

**LIFE** LIFE CONFERENCE  
RESEARCH GROUP

# RESEARCHING VULNERABILITIES

## FROM A LIFE COURSE PERSPECTIVE

**13-14 NOVEMBER 2024**  
**ICS-ULISBOA PORTUGAL**

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**LIFE Conference**  
**'Researching Vulnerabilities from a Life Course Perspective'**  
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**Organised by LIFE Research Group, Sofia Aboim and Ana Patrícia Hilário**

**AUTHOR/S & ABSTRACTS**

Author/s	Title & Abstract
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Alice Scavarda</b></p> <p>University of Torino</p>	<p><b>‘Are we all vulnerable?’ Visual and performative methods in Disability Research</b></p> <p>Visual and performative methods such as photovoice, comics and applied theatre have been increasingly used in research with vulnerable populations. These methods have proved particularly effective in both engaging disabled and neurodivergent participants in research activities and in highlighting how the intersections of multiple vulnerabilities related to gender, age, ethnic background and disability/neurodivergence can create barriers to their social inclusion. Visual and performative methods are flexible and allow for an embodied and emotional way of knowing that is useful in adopting an intersectional lens. Not only methodologically, but also ethically, these methods allow disabled and neurodivergent people to express themselves and balance the relationship with the researcher. Although they involve an emotional and physical involvement in fieldwork activities, which can be demanding for participants, they help to create safe spaces where both the researcher and the participants can share their own vulnerabilities. By doing things together and co-creating artefacts and performances, the researcher and participants can build an empathic bond with each other and recall mutual memories and lived experiences of oppression. Drawing on some empirical examples of research studies with disabled/neurodivergent people, I will explain that in using visual and performative methods, the researcher makes herself vulnerable within the research situation. I will conclude that the mutual vulnerability of the researcher and the participants is beneficial both for producing rich data and for alleviating the social oppression of the participants. However, issues of privacy and safety, as well as the impact of research activities on both subjects (the participants, but also the researcher) will be addressed.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Amalie Kusier</b> <b>Anna Paldam Folker</b></p> <p>University of Southern Denmark</p>	<p><b>The Mindhelper Study – A qualitative study exploring the potential of online youth mental health promotion</b></p> <p>Adolescence is a vulnerable period characterised by significant transitions such as choosing education, finding love and separation from parents. In addition, up to 25% of young Danes are experiencing mental health struggles and vulnerability. They are increasingly using the internet to seek knowledge and support, but in-depth knowledge about the potential of online mental health-promoting solutions targeting young people is lacking. This study investigates how Danes aged 15-25 years perceive, use, and implement online mental health services targeting young people in their everyday lives to overcome mental health struggles. In an online context, high demands are placed on methods for collecting data. This study uses innovative qualitative methods to explore young people's use of the mental health promotion platform Mindhelper.dk: 1) a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of questions (n= 2523) young people have posted on Mindhelper.dk Q&amp;A platform, 2) anonymous chat interviews with users on Mindhelper.dk., 3) in-depth phone interviews with young people recruited via survey exploring the effect of Mindhelper.dk on well-being. The study emphasis that virtual methods are essential when exploring an online context, and have potential for reaching vulnerable groups and conducting research on sensitive topics. However, they also present unique ethical challenges that should be addressed.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ana Patrícia Hilário</b></p> <p>University of Évora</p>	<p><b>Recruitment and engagement of a vulnerable population: the case of children with chronic illness and their young siblings</b></p> <p>This presentation intends to explore the methodological issues of recruiting and engaging in research populations considered to be vulnerable drawing from a qualitative study conducted with children with chronic illness and their young siblings. Recruiting this population is particularly challenging due to their child status, as well as the experience of a chronic illness. Whereas parents have been described in</p>

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<p><b>Ana Sofia Ribeiro</b> ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p>previous studies as the key gatekeepers, our research reveals the power of healthcare professionals in controlling access to these populations. The hidden nature of chronic illness in childhood also made recruitment to these populations difficult. Snowballing and social media advertising did not prove to be a successful recruitment strategy, unlike what has been described in other studies. The findings suggest that the methods chosen to develop research with these populations are central to recruiting and engaging children with a chronic illness and their young siblings. Visual methods (particularly, the 'drawing-write-and-tell') were a core part of the data collection. Through the 'drawing-write-and-tell' technique the children and their young siblings were able to express their feelings and their experiences around a chronic illness that otherwise could be difficult for them to articulate. This method favored engaging children with a chronic illness and their siblings in research. The presentation will offer evidence on how the 'drawing-write-and-tell' technique is a powerful tool for developing research with vulnerable populations.</p> <p><b>Facing vulnerabilities in climate disasters: rural young people and stories from 2017 wildfires in Central Portugal</b></p> <p>In the current polycrisis context, wildfires have emerged as a global threat, with significant human and environmental impacts (OECD, 2023). Rural youth face distinct challenges from wildfires, including health risks from smoke inhalation, psychological trauma, and educational disruptions. Hence, they are seen as vulnerable, although it can be argued that it this status is reinforced by nonparticipatory disaster risk reduction policies. Young people hold potential roles in wildfire prevention and management, through engagement in community activities, such as educational programs on fire safety, or through advocacy for climate protection in social media and activism. These efforts contribute to community safety and empower youth by fostering a sense of agency (Ribeiro, 2022). This study examines narratives from 12 young individuals who experienced the major wildfires of October 2017 in rural central Portugal. Engaged in an environmental activism program in Gouveia, Serra da Estrela, from 2019 to 2021, these youths, aged 15 to 17, offer insights into their vulnerability facing wildfires and on the individual and collective strategies used to minimized it. Using biographical interviews and visual methodologies, the study highlights the need for integrating youth voices in building resilience in rural areas through civil protection and educational programs.</p>
<p><b>Anna Temkina</b> <b>Larisa Shapkovskaya</b> <b>Maya Lavie-Ajaji</b>  Ben Gurion University of the Negev</p>	<p><b>Sexuality and Vulnerability of aging women, who are looking for partners, from a life course perspective</b></p> <p>The aim of this study is to explore the sexual subjectivity of women of post- reproductive age adopting a life course perspective. We present findings from analysis of 62 semi-structured interviews with women over 50 years old from Russian, Finland and Israel who use dating apps to look for romantic or sexual partners. We conceptualize the vulnerability of aging women and discuss how aging could be reconsidered as a resource. Vulnerability of aging women is connected to lack of autonomy and independence, bodily and psychological insecurity, marginalized or deviant status, and lack of recognition. Our analysis indicates a complex relationship between age and vulnerability in the realm of sexuality shaped by the material specificities of the ageing female body, sexual culture and gender norms, and life course events such as divorce, migration, and health conditions. On one hand, as women age, they may feel more vulnerable, experiencing feelings of stigma and fear of losing sexual attractiveness and partners. This is especially true for migrant women, On the other hand, older women also gain confidence, knowledge and experience. As a result, they experience more agency to negotiate power dynamics in heterosexual relationships.</p>
<p><b>António Cardoso</b> <b>Ideias</b>  ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p><b>Jovens e Forças Armadas: pensar as vulnerabilidades numa perspetiva institucional</b></p> <p>As dificuldades que as Forças Armadas vivenciam em termos de recursos humanos, nomeadamente alguns problemas ao nível da capacidade de recrutamento e da retenção (tempo de permanência em prestação de serviço) de militares, colocam-nas perante novos desafios. Os militares são em número inferior ao necessário e a estrutura de missões a que têm de dar resposta tem aumentado, tanto em termos de complexidade como de número de solicitações. Estamos assim perante um cenário em que o conceito de vulnerabilidades ganha relevância e sobre diferentes perspetivas de análise. Por um lado, a própria vulnerabilidade institucional. Uma instituição que tem de ser atrativa para os jovens num contexto concorrencial com outros atores (empresas e outras instituições) capazes de evidenciar maior flexibilidade na configuração das ofertas de emprego que proporcionam. Por outro, e o que mais nos interessa para este fórum de reflexão, uma instituição que para cumprir a sua missão e assegurar as suas bases de funcionamento, tende a colocar em segundo plano, ou a ter dificuldades em cuidar (na devida extensão do termo) das formas de vida destes seus militares mais jovens. Estarão a ser capazes</p>

