

Workshop: Polar Perspectives: The Arctic in the Humanities  
and Social Sciences in Brazil, Italy, and Portugal

24-25 October 2024

# Event Report: Sessions and Organisers



## **REPORT**

### **Polar Perspectives. The Arctic in Humanities and Social Sciences in Brazil, Italy and Portugal<sup>1</sup>**

**Online workshop, 24-25 October 2024**

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<sup>1</sup> Original title in Portuguese and Italian languages: *Perspectivas Polares. O Ártico nas Ciências Humanas e Sociais no Brasil, Itália e Portugal / Prospettive Polari. L'Artico nelle Scienze Umanistiche e Sociali in Brasile, Italia e Portogallo*

## **Foreword: Atlantic Centre and Polar Research and Policy Initiative**

### **Atlantic Centre**

The Atlantic Centre is founded on a comprehensive vision of the Atlantic, with its primary objective being the promotion of maritime security in this vast space, which is also our own. To achieve this goal, it operates on three pillars: it serves as a platform for political dialogue on the issues affecting this shared space from a whole-of-Atlantic, whole-of-society perspective; it is an institution that fosters the development of knowledge on topics related to this area; and, in its third pillar, it provides support for capacity-building among its member states.

In the context of shifting international relations, the Arctic has the potential to become a major transformative factor in the world we live in, given the geopolitical implications of climate change. The melting of ice will alter the world as we know it, leading to the opening of new navigation routes that will need proper legislation and will serve as alternative pathways, with profound economic and military consequences.

This melting will also bring geopolitical, geoeconomic, and international law implications, which are already evident in the "race for the Arctic" by various powers—not only those bordering it but also global players such as China, which recognizes its potential for advancing its Belt and Road Initiative.

Beyond the more visible environmental changes – such as decreasing ocean temperatures, rising sea levels, and shifts in fishing patterns – the melting ice also unlocks immense economic potential. This includes the discovery and access to new hydrocarbon deposits and strategic minerals essential for emerging technologies.

For all these reasons, and in pursuit of the broader goal of scientific knowledge about the poles, the Arctic has been receiving increasing attention from the Atlantic Centre. This recognition of its significance is reflected in its participation in this workshop and its commitment to sharing its findings with an Atlantic community of interests that benefits from the exchange and production of knowledge, one of the core missions of the Atlantic Centre and its 25 member states.

The Arctic is as much European as it is African, as much American as it is Caribbean. Under international law, it should be a space for regional and international reflection and cooperation. It is a "Whole of Atlantic" space – transnational in its scope and unparalleled in its potential – truly encapsulating the challenges of a century marked by uncertainty.

Nuno de Noronha Bragança

Coordinator of the Atlantic Centre

## **Polar Research and Policy Initiative**

Founded in 2016, Polar Research and Policy Initiative (PRPI) is an international think-tank dedicated to Arctic, Nordic, North Atlantic, North Pacific and Antarctic affairs. PRPI seeks to promote greater understanding about its focus regions in the UK, the US, the EU and the Commonwealth, and strengthen political, economic, social, cultural and scientific relations between relevant Commonwealth and EU member states with Arctic states. While PRPI is and will continue to be headquartered in London, it is currently in the process of establishing and formalising its presence in Lisbon that will serve not just as PRPI's EU head office, but also to build bridges between the Arctic and Southern Europe (in particular, Portugal, Spain and Italy), as well as Brazil.

