	Alves, S. (2022). Um bom negócio para os privados, mas mau para o Estado..
4	Alves, S. (2022). Contra a alienação de frações de habitação social..
5	Alves, S. (2022). Censos 2021 e o setor de arrendamento em Portugal...
6	Alves, S. (2021). Arquitetura e demolição..
7	Alves, S. (2021). PRR: apelo ao IHRU e ao Governo..
8	Alves, S. (2021). Novas tendências do planeamento e gestão urbanística...
9	Alves, S. (2021). Habitação indecente em Portugal..
10	Alves, S. (2020). Arrendamento 'social': Portugal vs. Dinamarca e Inglaterra..
11	Alves, S. (2020). Os ziguezagues na regulação do arrendamento em Portugal..
12	Alves, S. (2020). Zonamento Inclusivo para habitação social e acessível..
13	Alves, S. (2020). A regulação das rendas no setor de arrendamento privado..

- Report

1	Alves, S. (2023). AHR on an overview of housing policies in Portugal. Directorate - General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Directorate - DG - Employment and Social Governance, Unit F.1 - European Semester, EMCO, European Commission, Brussels..
2	Patricia Canelas, Alves, S. & Alda Botelho Azevedo (2023). Lisbon, in Financialization in 13 cities - an international comparative report, Whitehead, C., Scanlon, K., Voigtländer, M., Karlsson, J., Blanc, F., Rotolo, M. (Eds.)..
3	Alda Botelho Azevedo, Gonçalves, D., Tavares, L. , Pedro Moura Ferreira, Alves, S. & Peralta, S. (2022). CASaCAIS: Habitação municipal e sustentabilidade socio-económica..
4	Alves, S. (2019). Planning for Affordable Housing A comparative analysis of Portugal, England and Denmark. Cambridge Centre for Housing & Planning Research...
5	Alves, S. (2019). Planning for Affordable Housing: A comparative analysis of Portugal, England and Denmark.. https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.46483 - Times Cited Google Scholar: 8
6	Allegra, M., Tulumello, S., Falanga, R., Cachado, R., Ferreira, A. C., Colombo, A....Alves, S. (2017). Um novo PER? Realojamento e políticas de habitação em Portugal.. - Times Cited Google Scholar: 24

Awards

Prémio André Jordan 2018 / Artigos Científicos “Polos opostos? Um estudo comparativo das políticas de habitação em Portugal e na Dinamarca (2018)

Professional Associations

International Research Network The Blended City as Spatial Imaginary and Practice (PI: Deane Simpson) (2025 - 2027)

nternational Working Group “Resilient Metropolitan Regions – Spatial Planning and Management for Urban Transformation”, ARL – Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association (2023–2026) (2023 - 2026)

The Real Estate – A collective of scholars concerned with the transformation of social housing estates in Europe. More details at https://www.therealestate.space/thecollective (2021)

Rede H – A network of scholars concerned with the present and future of housing in Portugal (founding member). More details https://www.redehabitacao.pt/ (Since 2020)