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<p><b>Bilyana Zdravkova</b> Cies-Iscte-IUL</p>	<p>de proporcionar aos seus jovens militares recursos (formação e experiência profissional) que lhes permita melhores condições de empregabilidade futura? Ou estará a passagem profissional pelas Forças Armadas a gerar (ou pelo menos a não atenuar) vulnerabilidades nesses jovens? Será esta a reflexão teórica e empírica (pela voz dos seus responsáveis) que iremos procurar fazer.</p> <p><b>Beyond Stigma: Diverse narratives and lived experiences of Sexual Pleasure and Sexual Empowerment amongst marginalised populations</b></p> <p>The object of study is to examine the lived experiences of sexual pleasure and sexual empowerment of marginalised populations by answering three research questions:(1) how do gender and sexual norms and discrimination practices influence the ability of individuals to experience sexual pleasure and sexual empowerment, and which are the implications for the sexual well-being of marginalised populations? (2) how do sexual pleasure, empowerment, and sexual well-being vary over the course of a person's life and how do they interact with multiple identities and cultural/social contexts? (3) what are the ramifications of sexual stigma on sexual experiences, and how may sexuality education programmes/policies, address these? A qualitative approach based on biographic narrative interviews with representatives of minority groups is employed. The project intends to give space to marginalised voices, contributing to the production of academic-scientific works in sexuality studies and disseminating knowledge about sexuality to the wider public and privileged actors.</p>
<p><b>Boris Melnichenko</b></p> <p>Centre for Russian, Caucasian and Central European Studies (CERCEC) School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, Paris (EHESS)</p> <p>Center for Internet and Society (CIS)</p> <p>The French National Centre for Scientific Research, Paris (CNRS)</p>	<p><b>Studying experiences of the war, exile and political repression in post-Soviet spaces with collaborative autoethnography of vulnerability</b></p> <p>As the war in Ukraine continues, repressions by the authoritarian regime in Russia intensify. Propaganda, private military groups, complete censorship, and changes in the education system are on the rise. The judicial system enforces severe penalties for war critics, including high treason convictions among scientists. These drastic changes affect all levels of society, causing ideological divides within professions, scientific communities, families or neighbors, challenging self-identity and belonging. Researchers in the humanities and social sciences face increased demands for reflexivity in this environment. In this paper, I discuss the participatory research experience of the Collaborative Autoethnography of Vulnerability workshop at the Free University in exile (Brīvā Universitāte). Since February 2023, I have been leading the work based on the diary practices of about fifty students (mostly women) from various fields (social sciences, literature, documentary theatre and film, design, and illustration). All participants have experienced severe vulnerability, including political persecution, exile, discrimination (including LGBTQ+ individuals), and issues related to disability and mental health. While theoretically based on large reconsideration of the notion of vulnerability in social sciences for the last fifty years, and other close studies of “risk” and “danger”, as well of by the field of STS; this paper will serve as methodological exercise inspired by the postulates of French pragmatic sociology (“sociology of tests”, cf. [3]; [4]; [17,18]; [26]), and the autoethnographic method and self-reflection of the French tradition of reflexive ethnography (cf. [27]).</p>
<p><b>Carolina Silva</b> ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p><b>Vaivém: A relação da participação cultural dos jovens com os seus percursos de vida</b></p> <p>São múltiplas as razões que levam os jovens a participar em programas educativos, fora do contexto escolar, em instituições culturais, nomeadamente em museus de arte contemporânea, onde a oferta para este grupo tem proliferado no contexto português na última década. São talvez menos diversos os motivos que os fazem regressar, em diferentes momentos ao longo do tempo, a estas instituições e iniciativas. Os dados produzidos no âmbito do Laboratório de Escuta – Jovens, Cultura, Participação, que envolveu mais de cinquenta jovens, entre os 15 e os 25 anos de idade, num diálogo partilhado com cinco instituições culturais da Grande Lisboa, sugerem que essa participação está, em alguns casos, associada a momentos de transição e de tomada de decisão nos seus percursos de vida. Isto verifica-se, por um lado, durante as suas trajetórias escolares, como por exemplo no acesso ao ensino secundário, ou nas transições entre o ensino secundário e o ensino superior, ou entre a licenciatura e o mestrado. Por outro lado, é fator de procura por iniciativas educativas e formativas em espaços culturais, o momento de entrada no mercado de trabalho, em particular quando são jovens que pretendem seguir uma carreira no setor criativo. Esta hipótese tornou-se mais evidente nas entrevistas individuais aprofundadas, realizadas com dez jovens, para quem o contato e relação com os museus foi incisivo nos seus percursos de vida. Nesta apresentação pretende-se pensar quais são as dimensões – educativas, interpessoais e ou profissionalizantes, que contribuem para o adensar desta relação e de que forma podem as instituições culturais desenhar respostas programáticas que respondem às incertezas, vulnerabilidades e potencialidades dos jovens.</p>