To anyone familiar with PRPI's outward focus and work as a bridge-builder, its commitment to Southern Europe and Brazil should not come as a surprise. For more than 500 years, the Portuguese, the Spanish and the Italians have travelled to the Arctic as explorers, cartographers, astronomers, navigators, fishermen, scientists, traders, workers, tourists, artists and settlers. Over the centuries, they came both to influence and be influenced by the social, cultural and economic richness of the region. Today, fish from the Arctic - especially cod - plays an outsized role in the cuisines of Portugal, Spain, Italy and Brazil, with Portugal alone consuming 20 percent of the world's cod. Portugal, Spain and Italy also have longstanding interests in the Arctic in areas such as scientific cooperation, fisheries, shipbuilding, tourism and energy, as well as aerospace, defence and security. Furthermore, changes in the Arctic profoundly affect climate and weather in southern Europe and the Mediterranean, and vice-versa; and the Arctic and Southern Europe are also linked together through various marine and avian migratory species. Similar connections can be drawn with Brazil, with the Arctic and the Amazon constituting some of the world's most environmentally sensitive regions, both greatly affected by climate change, and home also to Indigenous Peoples who have lived there for millennia.

Despite the myriad ways in which Southern European nations have been connected to the Arctic through the ages, the rich history of their mutual engagement has been somewhat overshadowed by that of their Northern European counterparts. Likewise, despite the many overlapping interests and concerns that Brazil shares with the Arctic, relatively little is known about its polar engagement. By setting up a new office in Lisbon and convening or supporting dialogues and workshops that explore areas of common interest or concern, PRPI aims to provide a corrective in this regard by casting a spotlight on the many connections between the Arctic and Southern Europe, as well as Brazil. That should also explain why we, at PRPI, were delighted to join the Atlantic Centre in supporting the timely, pioneering and important workshop 'Polar Perspectives. The Arctic in Human and Social Sciences in Brazil, Italy and Portugal' organised by the Latin Group of Polar Sciences (Brazil, Italy and Portugal), in partnership with the Escola Superior de Defesa (Brazil). The workshop served to highlight the outstanding contributions that researchers and practitioners from Portugal, Italy and Brazil can make and are already making to the global polar dialogue.

We have no doubt that this is just the beginning of a long and exciting journey, and it is our honour to witness, support and advance these welcome developments where we can.

Dr Dwayne Ryan Menezes  
Founder and Managing Director  
Polar Research and Policy Initiative

## Organizers

The *Latin Polar Science Group* (from here GLSP - Grupo Latino de Ciências Polares) is the brainchild of scholars from three countries listed here in alphabetical order: Brazil (Raphael Fernandes Vieira), Italy (Pier Paolo Alfei) and Portugal (Céline Rodrigues). The founding element of GLSP is the peer relationship dimension devoid of hierarchies between its members, which reflects in both content and form. In terms of content, the equal relationship informs several levels, including a co-presence at each main event of scholars from Brazil, Italy and Portugal. Also due to the presence of civil and military authorities from the three countries, the GLSP's operational line based on an international balance (in the broadest sense) is all the more fruitful. At the formal level, the peer-to-peer dialogue is reflected in the possibility for speakers to interact in their native language (Portuguese and Italian, as well as English). GLSP is willing to organise more events such as conferences, webinars and workshops online in the countries in the coming years in a rotation scheme.

Escola Superior de Defesa (ESD) is a graduate institution of the Brazilian Ministry of Defence, established by decree in 2021. ESD main goals are the development of activities focused on studies, research, postgraduate education, popular science and exchange of knowledge in areas related to the National Defence.

It prioritises the formation and training of specialized human resources, offering courses for civilian and military personnel of many public and private institutions from all over Brazil, in cooperation with national and international institutions, as well as seeking proximity with friendly nations through the exchange of knowledge, scientific research and partnerships.

Located in Brasilia, right in the centre of the country, ESD is near where the decision-making process and the core of national policies are concentrated. This gives ESD the opportunity to enhance its capabilities to be part of a broad network of Security, Development and Defence, bringing together a vast diversity of sectors of Brazilian society, deepening partnerships, training and shaping civilian and military personnel from the ministries and other public and private institutions.

Since its creation, ESD has sought to show the importance of Polar geopolitics in its courses. In 2023, the institution sent two of its researchers on the First Brazilian Expedition for Arctic Research in Svalbard, Norway. After that, some of its researchers began to form part of new scientific polar projects. Besides that, in 2024 the ESD hosted and co-organised the VIII Symposium of APECS-Brasil and the First Online Workshop "Polar Perspectives. The Arctic in Humanities and Social Sciences in Brazil, Italy and Portugal".

