

Ana Margarida Dias Martins
PhD in Lusophone Postcolonial Literatures



I am a Ph.D. student in Portuguese Studies under the supervision of Professor Hilary Owen at the University of Manchester. My research focuses on postcolonial Portuguese and Mozambican literatures. I am comparing the narratives of two women writers from Portugal (Lídia Jorge) and Mozambique (Paulina Chiziane), whose novels were written in the aftermath of the Portuguese revolution (1974) and the independence of the Portuguese African colonies in 1975, respectively.

I have so far centred on theories of feminism and postcolonial theory in terms of a critical articulation with the notion of Portuguese semiperiphery theorised by the Portuguese sociologist Boaventura de Sousa Santos. Gradually, I am conjugating these topics with issues of exoticism, race and gender in the definition of national identities.

The research project that I am currently engaged in aims to identify and theorise what I call the 'internal exotic' in Paulina Chiziane's and Lídia Jorge's work. I intend to further comparative views of Mozambique and Portugal to question notions of gendered identity and constructions of nationhood in these two countries. In my research I am also comparing views of: Mozambique as former colony on the world economic periphery; Portugal as semiperiphery in the world system; and Portugal's own inner periphery or internal colonialisms that may be said to fuel an 'internal' exotic, e.g. with respect to the Southern regions of the country in Lídia Jorge's work.

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