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<p><b>Chiara Pussetti</b> ICS-ULisboa <b>Session organiser</b></p> <p><b>Isabel Pires</b> ICS-ULisboa <b>Session discussant</b></p>	<p><b>Aesthetic vulnerability: intersectional perspectives on body and beauty standards</b></p> <p>In contemporary societies, the body has increasingly become a repository of beauty with significant commercial value. In recent decades, the pressure to conform to cosmetic standards has increased, fostering an aesthetic consumerism that is both unceasing and limitless. Many people strive to maintain an eternal appearance of youthfulness, sexiness, slenderness, smoothness and muscularity. Mainstream beauty ideals are inextricably linked to lookism, a specific form of discrimination or prejudice based on an individual's physical appearance. This form of bias particularly affects vulnerable groups, including people of colour, older adults, individuals with disabilities and those who do not conform to traditional gender norms. Cosmetic enhancement has emerged as a significant source of both economic gain and social vulnerability. The Aesthetic Vulnerability panel invites researchers to submit papers that explore the intersections of class, gender, race, age, and disability and their influence on perceptions of beauty ideals and cosmetic anxiety. Our aim is to foster a dynamic discussion that illuminates how aesthetic standards and beauty ideals contribute to the experience of 'normative dissatisfaction' and perpetuate vulnerability across different social groups. We welcome submissions that address these topics adopting visual, creative, sensory, artistic, collaborative and participatory research methods.</p>
<p><b>Cristina Vaz de Almeida</b>  ISCSP - CAPP</p>	<p><b>Health Literacy as a Critical Factor of Individual, Group and Societal Vulnerability</b></p> <p>Vulnerability is a concept that is still little debated among academia, so it also has little dimension in the real world of interventions for a better management of this conjunctural or structuring and multidimensional state, in a critical and effective way that leads to individual and collective inequalities and inequities. When we talk about vulnerability, it is important to bridge the gap with the concept of health literacy, due to the theoretical and practical implications it has. The study to be proposed to be presented at this congress provides for an analysis of vulnerability factors in the biological, psychological and social dimensions. In this sense, answers will be given to the following questions: 1. Can vulnerability be controlled if the individual has a higher level of health literacy? 2. Can vulnerability be controlled if organizations have a higher level of health literacy? 3. These factors are critical to be able not only to understand but to intervene in the field of individual, group, societal vulnerability from a biopsychosocial perspective. The WHO (2021) underlines that "health literacy saves lives". And it is in this path in which competencies are developed, which include knowledge, skills and attributes, generators of greater motivation, that better access, understanding, evaluation and use of health resources are obtained. And therefore with predictive effects of greater control and management of vulnerabilities.</p>
<p><b>Daniela Mourão Craveiro</b>  ISEG-ULisboa</p>	<p><b>Not All Bad News: Early and Late Life Social Determinants of Physical Limitations</b></p> <p>Understanding the average trend in the number of physical limitations in the adult population provides valuable information for healthcare needs, social policy development, and even personal management preparing individuals for physical vulnerability in old age. Recent studies suggest that younger cohorts seem to be undergoing relatively more accelerated ageing processes, but the trends vary by country. Social conditions across the life course influence health trajectories, shaping health risk factors, and signaling important policy entry points. This paper estimates age trajectories in functional limitation across three generations in Portugal, accounting for early, adulthood and late life social determinants of health, using longitudinal population-representative survey data. Early cohorts present lower prevalence but expected trajectories with quicker limitation loss as age increases. The difference between cohorts, however, is mitigated and loses significance, after adjusting the trends for the effect of early social determinants of health. Results suggest that the reduced early life risks in younger cohorts compensate for the increased estimated limitations for this cohort. Results suggest that the possible increase in early life protection in Portugal is compensating for the effects of the new health risks affecting physical ageing nowadays. Findings advice for early and lifelong interventions to support healthier ageing trajectories.</p>
<p>E. Spinelli<sup>1</sup> E. Vasquez del Aguila<sup>2</sup> T. Schilling<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><b>UNITE project: an innovative multidisciplinary approach to fight vulnerability in Higher Education</b></p> <p>Vulnerability can have significant consequences, including lower academic achievement, higher dropout rates and limited career opportunities. Students facing socio-economic challenges, mental health issues or discrimination may struggle to keep up with coursework, engage in campus life and</p>

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<p>K. Kolarova<sup>4</sup>  P. Aparicio Martinez<sup>5</sup>  E. Yeguas Bolivar<sup>6</sup>  J. Taborri<sup>1</sup></p> <p><sup>1</sup> University of Tuscia  <sup>2</sup> University College Dublin  <sup>4</sup> Charles University  <sup>5</sup> University of Cordoba  <sup>6</sup> University of Cordoba</p>	<p>access necessary resources. Addressing these vulnerabilities through targeted support services and inclusive policies is essential to promoting an equitable educational environment. In this context, UNITE (University Network for Inclusion and digiTal Education) aims to create a European university network for the development of services, digital tools and strategies to promote inclusion, digital transformation and quality teaching in higher education. The multidisciplinary approach, ranging from social sciences to engineering, will make it possible to achieve practical results in terms of (i) innovative digital tools, such as podcasts and virtual laboratories, for teaching and learning; (ii) training paths for teachers and students to improve their knowledge of inclusion issues; (iii) AI-based support tools for students with special educational needs; (iv) a list of good practices to reduce inequalities and promote innovative and inclusive education to fight vulnerability.</p>
<p><b>Eduardo Carneiro Lima</b>  ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p><b>“Me entender nesse meio é uma forma de sobrevivência”: os desafios de jovens empreendedores em ecossistemas de inovação</b></p> <p>Este estudo explora o caso de Fabi, um(a) jovem empreendedor(a) de 26 anos, que possui uma startups na área da construção civil, residente em Coimbra e ativamente engajado(a) em “ecossistemas de inovação” em Lisboa e no Porto. A análise revela algumas das suas vulnerabilidades, que potencialmente podem refletir as dificuldades partilhadas por outros “jovens empreendedores”. Destaco inicialmente a discrepância entre as narrativas salvacionistas e “de sucesso” promovidas por programas de startups e fundos de investimentos, e a realidade enfrentada pelos empreendedores no acesso aos recursos financeiros. Argumento sobre a tendência conservadora dos investimentos de alto risco em negócios embrionários, perpetuando dinâmicas capitalistas de minimização de riscos e maximização de lucros. Abordo também a aplicação indiscriminada da categoria “jovem” para justificar a precarização do trabalho e a adoção de relações laborais flexíveis, além de outras formas de exploração e vulnerabilidades consideradas como características inerentes à condição juvenil. Por fim, discuto sobre os processos seletivos desses agentes, revelando estruturas de poder que tendem a favorecer empreendedores já estabelecidos ou startups de setores de interesses estratégicos. Esses desafios e barreiras enfrentados por “jovens empreendedores” apontam para a urgência de repensar as narrativas e as práticas nos “ecossistemas de inovação”.</p>
<p><b>Eduardo Prado Cardoso</b>  Universidade Católica Portuguesa</p>	<p><b>Social ties and safety nets: recollecting flight attendant’s vulnerabilities through documentary research</b></p> <p>This communication proposes a look into personal accounts of two women in their 60s who worked as flight attendants in Brazil, and consensually recorded their memories for a documentary project. Two main aspects shall come to the forefront when discussing these recollections: the first is related to the loneliness one of the women has experienced because of her constant travelling, in particular missing family events and quality time with her children. Connected to that, and not paradoxically, comes the description of a solitude which affected the interviewee after her retirement. Even though the children were now grown, she suggested that she missed some type of <i>freedom</i>. The second point becomes concrete through the second character’s abrupt dismissal, which happened after the company she worked for went bankrupt. The traumatic reliving of the day when she got to know about this termination leads to the discussion about the precarity of work in many dimensions, since she and many other former flight crew still fight to this day for compensation. The emotional damage caused by a recurrent call for justice (going to protests, posting online) is closely followed by a perception that it is hard to move on from her past job.</p>
<p><b>Elizângela Carvalho Noronha</b>  Universidade Católica Portuguesa</p>	<p><b>Envelhecer no/a partir do interior: consumo mediático e autopercepção da velhice</b></p> <p>O quadro de envelhecimento da população portuguesa trouxe para o debate público as preocupações políticas e demográficas que situam a velhice como um desafio para a sustentabilidade social e econômica da sociedade. Estas preocupações têm se refletido na maior visibilidade do envelhecimento e da velhice nos media, sobretudo, a partir de sua vulnerabilidade e do custo social que representam para os serviços públicos e para as parcelas mais jovens da sociedade. Por outro lado, como forma de convocar os/as idosos/as a continuarem em atividade laboral, emergem discursos sobre o envelhecimento ativo e o prolongamento da juventude. Nesta comunicação, iremos apresentar o</p>