## Introduction

The creation and foundation of the group (GLSP) facilitated the organization of an unprecedented online workshop that united researchers from Brazil, Italy, and Portugal. Following the conceptualization of the event, efforts were directed towards scheduling and securing a partner to provide the necessary logistical support for the online format. Engagement with the Escola Superior de Defesa (ESD) located in Brazil proved fruitful, as their enthusiasm and willingness to publish the abstracts significantly contributed to the event's realization. The initiative garnered positive feedback from the contacted organizations and associations (refer to the organizations section) as well as from the broader scientific community. However, the GLSP recognizes that it represents a relatively small segment within the human and social sciences, particularly focused on the northern regions of the globe. Abstract submissions were accepted from September 13, 2024.

The online workshop titled “Perspectivas Polares. O Ártico nas Ciências Humanas e Sociais no Brasil, Itália e Portugal / Prospettive Polari. L’Artico nelle Scienze Umanistiche e Sociali in Brasile, Italia e Portogallo” took place on October 24 and 25, 2024 considering the various time zones (10:00 to 13:00 in Brasília, 14:00 to 17:00 in Lisbon, and 15:00 to 18:00 in Rome). Over the course of two days, a diverse group of participants, including professors, military personnel, researchers, and PhD candidates, shared their findings and insights in their respective native languages. This linguistic aspect distinguished the event from other Arctic-related gatherings. Each day featured three sessions, allowing attendees to explore the research being conducted in these countries regarding the circumpolar region. Additionally, discussions highlighted the military's growing interest in the strategic significance of the Arctic. Each session was followed by a Question and Answer (Q&A) session, interacting with the audience on the topics revealed to be of interest to those listening online.

The enthusiasm for the workshop, particularly in Portuguese and Italian, was evidenced by a total of 68 registrations. The range of topics presented was extensive, covering areas such as military presence in the Arctic, comparisons of indigenous communities (Brazil and Norway), Italy's role in the Arctic, aviation issues, and the Mediterranean Arctic.

The sessions were recorded by ESD and are available online on their YouTube account<sup>2</sup>.

### Online workshop Presentations\*

\*The report follows the order of the presentations as per the workshop programme<sup>3</sup>.

The inaugural day, 24 October 2024, commenced with a presentation by the GLSP, who extended greetings to all attendees, partners, and supporters. Colonel José Roberto Lima from ESD also expressed his congratulations to the group for their initiative and conveyed his enthusiasm for participating in and contributing to the event. The first day of the online workshop was organized into three distinct sessions.

#### *Session one, moderator Raphael Fernandes Vieira and Céline Rodrigues*

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<sup>2</sup> TV ESD, Youtube: October 24: [https://youtu.be/V1-CPbz4MTk?si=JpZWIT\\_dtx0yN6Lc](https://youtu.be/V1-CPbz4MTk?si=JpZWIT_dtx0yN6Lc)  
October 25: <https://youtu.be/aF8WGm6jtcc?feature=shared>

<sup>3</sup> Appendix 1, Programme of the workshop

The first session started with a roundtable entitled “Os interesses do Brasil nas regiões polares” (*Brazil interests in Polar regions*) formed by Daniela Portella Sampaio, PhD, Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at the Alfred-Wegener-Institut and Secretariat advisor for the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings, and Captain of sea and war (Reserve) Leonardo Faria de Mattos, professor of Geopolitics at the Escola de Guerra Naval (EGN, Brazil). They shared their visions and experience about the Brazilian presence on both poles, especially on the Arctic.

Dr. Portella Sampaio analysed the capabilities and know-how of Brazilian science in Antarctica and how this can contribute to the activities that Brazil are developing in the Arctic and the opportunity to exchange these assets with other countries in the region. She mentioned the importance of Brazil seeking to deepen its relations with the Arctic countries and to establish connections between the Arctic and the Brazilian reality in Antarctica and its own territory, to create solid foundations for a formal integration of Brazil in the Arctic system.

Next, Cpt. Mattos made a brief review of Brazilian Antarctic history and how the country's interest in the Arctic began. He stressed the importance of engagement of Brazilian scientists on Arctic working groups to strengthen the presence of Brazil on the Northern pole. Cpt. Mattos also mentioned the risks of excluding scientists from academic spaces for geopolitical reasons not related with Polar affairs. In the end, he reaffirmed the necessity and importance of Brazil being an observer member of the Arctic Council.

The first session continued with a presentation of Commander Alexandre Dionísio dos Santos Fernandes, about the presence of the *Portuguese Navy in the Arctic* (“A Marinha Portuguesa no Ártico”) and its perspectives concerning Security and Defence on the Euro-Atlantic area. Cmdr. Santos Fernandes introduced the geostrategic importance and value of the Arctic, regarding its natural resources and maritime routes, the geopolitical context of the region and its risks and threats, like the Russian remilitarization of the area, and the role of the Portuguese Navy as a NATO member and the geographical strategic position of Portugal. To conclude, Cmdr. Santos Fernandes talked about possible actions and strategies to guarantee a peaceful and safe environment through diplomatic, scientific and political means, along with dissuasion measures. The possibility of Portugal being an Observer in the Arctic Council was highlighted during the presentation.

### ***Session two, moderator Céline Rodrigues***

Session two initiated with Professor Marco Marsili, PhD in History and Security and Defence Studies at the Instituto Universitário de Lisboa and member the Global Policy and Security Research Group of International Studies Center. The presentation entitled “Segurança no Ártico: um desafio global” (*Arctic security: a global challenge*) focused on the global security challenge represented by the Arctic, in consequence of the disputes between the NATO countries and Russia, which is reinforcing its military position in the region, supported by China. In the same way, climate change and global warming are generating new scenarios and opportunities for navigation and exploitation of natural resources in the North Pole. Prof. Marsili also showed the limitations of

Arctic governance and the weightiness of intergovernmental organisations, like NATO, UN and the European Union.

The second presentation of session two was held by Professor Alessandro Vitale, who teaches four courses at the University of Milan: Economic geography and history; Geography of economic development; Economic and political geography; Legal clinic on “arctic studies”. During his presentation entitled “Territorializzazione del mare e proiezione di potenza. Il metodo della Geopolitica classica negli Arctic Studies” (*Sea territorialisation and power projection. The method of classical Geopolitics in Arctic Studies*), Professor Vitale analyzed proposed a historical-legal analysis through the work of Francisco de Vitoria, Hugo Grotius, Samuel von Pufendorf and Carl Schmitt. In particular, Professor Vitale highlighted how the freedom of the seas, theorized for a long time as a product of the Atlantic powers, is increasingly subject to tension as a result of a process of territorialization and the reinvention of sovereignty over seas and oceans.

The last presentation was held by Captain of sea and war, César Correia of the Portuguese Navy, delivered a lecture on the topic “A navegabilidade no Ártico: Impacto na Segurança Marítima” (*The navigability in the Arctic: Impacts on Maritime Security*). In his presentation, Cpt. Correia showed how the global warming are changing the reality of and on the Arctic ocean, with the emergence of new maritime routes, and the facilitation of access to the natural resources on the area, which requires a re-examination of its economic and strategic potential. The study projects a variety of consequences to the global system, especially on the Euro-Atlantic zone, regarding security, economical and commercial matters, that can cause great impact on Portugal.

### ***Session three, moderators Raphael Fernandes Vieira, Pier Paolo Alfei and Céline Rodrigues***

Pier Paolo Alfei, Ph.D. graduate at the Catholic University (Milan), examined in historical perspective *the contribution of the Italian Navy to the exploration and study of the Svalbard Archipelago* between 1872 and 2024 (“Il contributo della Marina Militare italiana all’esplorazione e allo studio dell’arcipelago delle Svalbard (1872-2024)”). In particular, Alfei analysed the research conducted by Eugenio Parent during the Swedish *Polhem* expedition (1872-1873), by the crew of the ship *Città di Milano* in Kongsfjorden in 1928, and by those of the ship *Alliance* over the eight High North campaigns conducted between 2017 and 2024.