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<p><b>Emerson Pessoa</b> Universidade Federal de Rondônia - UNIR</p> <p><b>Vítor Sérgio Ferreira</b> ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p>projeto de investigação em curso no Programa de Pós-Doutoramento em Desenvolvimento Humano Integral da Universidade Católica Portuguesa que tem como objetivo central investigar como a população idosa residente no concelho da Covilhã, situada na região Centro/Interior do país, (re)interpreta o envelhecimento e a velhice a partir das representações mediáticas que consome no seu cotidiano. Recorremos aos métodos, quantitativo e qualitativos, sobretudo os etnográficos, para realizar o estudo em recepção como forma de dar voz e visibilidade à diversidade que constitui esta comunidade interpretativa.</p> <p><b>Reflexos no espelho: distintos e distintivos modos de encarnar a europeia nas experiências de trabalhadoras do sexo trans e travestis brasileiras</b></p> <p>Esta apresentação tem como objetivo compreender a construção de biografias corporais de trabalhadoras do sexo trans e travestis brasileiras em mobilidade para Portugal e/ou no continente europeu. Mediante a operacionalização de entrevistas compreensivas e guiado por uma Sociologia à escala individual e do corpo, analisam-se os processos de modificação corporal e de produção das subjetividades nos trânsitos por contextos sociais, geográficos e históricos distintos. A mobilidade para Europa revelou-se ser um ponto de viragem marcante nos percursos de vida destas pessoas ao propiciar o acúmulo de capital econômico, social, cultural que virá a ser convertido em tipos distintos de capital corporal e simbólico. Paralelamente, a mobilidade transnacional altera os patrimônios de disposições relacionadas às expressões de gênero e modelos de feminilidade que são diferenciados entre si por fatores impostos pelo corpo sujeito e por questões geracionais. Se os trânsitos geográficos vêm consubstancializar biografias corporais variadas, no final, todas elas convergem para o ideal de encarnação da europeia, ou seja, a obtenção de capital simbólico representado pela encarnação de recursos e símbolos percebidos como aspetos de glamour e luxo nos campos prostitucionais na Europa.</p>
<p><b>Eve Dubé<sup>1,2</sup></b></p> <p><b>Antoine Garnier<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p>1- Laval University, Department of Anthropology, Quebec City, QC, Canada</p> <p>2- Research Center of the CHU de Québec-Université Laval, Quebec City, QC, Canada</p>	<p><b>Who is at-risk for antimicrobial resistant infections? Biomedical experts' definitions of vulnerability</b></p> <p>Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the top global public health and development threats, but most solutions implemented to date have failed to curb the growth of resistance. While the Canadian Action Plan on AMR recommends to adopt an equity lens, the segmentation of population groups at-risks of AMR remains technical and framed as biological. In this paper, we will present findings from a 2021-24 qualitative project conducted in Canada to discuss how vulnerabilities to AMR are perceived and defined. We interviewed 59 Canadian experts in AMR (e.g., microbiologists, lab scientists, public health practitioners) working in government, public health institutions or in the pharmaceutical industry. Experts' views of vulnerability to AMR focused on "risk factors" defined as biological factors or individual behaviors. Participants recognized social inequities, but these were viewed as increased risks of exposure to resistant pathogens. We will argue that the lack of consideration of the intersecting biological, individual, cultural, institutional and structural factors creating vulnerabilities limits the development of effective solutions to tackle AMR. Dominant biomedical views of vulnerabilities need to be balanced with a wider social context in order to better understand the impacts of AMR on specific groups.</p>
<p><b>Evgeny Knaifel</b></p> <p>Faculty of Social Work, Ashkelon Academic College</p>	<p><b>Challenges in recruiting vulnerable populations as a source of knowledge in qualitative research: The case of immigrants caring for a family member with mental illness</b></p> <p>This lecture focuses on the challenges in recruiting research participants as potential sources of knowledge when investigating vulnerable populations in qualitative research. The research case that will be presented focuses on immigrants, specifically from the former Soviet Union (FSU) in Israel, caring for a family member with a severe mental illness. These informal caregivers represent a "hard-to-reach" group due to the intersectionality of their immigrant status, ethno-cultural background, and mental health stigma. Therefore, an attempt was made to recruit the participants via two different methods: purposive and snowball sampling techniques. Despite this strategy, many difficulties were encountered during the recruitment process and data collection was delayed considerably. However, I propose that the critical analysis of challenges during the recruitment process paves the way for acquiring interactional and political knowledge regarding the study population. This knowledge is illustrated by examples of FSU caregivers who agreed to participate in the study and those who did not, as well as by a reflexive view of the researcher's position and his interaction with the participants. The insight elicited</p>

Author/s	Title & Abstract
<p><b>Fabio Bertoni</b> ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p>through the recruitment process could be viewed as independent data and as a possible source for triangulation with the findings obtained through the research interviews.</p> <p><b>“São os desafios que a vida me oferece que fazem de mim um campeão”: Rethinking Vulnerability Starting from the Sports Experiences of People with Visual Disabilities</b></p> <p>The theoretical field of Critical Disability Studies leads us to a profound rethinking of the concept of vulnerability: to move away from pitying and infantilizing approaches towards people with disabilities, these studies emphasize personal and collective agency and subjectivity. They reframe vulnerability (and disability itself) within a power dynamic and structures that, through an ableist logic, act as disabling factors in an intersectional manner. The contribution will propose the first insights from an ethnographic work that I am beginning in two sports settings based in Lisbon: an adapted martial art (adaptive judo) and a team sport (blind football). The fieldwork will allow an examination of how, through sports performance, training, and informal contexts among teammates/gym mates, we can question the categories of vulnerability and fragility within the relationship with movements, bodies, and sensory experiences. From a methodological standpoint, the paper will allow for reflection on several issues (necessarily open-ended, considering the initial phase of the research): the first concerns the positionality of the researcher (starting from my body, considered able) in relation to these ethnographic contexts, and forms of cooperation, sharing, and co-research through which to dialogue and rethink research based on forms that differ from the “normality” of sensory experience.</p>
<p><b>Fábio Rafael Augusto</b> ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p><b>How does vulnerability lead to care in the context of food assistance?</b></p> <p>Based on a sociological study conducted in Portugal, this research seeks to explore how the life trajectories of food assistance beneficiaries are shaped by the extreme vulnerability they face. Additionally, it aims to understand how this vulnerability fosters the development of care practices within the context of food assistance. The data were collected using a comparative qualitative methodological strategy rooted in institutional ethnography. Over approximately one year, participant observation was conducted in three food assistance initiatives: a surplus food redistribution charity, a soup kitchen, and a social supermarket. Following this, 18 semi-structured interviews were conducted with beneficiaries of these organizations. The findings reveal that the life paths of food assistance beneficiaries are marked by multiple setbacks across various spheres of social life. Understanding the challenges they face requires considering the processes of social exclusion, poverty, and disqualification that contribute to their vulnerabilities. These factors collectively intensify the hardships experienced by food assistance beneficiaries, shaping their life experiences in profound ways. Moreover, it is believed that their condition of vulnerability acts as a catalyst for the development of diverse care practices within the realm of food assistance.</p>
<p><b>Federica Manfredi</b> University of Torino</p>	<p><b>Vulv-nerability. Aesthetics and politics of vulvar pain</b></p> <p>Contemporary vulvas do not have political recognition, social visibility or the right to have a pain-free existence. Genital pain exposes women and people with vulvas to vulnerable conditions, creating discrimination in the health access and inequalities for what we consider a legitime pain or disability. As showed by the qualitative research on meanings and bias of the vulvar pain that I develop from February 2023 at the University of Torino (Italy), the Italian society does not acknowledge vulvodinia sufferers as patient affected by a “real” disease: the condition is not supported by the national healthcare system, besides being medically unexplored and socially invisibilized. Patients do not see themselves as deserving care until penetrative sex is compromised. Vulva health gains awareness only when feminine sexual performance deviates from heteronormative models and coital imperatives. In a feminist gendered perspective, this paper presents the artistic and scientific exhibition “Vulvar Pain”, based on the results of the anthropological research started in 2023. Epistemic partners co-produced symbolic handicrafts revealing the difficulties of be seen as bodies deserving care. This effort aims to present scientific results through a series of public engagement events, including arts, workshops, and roundtables with health professionals and patient associations. The itinerant exhibition “Vulvar Pain” advocates considering genital pain beyond the cultural taboo of sexuality, privileging visual narratives to facilitate dialogue between biomedical discourse, social sciences, and the embodied knowledge of sufferers. Considering the multiple lens of this case study, the paper presents collaborations between ethnographers, artists and designers, engaging in the co-construction of new forms of knowledge that can be seen, touched, smelled, sat upon, and circulated to unfold vulvar taboos.</p>