Marco Dordoni, Ph.D. candidate at the University for Foreigners (Perugia) presented on the topic “Italia Protagonista nell’Assicurare la Sicurezza nell’Artico: Il Ruolo della Marina Militare Italiana” (*Italy, a Protagonist in Ensuring Security in the Arctic: The Role of the Italian Navy*). After a resume on the Italian presence in the Arctic during the last decade (with particular regard to the role of CNR, ENI and Fincantieri), Dordoni highlighted how Italian participation in the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission and the *High North* program should be read not only in terms of scientific research but also as an extension of the Mediterranean country’s strategic projection and operational capacity in the Arctic theatre.

Teresa Cardoso, a Ph.D. candidate at Universidade Nova de Lisboa, delivered the third presentation of this session on her research concerning the fleet of vessels using the Portuguese flag and their detrimental effects on the marine environment,

particularly in relation to heavy fuel oil (HFO) usage. The title of the presentation is “Estratégia para os navios de bandeira portuguesa no Oceano Ártico” (*Strategy for Portuguese-flagged ships in the Arctic Ocean*). Throughout her presentation, Teresa emphasized the significant emissions of black carbon associated with these vessels. Consequently, it is imperative for nations to take appropriate measures to safeguard the Arctic marine environment, despite the absence of binding regulations at present.

#### ***Session four, moderator Raphael Fernandes Vieira***

On the second day, October 25, 2024, Colonel José Roberto Pinho de Andrade Lima delivered a presentation titled “Evolução e Perspectivas dos Estudos Polares na Escola Superior de Defesa” (*Evolution and Perspectives of Polar Studies at the Higher Defense School*) during the fourth session. He outlined the initiatives undertaken by the Escola Superior de Defesa (ESD), including the establishment of the Brasilia school and the progression of polar research within the institution. The Polar Program/Research is relatively recent and aims to integrate both natural and social scientists. Notably, the school played a significant role in organizing the inaugural Arctic expedition, which took place in 2023.

#### ***Session five, moderators Pier Paolo Alfei and Raphael Fernandes Vieira***

Session five initiated with Mauro Mazza, Professor of Comparative Public Law at the University of Bergamo, with the presentation entitled “La condizione giuridica dei popoli indigeni artici, tra continuità e cambiamento” (*The legal condition of Arctic indigenous peoples, between continuity and change*). First of all, Professor Mazza spoke from the point of view of legal sciences about the impact of the war in Ukraine on the work of the Sami representative organisations as well as on the Arctic Council. Secondly, recurring to a comparative analysis of cases from Northern Europe, Greenland and Canada, Professor Mazza illustrated what appears to be a transitional phase for the indigenous peoples of the Arctic, diversified and complicated by the fact that they live in states with different legal systems.

The second presentation of fifth session was held by Celma Regina Hellebust, who serves as a lawyer and is a member of the Board of the Brazilian-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce. Her research focuses on the shared interests of Indigenous communities in the Amazon, Brazil and the Sámi community in Norway. Throughout her investigation, she identifies several commonalities, particularly regarding the ratification of ILO 169 by both Brazil and Norway, as well as the Indigenous communities' aspirations for greater representation in Parliament. In contrast, a case study highlights the differences between the two countries; specifically, Norway's efforts to safeguard Sámi rights and land, as evidenced by the 2021 Fossen case. In this instance, the Norwegian Supreme Court ruled that the establishment of wind farms infringed upon the rights associated with reindeer husbandry. The title of the presentation is “Agendas comuns entre os povos indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira e do povo Samina Noruega” (*Common agendas between the indigenous peoples of the Brazilian Amazon and the Sami people in Norway*).