Author/s	Title & Abstract
<p><b>Filipa Fernandes Neto</b></p> <p><b>Ana Jorge</b></p> <p><b>Nuno Nunes</b></p> <p><b>Maria do Carmo Botelho</b></p> <p>Universidade Lusófona</p>	<p><b>Uncovering inequalities at play in digital dis/connection practices</b></p> <p>In a mediatized, datafied and hyperconnected society (Couldry &amp; Hepp, 2016; Van Dijck, 2013; Brubaker, 2023), digital disconnection becomes a necessity to deal with the info-communicational stimuli (Kania-Lundholm, 2021). Extant literature has explored how these practices are socially embedded and stratified (Fast et al., 2021; Treré, 2021). This study aims to further expand such literature and investigates how sociodemographic factors influence digital disconnection, conceptualizing inequalities intersectionally. The study consisted of an online survey, conducted in early 2023, with a quota sample with post-calibration to adjust to the characteristics (sex, age and education level) of the Portuguese population (n=1618). Variables used included gender, age, life stage (Ganito &amp; Jorge, 2018), education and place of living, economic status—income (perception), condition of work and profession (Eurofound, 2017), migrant status, religious background (European Social Survey, 2020). Additionally, it considers social pressures to function digitally. Results show that a highly educated, single/dependent or independent 35+ years old, and more ethnically and/or religiously included group preferred self-preservation disconnection strategies. This indicates privileged digital users who can afford to refrain from social contacts if they find them overwhelming; while a technical-savvy group, with a greater portion of economically precarious women, doesn't put their abilities to practice.</p>
<p><b>João Francisco Gonçalves Dionísio</b></p> <p>ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p><b>Ativismo juvenil: resposta ou consequência de vulnerabilidades?</b></p> <p>O modo como os jovens participam politicamente tem originado diversos estudos sociológicos que têm como ponto de partida os contextos vivenciais e quotidianos juvenis, onde, decorrente das diversas interações e sociabilidades, os jovens constroem formas sociais de consciência, de pensamento, de percepção e ação política – os processos de socialização política que constroem disposições para a participação política e o ativismo. Os jovens atualmente participam politicamente de uma forma mais focada e os seus ativismos são feitos em função de causas específicas, causas estas que têm origem nas vulnerabilidades inerentes aos seus percursos e trajetórias de vida e que por eles mesmos são identificadas. Considerando que a vulnerabilidade, na sua dimensão social e sociológica, se relaciona com aspetos de justiça, de diferenciação e organização social, e que se encontra vinculada a características como o bem-estar, os meios de subsistência e resiliência, a capacidade de autoproteção, proteção social e as redes e instituições sociais e políticas com os quais os indivíduos se relacionam, pretendemos discutir de que modo a participação política e o ativismo juvenil, de um ponto de vista sociológico, se podem constituir como uma resposta de uma geração que lida com diversas vulnerabilidades e riscos, ou uma consequência destes, e qual o papel dos processos de socialização política no processo.</p>
<p><b>Jussara Rowland</b></p> <p>ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p><b>Artificial Intelligence and Vulnerability Across the Life Course</b></p> <p>Recent calls for the development of a sociology of AI emphasize the need to focus on "where, when, how, and for whom AI is developed" and to study how AI processes affect global and local inequalities, privilege, and vulnerability for individuals and nation-states (Joyce et al., 2021). Increased reliance on automated systems can affect various stages of life, from childhood education to young people's opportunities and elderly care. The implications of AI at each stage need careful consideration to ensure that its benefits are equitably distributed and do not exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Scholars have demonstrated that AI systems can not only replicate but also exacerbate existing social inequalities related to race, gender, and class. These systems often mistake correlations between vulnerable groups and their life chances for causations, leading to biased decisions that can increase surveillance, reduce access to health and work opportunities, or justify increased police violence (Hoffman et al. 2022). Furthermore, scholars highlight concerns about human vulnerability and disempowerment due to automation, suggest shifting the focus from merely addressing system bias to examining their deployment in specific fields altogether (Burrell, 2024). This presentation will provide an overview of current discussions on AI and social vulnerability, exploring how current AI systems can contribute to, alleviate, or reinforce existing social inequalities across different life stages.</p>
<p><b>Katrine Johansen</b></p> <p>The National Institute of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark</p>	<p><b>Digitalized sexual harassment – An anthropological exploration of gendered vulnerabilities among young people in Denmark</b></p> <p>Based on anthropological fieldwork among young people in Denmark, this paper explores the gendered dynamics and impacts of online and offline sexual harassment prior to the MeToo movement. The paper draws on Andrew Sayer's ontological perspective on humans as sentient, social beings vulnerable to harm and needy of others. Hence, vulnerability is an enduring part of being human and related to</p>