Marco Volpe, Ph.D. candidate at University of Lapland (Rovaniemi), during his presentation entitled “Diplomazia scientifica cinese nelle aree polari” (*Chinese scientific diplomacy in the polar areas*), analysed the close relationship between scientific

production and China's political decision-making process towards the two polar regions. After a theoretical introduction centred on scientific diplomacy, Volpe retraced the main steps which led China to play a leading role in the Arctic chessboard, including its accession to the Svalbard Treaty, the scientific expeditions conducted from the 1980s to the present, the establishment of the Yellow River Station in Ny-Ålesund and the research of the China-Iceland Arctic Science Observatory.

***Session six, moderators Pier Paolo Alfei and Céline Rodrigues***

Massimiliano Pinucci, Professor at the Higher Institute for Artistic Industries (Florence), opened the last session by giving a speech straddling aviation culture and aeronautical design. During his presentation entitled “La riscoperta del dirigibile e il potenziale dell’Artico come ambito di utilizzo per trasporto merci e turismo esperienziale a impatto zero” (*The rediscovery of the airship and the potential of the Arctic as a field of use for zero impact freight transport and experiential tourism*), Pinucci retraced the history of the use of airships in the Arctic, with particular reference to scientists such as Walter Bruns and Hugo Eckener. In the last part of his lecture, he dwelt from a technical point of view on the great potential which the airship could still have today in terms of efficiency and clean propulsion in the Arctic region.

The second presentation was delivered by Santiago Villalobos Dantas, who holds a Master's degree in Polar Law from the University of Akureyri in Iceland. His presentation, “O Imaginário do Mediterrâneo Polar - um Paradigma Renovado proposto por Vilhjalmur Stefansson” (*The Imaginary of the Polar Mediterranean - a Renewed Paradigm proposed by Vilhjalmur Stefansson*), caught the attention on a concept introduced by Vilhjalmur Stefansson a century ago: the notion of a Polar Mediterranean. Throughout his works, the author has conveyed his interactions with indigenous communities. Santiago elaborated on Stefansson's assertion that the Arctic region holds significant geostrategic importance, drawing parallels to the Mediterranean. In further exploring this concept, Santiago articulated the reasons behind Stefansson's vision of the Arctic as a potential hub for future opportunities.

Finally, Antonio Ventre, Director of the museum “Umberto Nobile” (Lauro), closed the session with a paper focusing on the role of the institution he directs *as a documentary source of study* (“Il Museo e l’Archivio ‘Umberto Nobile’ come fonte documentale di studio”). Ventre reconstructed the history of the museum, its archive and presented the main scientific results of *Norge* (1926) and *Italia* (1928) polar expeditions. Particular attention was given to the museum's role in enhancing and promoting polar history among the entire citizenry.

The concluding remarks were delivered by each member of the GLSP, expressing gratitude to all participants, attendees, supporters, and partners who facilitated the opportunity for dialogue and exchange about what is done in research in the three countries about the Arctic region.

## **Conclusions**

At the end of the second day, the success of the online workshop was reflected by the possibility of having articles published by PRPI and a report by the Atlantic Centre. The aforementioned publications serve as an addition to the eBook of abstracts that will be released by ESD. The individuals responsible for organizing this workshop are recognized as the editors of the eBook.

In different ways, almost all sessions established links with each other, promoting a wide discussion. The importance of scientific activities, the necessity of guaranteeing a safe and peaceful environment and the actual and possible threats to the stability of the Arctic, and the impacts and consequences of climate change and global warming were the main themes during the event. Likewise, the historical background and achievements throughout the time reached by Brazil, Italy and Portugal were well regarded.

It is clear in each session that reflecting on the future is of considerable importance and necessity. It is imperative to take actions in the present that can offer a future based on the development of science, with sustainable economic and commercial activities, always seeking to preserve an environment of peace, security and cooperation.

## Supporters\*

\* Presented by alphabetic order.

The event, organised by GLSP in partnership with ESD, counted on the free scientific support of seven organisations and associations.