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<p><b>Lia Pappámikail</b> Escola Superior de Educação, Instituto Politécnico de Santarém</p>	<p>our sense of dignity. Understanding the impacts of online and offline sexual harassment, I argue, relies on an acknowledgment of the ongoing embodied duality of agency and vulnerability as the foundation for humans' sense of dignity. This argument is developed by exploring firstly, how unwanted 'dick pics' confront girls with a gendered vulnerability impacting girls' sense of dignity. Secondly, how boys' solicitation of girls' 'nudes' confront girls and boys with their vulnerability in gendered ways. Finally, how unwanted sexual attention moving between online and offline contexts are enabled by the same gendered meanings related to heterosexuality. Based on this I conclude that whilst vulnerability is fundamental to human existence the young peoples' confrontations with this is shaped socially. The analysis shows that a symbolic order of gendered meanings related to heterosexuality are woven into the fabric of young people's everyday lives making girls and boys vulnerable in different and unequal ways.</p> <p><b>O conceito de vulnerabilidade enquanto mediador na intervenção social e educativa: contributos a partir da formação</b></p> <p>O termo vulnerabilidade impôs-se, nas últimas décadas, como um termo omnipresente na definição e construção de políticas públicas dirigidas a determinados grupos e territórios, muitas vezes substituindo noções como exclusão ou risco. Enquanto construto conceptual é amiúde mobilizado na compreensão de contextos e percursos de vida por parte das ciências sociais e do comportamento, e adquire força na formação e prática dos frequentemente chamados trabalhadores do social cuja ação se dirige, especialmente a indivíduos e contextos «vulneráveis», sem que o substrato normativo dessa qualificação seja alguma vez questionado(Dionísio, 2017). Para estes profissionais, distribuídos por diversos campos profissionais, que vão do serviço à educação social, passando pela animação sociocultural entre outros, a ideia de vulnerabilidade, assume-se então um conceito mediador na prática interventiva de cariz social e educativo. Ora a reificação da vulnerabilidade, como objeto da intervenção, em que sobressaem traços de alguma condescendência, comporta riscos que não devemos ignorar, nomeadamente no plano ético e deontológico. De facto, como refere Soulet (2005) a noção de vulnerabilidade compreende o sentido de problema/dano em potência – e portanto apelando à ideia de ação preventiva – está assente tanto na sua dimensão estrutural (resultado de condições materiais, políticas, económicas, culturais, etc. que produzem a vulnerabilidade), como nas circunstâncias para uma efetiva concretização do dano/problema. De facto: definir o quê e quem é vulnerável é crítico, assim como desenvolver dispositivos e ferramentas que permitam analisar criticamente se o potencial dano justifica a intervenção e que impactos tem na (re)produção de novas vulnerabilidades (Dionísio, 2017). Nesta comunicação, propomos discutir estas ideias a partir de contributos e experiências oriundas do trabalho sobre o conceito de vulnerabilidade na formação de profissionais do social.</p>
<p><b>Liliana Zeferino &amp; Natália Alves</b> Instituto de Educação da Universidade de Lisboa</p>	<p><b>Vidas e Experiências de Jovens em Situação de Múltipla Vulnerabilidade</b></p> <p>Nesta comunicação apresentamos os resultados preliminares de um estudo conduzido no âmbito do doutoramento em Formação de Adultos. Com base nos dados empíricos produzidos propomo-nos discutir alguns dos desafios e oportunidades enfrentados pelos jovens adultos em situações de múltipla vulnerabilidade. Estas situações remetem para a existência de oportunidades sociais e educativas desiguais e para o risco de exclusão social nas transições da escola para o trabalho, decorrentes das estruturas de oportunidades a que têm acesso e dos recursos individuais que mobilizam (Bendit &amp; Stokes, 2003; Walther et al., 2005). Trata-se de um estudo qualitativo, baseado em 23 narrativas biográficas, recolhidas em cinco bairros do Município da Amadora. Adotamos como lentes teóricas a Teoria do Curso de Vida, a Interseccionalidade e a Justiça Espacial, considerando que constituem perspetivas cruciais para capturar as complexidades das vivências dos jovens, procurando compreender as experiências, as escolhas e as perceções de si mesmos, enquanto agentes ativos das suas vidas, influenciadas por mudanças sociais, constrangimentos estruturais e dinâmicas institucionais. Os dados preliminares indicam que fatores como a classe social, o género, a raça e o local de residência perpetuam e, nalguns casos, agravam as situações de vulnerabilidade, influenciam as oportunidades educacionais e laborais dos jovens e, conseqüentemente, moldam as suas trajetórias ao longo do curso de vida.</p>
<p><b>Lynn Sudbury-Riley</b> <b>Pippa Hunter-Jones</b> University of Liverpool</p>	<p><b>The trajectory touchpoint technique: a methodology for understanding vulnerability from lived experiences</b></p> <p>The Trajectory Touchpoint Technique (TTT) was developed using design science research to capture the lived experiences of palliative care patients and their families (n=240). It is an easy- to-use artifact that merges several innovative approaches to data collection with vulnerable populations. First, the TTT</p>

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<p><b>Marcos Moura</b> ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p>utilizes touchpoints, which are physical, sensorial, symbolic, and social queues that are important to the participant. Participant perception is key as vulnerability is subjective. Second, the TTT presents potential touchpoints as rich image cartoons. Anthropomorphising enables people to gain some mastery of their environment, especially when it is perceptually unpredictable, which puts research participants at ease. The TTT also uses the concept of journey storytelling, thus giving agency to participants and avoiding a priori themes imposed by the researcher. We have since tested versions of the TTT with children in a hospice, inpatients in a hospital surgical unit, people writing their advance care plans, and people accessing a homeless and mental health service. The TTT was designed using inclusive design principles and underpinned with the systems theory of disability. Hence, we believe it is a useful tool to use with any vulnerable population.</p> <p><b>No espelho de uma mulher transexual: desvendando questões sobre a estética da adequação do corpo</b></p> <p>O artigo busca apresentar o processo de melhoramento corporal entre mulheres transexuais na busca pela adequação ao gênero ao qual se identificam. A partir do uso de hormônios e silicone industrial corpos são construídos com o objetivo de alcançar a “passabilidade” enquanto marcadores do gênero feminino. Entretanto, ao buscar tais aprimoramentos partem-se de corpos clinicamente saudáveis, ainda que psicologicamente questionados pelas próprias mulheres, a um processo contínuo de adoecimento em detrimento aos processos e produtos utilizados. Como metodologia foi utilizado a etnografia por ser o método próprio da antropologia. Ao apresentar dois relatos etnográficos o autor espera levar o leitor aos locais onde estes corpos são elaborados e as principais implicações que trazem ao dia a dia destas mulheres.</p>
<p><b>Mariana Anginho</b> Évora CIES-Iscte</p>	<p><b>Procedimentos éticos e abordagens metodológicas da vulnerabilidade em Portugal e na Colômbia</b></p> <p>A investigação qualitativa com populações vulneráveis obriga a uma forte componente ética no desenvolvimento da pergunta e metodologias de investigação. No âmbito de um projeto de doutoramento focado em populações indígenas e afrodescendentes na Colômbia, acolhido por duas instituições (uma em Portugal, e outra na Colômbia), foram traçados dois procedimentos éticos semelhantes, mas distintos, a partir das normas de cada uma destas universidades. Enquanto em Portugal, o processo foi sobretudo institucional, assumindo protocolos como a anonimização e privacidade de dados, o consentimento informado, e a garantia do bem-estar da população participante; na Colômbia, a consulta prévia é um procedimento obrigatório para o desenvolvimento de um projeto de investigação com populações indígenas. Nesta consulta, o projeto é apresentado a associações representantes das comunidades, que devem ter a possibilidade de rever os objetivos e metodologias da investigação. Esta comunicação visa discutir as diferenças e similaridades entre os procedimentos éticos em investigações com populações vulneráveis na Colômbia e em Portugal, que surgem a partir dos diferentes contextos sociais e históricos que formam estas categorias em cada país. Incidir-se-á particularmente na experiência da consulta prévia como um procedimento que permite uma participação mais ativa e horizontal destas populações em investigações académicas.</p>
<p><b>Marie Helene Jacobsen</b> <b>SK Wehner</b> <b>KR Madsen</b> <b>J Ammitzbøll</b> <b>AM Skovgaard</b> <b>T Tjørnhøj-Thomsen</b></p> <p>National Institute of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark</p>	<p><b>Exploring parents’ experiences and vulnerabilities related to the implementation of a community-based early parenting intervention in Denmark.</b></p> <p>Research suggests early parenting intervention (EPI) can reduce the challenges of mental health problems in childhood. EPIs typically target families in vulnerable positions, e.g. parents or infants at risk. Meanwhile, the literature highlights the intrinsic vulnerabilities of parenthood and the subjective experience of vulnerability. It is, therefore, important to explore the various dimensions of vulnerabilities in the context of EPI. The Infant Health Study (1) examines a video-based parenting intervention that aims to support the mental health of infants with developmental vulnerabilities by promoting sensitive parenting. Community child health nurses (CHNs) deliver the intervention. This paper aims to explore how various forms of vulnerability are at play in the implementation of EPI. A mixed methods design is used, comprising interviews with participating families, non-participants, and dropouts; participant observations of EPI; focus group interviews with CHNs; and quantitative data from questionnaires and Danish registries. Preliminary findings show how vulnerability is connected to parenthood and intersects with different life circumstances, while vulnerability is also a temporal and subjective experience shaped by parents’ earlier experiences, encounters with CHNs, everyday life, and the wider context – all of which influence the implementation and parents’ experience of EPI.</p>

Author/s	Title & Abstract
<p><b>Micol Pizzolati</b> University of Bergamo</p> <p><b>Maaret Jokela-Pansini</b> University of Oxford</p>	<p><b>Embracing vulnerability when pursuing qualitative research: Exploring feelings and supporting one another</b></p> <p>Emotion—not an intrusion but a constitutive element in qualitative social research—is present throughout the research process and affective outcomes (Loughran &amp; Mannay, 2018), including transmission and dissemination. Considering social researchers as vulnerable has received limited attention in the qualitative research process. When included in the discourse on academic work, vulnerability is usually considered something to protect and guard against, rather than an aspect to embrace, think with or work with (Clift et al., 2023).</p> <p>Our work intends to foreground the condition and experience of vulnerability based on a shared experience as a facilitator and participant in two collective memory workshops organised online in July 2023. The collective memory work (CMW) approach (Haug, 2008) enables scholars to discuss their emotional and practical challenges encountered while building relationships with participants in qualitative research and how to best manage such challenges. Using participants’ written stories and two four-hour oral discussions, we explore how, through the sharing of experiences and perspectives facilitated by collective memory work, the method may be further developed as a peer support tool for researchers to enhance research practices more broadly.</p>
<p><b>Nanna Gram Ahlmark;</b> <b>Anne Louise Fink;</b> <b>Susan Andersen; Tine</b> <b>Tjørnhøj-Thomsen</b></p> <p>National Institute of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark</p>	<p><b>Recovery through vulnerability: a qualitative study of the transformations of veteran bodies through body therapy in Denmark</b></p> <p>In this qualitative longitudinal study, we examine the recovery experiences of veterans with PTSD throughout and following treatments of body therapy. The veterans undergo a transformation, which involves new ways of sensing and investing meaning in their body, as well as new practices. Central in these transformations is the veterans’ experiences with and interpretations of bodily vulnerability. In the analysis, we are inspired by the Trundle, Gibson and Bell’s concept of vulnerable articulations and the understanding that vulnerability can be both a destructive and healing force: On the one hand, the veterans’ bodies are harmed by the trauma and their everyday life is disrupted. On the other hand, learning to attend to and accept their bodily vulnerability becomes a pivotal dimension in their ability to self-regulate and recover. We also show how these transformations take place in the interplay between the ‘transcendent space’ of the therapeutic room and the everyday, where new meanings and practices are integrated. The study builds on 18 in-depth interviews with nine veterans conducted over two years and participant observations during veteran exchange meetings. Our findings point to the potentials of foregrounding vulnerability as a potent force in recovery processes</p>
<p><b>Nina Amelung</b> ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p><b>Making migrant issues of vulnerability known and matter: Mobilized critical publics contesting datafied migration and border control regimes</b></p> <p>Against all evident odds, there is an emergent landscape of collective civil society action to advocate for considering migrants' vulnerabilities and rights better vis-a-vis datafied migration and control regimes in the EU. In spite of the hegemonic marginalization of migrants as political subjects and their matters on the one hand, and complex and obfuscated technologized migration and border control regimes on the other hand, diverse forms of mobilizations call for more accountability and transparency, reform or abolishment of these regimes. How do critical civil society publics emerge that mobilize for migrants’ matters and create contentious spaces confronting migration and border control regimes increasingly relying on digital and biometric technologies? What contentious practices do these mobilized publics use for advocating for migrants’ rights and making them matter and challenge hegemonic publics assembled by dominant voices across EU institutions, national governments, tech industry and other stakeholders? Taking inspiration from approaches from scholarship at the intersection of science and technology studies, critical migration and border studies, and social movement studies I develop a tentative typology that pays attention to the different modes of mobilizing critical publics engaging in contentious politics. Differentiating action repertoires, objectives and knowledge politics of datafied migration and border control regime, the typology includes collective civil society organized and more latent and marginalized political articulations of migrants themselves.</p>

Author/s	Title & Abstract
<p><b>Pia Vivian Pedersen</b> National Institute of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark</p>	<p><b>Struggling along as a way of existing in the Danish welfare society: Exploring illness, health care encounters, and everyday life among people in homelessness and severe substance use</b></p> <p>In this paper, I aim to explore how people living in circumstances of homelessness, poverty, severe substance use, multi-morbidity, and loneliness experience and manage their everyday lives of suffering from multiple illnesses, and how they engage with the healthcare system. I explore this through the lens of Robert Desjarlais' concept of 'struggling along', depicting a way of being in the world characterized by temporality, instability, and transience; a way of existing that is shaped by poverty, social inequity, violence, and stigmatization. I argue that the work of Desjarlais in the 1990s among homeless people with mental illness in the US is still relevant and that the perspective of struggling along as a mode of existence may help us better understand the persistent health inequities in contemporary welfare societies such as the Danish. I draw upon qualitative, partly longitudinal, interviews with structurally vulnerable people and analyze three defining features of their forms of struggling along: 1) practices of obtaining calm and equilibrium; 2) the lack of coherency and meaning ascription in participants' narratives; and 3) fragile and strained social relatedness.</p>
<p><b>Sara Merlini</b> CIEG/ISCSP-ULisboa</p> <p><b>Sofia Aboim</b> ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p><b>Liminal transitions: rethinking transgender vulnerability across the life course</b></p> <p><i>Life course theory often conceptualizes transitions as normative stages or milestones that occur for most people from birth to death, following a linear, age-structured life path that must overcome vulnerabilities and risks to reach stability. Among transgender people, gender transitions have commonly been perceived as heightened disruptions – significant shifts that can be settled by moving from one binary gender to the other, thus restoring the proper order of gender. Yet, recent societal changes and the unprecedented rise of gender non-conforming identities call for different analytical lenses and a delineated perspective on what is meant by gender transitions. This paper discusses precisely three exemplary cases that illustrate the temporal dynamics of non-linearity, which are poorly apprehended by current life course tools. Analysing the different temporalities within gender transition narratives of non-binary lives allows us to rethink the concept use, show the limitations of sequential models and prove the need for tools that capture ambiguity, temporal asynchrony and prolonged vulnerability. Results show gender transitions mainly as liminal periods in which individuals experience ambiguity, continuous and often never-ending transformation. Recognising and understanding liminality can help to provide better support and resources for navigating life transitions in these challenging and uncertain times.</i></p>
<p><b>Sarah Earle</b> Nottingham Trent University, UK</p>	<p><b>Reflecting on narratives of sex and vulnerability in the lives of young disabled people who were not expected to live</b></p> <p>Although many scholars would argue that vulnerability has been extensively theorised, others would disagree, suggesting that it has been 'chronically under theorised' in relation to disability (Scully 2013). This paper draws on an interpretive qualitative study of disabled young people with life-shortening conditions (Earle and Blackburn 2024); a group who live with complex medical conditions which may threaten or ultimately shorten their lives. The study explores their experiences of sex, relationships and vulnerability within a lifecourse perspective. The findings of this study highlight how disabled young people are labelled as vulnerable by caregivers and how this vulnerability comes to be internalised, and enacted. Although some researchers would argue that sensitive subjects such as sex and disability should be investigated using methods such as one-to-one interviews, in this project we used focus group interviews to explore sex and disability. Twenty-three young people aged 16-28 were recruited to the study. In the effort to foreground a social model of disability – which focuses on societal barriers to disability – and on the argument that vulnerability is ubiquitous, much recent work on disability has focused on narratives of resistance at the expense of vulnerability. I argue that disabled people's narratives of vulnerability must be heard.</p>
<p><b>Simone Frangella</b> ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p><b>Growing and ageing in the streets: articulating life course and homelessness</b></p>