### *APECS-Brasil*

APECS-Brasil is the Brazilian National Committee of Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS International), an international and transdisciplinary organisation with more than 6000 members, focused on shaping new leaders in Polar Science and education. It was established in 2008 and currently has more than 600 members, students and professionals from all levels of education, especially those involved with Polar and Oceanic research. The main goals of APECS-Brasil are encourage collaboration between Brazilian and foreign researchers; inspire the emergence of new leadership in education, governance, research, scientific management and popular science; take part on the decision-making process together with the institutional responsables for coordinate the Brazilian Polar and Oceanic Science, being a champion of the interests of early career scientists; promote the popular science within Brazilian society; bring together all the levels of education, research and science outreach in activities developed by APECS-Brasil.

<https://www.apecsbrasil.com/>

### *APECS-Italy*

APECS-Italy is the Italian National Committee of APECS International and is formed by 90 polar scientists (under the age of 35 years). The Italian section has among its objectives to support interdisciplinary and international research collaborations, to encourage the education on polar issues, to disseminate information on opportunities, events, courses, positions, jobs and foster the growth of future leaders in polar research.

<https://www.apecsitaly.it/>

### *Associação David Melgueiro*

David Melgueiro Association is a non-profit organization established in Peniche (Portugal) in February 2014 and has dedicated the past decade to advancing its mission through various initiatives. The association focuses on three primary areas of action: 1. Organizing events in various cities and towns throughout the country, contingent upon the support of local mayors. Locations such as Oeiras, Ericeira, Torres Vedras, Leiria, Figueira da Foz, Loulé, Valpaços, Las Palmas, Mindelo, Recife, and Rio de Janeiro have hosted these events. Each event features an environmental awareness lecture aimed at the public, emphasizing the critical need for individuals to adopt sustainable practices that are less consumer-driven and environmentally harmful. The discussions highlight the deteriorating condition of the oceans as a direct consequence of contemporary lifestyles, alongside issues such as global warming and the depletion of both renewable and non-renewable resources. 2. In the realm of maritime literacy, the association has provided nautical training in ocean sailing to both adults and students at the Escola Superior Náutica Infante D. Henrique. Approximately 100 individuals have benefited from these training sessions, which are offered at no cost, provided they are members of the association. 3. Utilizing its fleet of sailboats, the association supports higher

education institutions in conducting scientific research and testing equipment, collaborating with organizations such as ISTECHNICO and IPLeiria. Additionally, the association has undertaken various initiatives, including the Lusitânia Expedition, which aims to promote historical, cultural, and environmental awareness.

<https://davidmelgueiro.org/>

### ***Atlantic Centre***

The Atlantic Centre promotes defence capacity-building for the Atlantic as a Multilateral Centre of Excellence. Hosted by Portugal, it aims to foster the participation of several national military and civilian experts, from the Atlantic basin countries and partners.

The Centre's activities revolve around three main tiers: 1)- A Think Tank. A platform for thinking about our common Atlantic space, dedicated to cutting-edge knowledge production and dissemination, and to supporting sound policy-development across the Atlantic.; 2)- A Platform for Political Dialogue. For its Members and for the wider institutional Atlantic Community willing to participate, in order to identify common challenges, sharing of best-practices, and the identification of key political priorities of action; 3)- The Defence Capacity Building. To plan, develop and implement doctrine, education and training, aimed at improving the capacity of riparian states to exercise responsible sovereignty and contribute to keeping the Atlantic a space of peace, security, and freedom.

This tier-based construction will support the Centre's activity in the domains of information collection, cyber-security, and space-based information. The monitoring of transnational threats, the implementation and development of projects, including delegated cooperation, and the evaluation of lessons learned are also among the activities developed by the Atlantic Centre.