Author/s	Title & Abstract
<p><b>Sofia Aboim</b> <b>Thaís Brito</b> ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p>This presentation discusses the condition of homelessness and the effects of growing and ageing in the streets. Drawing from my previous research in Brazil regarding two social groups - street children and adult homeless - the paper aims at analysing respectively these two different age life processes in a circumstance defined by economic, social, and spatial exclusion. On the one hand, in developing countries, the presence of children and adolescents in the street reveals a very fragmented circulation between the street, family's houses and institutions. It defies expectations on social projections on the growing process, which relies on this movement, generating particular ways of being in the city. On the other hand, adult homelessness is worldwide urban phenomena, marked by a gradual bonding to the street, revealing a condition of social detachment, as well as of physical and personal debilitation, but underlining diverse forms of tenacity. The paper will discuss both life stage experiences under the conditions of urban fragmented life and the extreme vulnerability it provokes. This discussion will be seen particularly through the perspective of the body.</p> <p><b>Intersectional vulnerabilities. Sensory experiences of racialisation among women activists in Portugal</b></p> <p>Drawing on in-depth interviews with women involved in anti-racist activism in Portugal, we advance the notion of intersectional vulnerabilities to understand trajectories of racial categorisation and discrimination. Narratives obtained through the Biographical Narrative Interpretive Method (BNIM) provided insights into the nuanced complexity of racial identification, highlighting the key role of sensory experiences of otherness. Rather than static belonging to predetermined identity categorisations, the women interviewed provided deeply emotional accounts – often filled with pain and suffering – of self-discovery as racialised subjects in the Portuguese context. Experiences of racialisation, gender discrimination and other forms of oppression are often deeply and viscerally felt. Intersectionality allows us to understand vulnerability not as a characteristic of certain socio-demographic groups in a rigid way. Rather, it is the result of multiple and interdependent processes of social inequality that manifest themselves in multiple dimensions of marginalisation along lines of race, gender and class. However, these intersectional inequalities are given further materiality through emotional embodiments of subalternity. These sensory experiences contribute to identity construction and perceptions of self and otherness. Therefore, we will show that women's personal histories can only be understood through the plural mobilisation of intersectional framings of sensory elements and racial discrimination. The sensory and emotional dimensions of intersectional vulnerability are significant. Life stories of racialised and migrant women (from Brazil and Lusophone Africa) will illustrate the importance of including sensory elements in intersectional accounts of vulnerability and inequality.</p>
<p><b>Sofia Zanini</b> ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p><b>Radical vulnerabilities at play: the performance of risk and the beauty of edgework in BDSM</b></p> <p>The field of BDSM (Bondage/Discipline, Domination/submission, Sadism/Masochism) is conceptually based on the dialectical interplay of radically desirable and undesirable exchanges of things via the erotizing of contradictory sets of symbols and the cultural organization of voluntary risk taking. In this context, risk taking is seen as inherently generative and rewarding, while the emotional and physical vulnerabilities that emerge from the practices are praised among practitioners. The aesthetics of risk embedded in BDSM performances reflects the cultural ethics of a community that understands vulnerability as a critical site for collaborative boundary work and the construction of authenticity. Expressions of vulnerability during BDSM performances are intended as beautiful and conveying a sense of realness, contemplating idiosyncratic understandings of pain, pleasure, power, and violence. Also, BDSM practices can be seen as means of empowerment for people at the edges of intersecting social inequalities, such as race, gender, and disability, by providing them with negotiated, performed control over power imbalance scenarios. The aim of this presentation is to discuss the ways in which BDSM practices and values challenge normative aesthetics of vulnerability through the voluntary undertaking and performance of risk, also known as edgework. The topic has broader implications in the social construction and representation of multiple kinds of productive aesthetic vulnerabilities and the cooperative practices associated with them.</p>
<p><b>Stefanie Gil Franco</b> Universidade Católica Portuguesa</p>	<p><b>O que ainda podemos falar sobre a loucura no século XXI? Estudo crítico sobre o arquivo psiquiátrico na contemporaneidade</b></p>

Author/s	Title & Abstract
<p><b>Thais Brito</b> ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p>Esta comunicação abrirá espaço para o debate dos arquivos instáveis e difíceis, tendo como ponto de partida a questão: É possível pensar em <i>Mad Archives</i>? Buscando compreender como os arquivos psiquiátricos colaboram para a formação de um território novo de percepção da loucura. Nesta análise a noção de <i>loucura</i> se desenvolverá a partir dos desdobramentos conceituais emergentes nos últimos anos do século XXI, mais precisamente os desdobramentos dos <i>Mad Studies</i>. Na busca de dar uma nova oportunidade de entendimento ao louco e à sua loucura, os <i>Mad studies</i> buscam abrir espaço para que os próprios loucos, os seus simpatizantes, familiares e estudiosos criem outras perspectivas para além do conhecimento médico e da instituição psiquiátrica. Empiricamente, buscam associar-se aos “<i>Critical Disability Studies, Queer Studies, Critical Race Studies and Trans Studies</i>” (<i>International Mad Studies Journal Community</i>). Será, enfim, tratado como os arquivos psiquiátricos, tantas vezes negligenciados e escondidos, podem colaborar para esta nova compreensão da loucura.</p> <p><b>Invisible Borders: Barriers to Immigrant Women's Access to Domestic Violence Policies in Portugal</b></p> <p>The presentation aims to disseminate the results of the study "Invisible Borders: Barriers to Immigrant Women's Access to Domestic Violence Policies in Portugal." The main objective of the study is to identify the barriers faced by immigrant women survivors of domestic violence in accessing public policies designed to combat this crime. Employing a qualitative method, ten semi-structured interviews were conducted with immigrant women who have experienced domestic violence in Portugal throughout their lives. The findings indicate that the intersection of multiple identities creates forms of oppression that render these women more vulnerable. This not only complicates efforts to combat violence but is also exploited by perpetrators to prevent survivors from seeking help and to ensure their impunity. The results underscore the necessity for intersectional responses that are sensitive to the various forms of oppression experienced within the Portuguese context.</p>
<p><b>Verónica Sousa</b> ICS-ULisboa</p>	<p><b>The Politics of Desire, Aspiration, and Disappointment: Aesthetic Vulnerabilities Among Elderly People During the Covid-19 Pandemic</b></p> <p>In this paper, I will illustrate how the pandemic altered elderly bodies in Lisbon, for better or for worse. Cancelled medical appointments led to delayed cancer diagnoses and worsening of chronic illnesses, and isolation contributed to memory loss and more rapidly- declining dementia, depression, and loneliness. Long Covid also became a pressing concern for those with disabilities or already suffering from respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, especially considering the chronic fatigue associated with it and old age. Wellness became something more independent, especially for those who live alone, as daily habits changed for seniors at home in terms of self-care. In nursing home centers, changes in activities and managing care altered the social lives and biologies of both those receiving and giving care. Aged bodies were altered, desired, and lamented in very gendered ways too, with racialized parameters. Perceptions of one's elderly body led some women to fill increased anxiety, while others focused on aesthetics as something positive to deal with the difficulties of loss associated with both old age and the Covid-19 pandemic. The boundless time of lockdowns for closed elder care facilities also brought aesthetic vulnerabilities, fears, aspirations, and desires to light, which often reflected abled, classed, gendered, and racialized inequalities in Lisbon for the elderly and their caregivers alike. Clothing, hair, and nails took on a new significance, even if one stayed in their own living quarters. Enjoying self-care as one reentered the world into their former social habits, like attending day centers, brought novelty and excitement back to everyday life. Being viewed by others (as opposed to being the viewer at home, watching television and the news), created both immense anxiety and renewed hope. In these ways, the alterations of elderly bodies were various and varied, and will be explored in my paper presentation.</p>

## Participants

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