<https://www.defesa.gov.pt/pt/pdefesa/ac/about>

### ***Polar Research and Policy Initiative (PRPI)***

London-based international think-tank Polar Research and Policy Initiative (PRPI) is dedicated to Arctic, Nordic, North Atlantic, North Pacific and Antarctic affairs. At PRPI, they support intergovernmental institutions, governments and parliaments with policymaking when it comes to their focus regions; host high-level policy dialogues and conferences around the world; explore and develop new pathways for defence cooperation, trade and investment, and cultural relations between Arctic and non-Arctic states; and build the capacity of regional and international media outlets to cover our focus regions more affectively. The digital platform The Polar Connection is the world's largest platform for Arctic analysis and commentary, with more than 4 million site visitors annually; and our news partner Arctic Today is the world's largest news outlets covering news from across the circumpolar North.

<https://polarconnection.org/>

### ***Società Italiana di Storia Militare (SISM)***

The Italian Society of Military History is an association of teachers, scholars and devotees of Italian and comparative military history founded in 1984. Since its creation, SISM has published 50 volumes (totaling about 25,000 pages) divided between the *Quaderni*, the journal *Nuova Antologia Militare* and the book series *Fucina di Marte*.

SISM's two most recent publications are issue no. 20 of *Nuova Antologia Militare* ("Contemporary Military History") and the volume no. 19 of *Fucina di Marte* series ("Intelligence & Interviews"). In 2025, SISM will publish three more issues of *Nuova Antologia Militare* (no. 21, 22, 23 and 24) and three volumes of *Fucina di Marte* series (no.20 and 22).

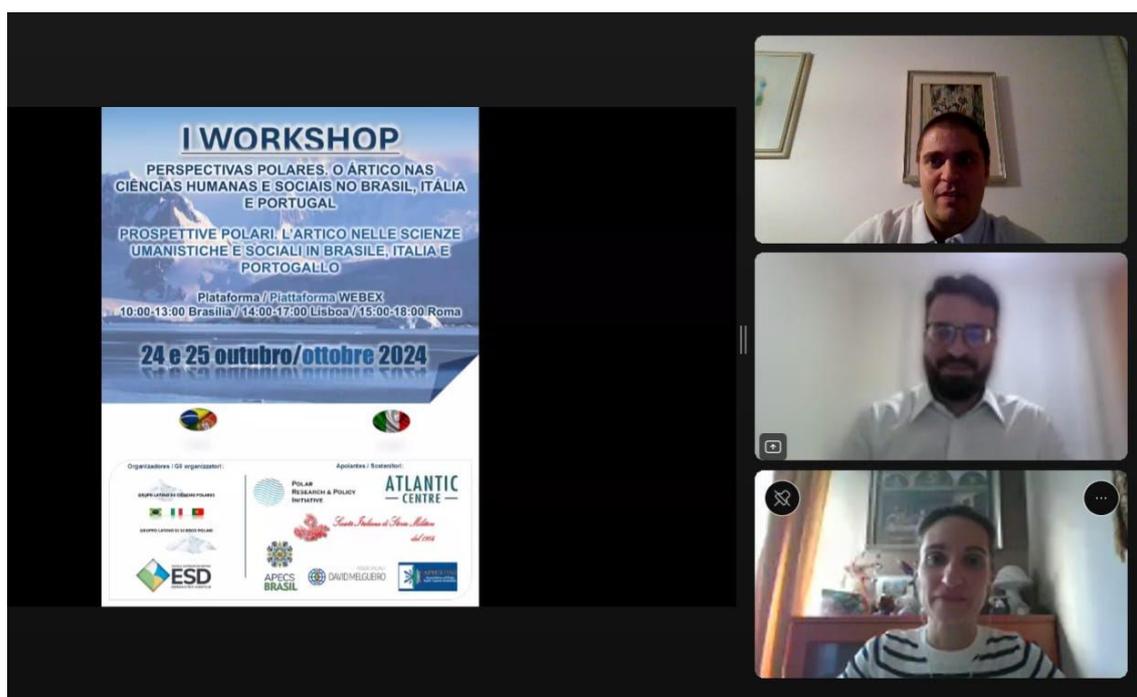
<https://www.societaitalianastoriamilitare.org/>

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## Image



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**Organiser**



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