

Afonso Biscaia

PhD in Comparative Politics

ORCID: 0000-0001-9154-4350

Scopus: 58538672100

Web of Science: IXD-3251-2023

CiênciaID: B21C-5098-C0DB

<https://afonsobiscaia.github.io/>

joseafonsobiscaia@gmail.com

Education

PhD in Comparative Politics (2026)

- Institute of Social Sciences – University of Lisbon
- Thesis: “Radical right-wing populist leaders’ social media activity and citizens’ perceptions on trust in political institutions and the news media: The Portuguese case in comparative perspective”
- Funding 2021-2023: <https://doi.org/10.54499/2021.07542.BD>
- Funding 2023-2025: <https://doi.org/10.54499/PTDC/CPO-CPO/4361/2021>

MsC in European Studies (2019)

- Universidade Aberta
- Dissertation: “The Democratic U-Turns in Hungary and Poland and their Relation to the EU”

BA in Sociology (2014)

- Faculdade de Economia da Universidade de Coimbra

Research

(The Matrix of) Populist and Denialist Attitudes towards Science (<https://doi.org/10.54499/PTDC/CPO-CPO/4361/2021>) (2022-2025)

- Research Assistant

Streams of Hate and Untruth? (PTDC/CPO-CPO/28495/2017) (2020-2022)

- Research Assistant

European Social Survey, Round #8 (2016)

- Interviewer (CAPI)

Publications

Journal Articles

Biscaia, A. (2025) Look at this! Radical right-wing populist information sharing practices

on Twitter in Portugal, Spain, and Brazil. *International Communication Gazette*, 87(5). DOI: 10.1177/17480485241290118

Salgado, S., Fernández-García, B., **Biscaia, A.** (2024) Shades of incivility in Reddit: a comparison between echo chambers and plural spaces. *International Social Science Journal*. 75. 61-80 DOI: 10.1111/issj.12536

Salgado, S., Zúñiga, H.G., Silva, P.A., **Biscaia, A.**, Coimbra, M.E., Martins, B., Francisco, A. (2024) Assessing the Prevalence and Predictors of Incivility in Online News Comments Across Six Countries. *Journalism Practice*, 18(2). 224-241. DOI: 10.1080/17512786.2023.2246431

Book Chapters

Biscaia, A., Salgado, S. (2026) Chega's social media presence (2018-2023): Emerging topics and themes wrapped in blatant pliability. In: J. Carvalho (ed.) *Chega - The New Portuguese Far Right*. Abingdon: Routledge

Salgado, S., **Biscaia, A.** (2024) A importância das palavras e dos tópicos: uma análise do Chega no Twitter. In: M. Camerlo, J.G. de Lima, L. Hanenberg, D. Pimenta, T. Ruel (eds.) *Portugal Ingovernável? Da maioria absoluta à absoluta minoria*. 75-78. Lisboa: Imprensa de Ciências Sociais

Salgado, S., **Biscaia, A.**, Papathanassopoulos, S. (2023) The old meets the new: 'old' political communication concepts in a 'new' social media era. In: S. Salgado, S. Papathanassopoulos (eds.) *Streamlining Political Communication Concepts: Updates, Changes, Normalcies. Springer Studies in Media and Political Communication*. 1-12. Cham: Springer. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-031-45335-9_1

Salgado, S., **Biscaia, A.** (2023, October 18) The ethnic heritage of party politics and political communication in lusophone African countries In: *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Communication*. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190228613.013.1352

Biscaia, A., Salgado, S. (2022) Placing the Portuguese Radical Right-Wing Populist Chega Into Context: Political Communication and Links to French, Italian, and Spanish Right-Wing Populist Actors. In: D. Palau-Sampio, G. López García, L. Ianelli (eds.) *Contemporary Politics, Communication and the Impact on Democracy*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global. DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-8057-8.ch013

Reports

Biscaia, A., Salgado, S. (2024) The 2024 European Election and right-wing populism in Portugal. In: G. Ivaldi, E. Zankina (eds.) *2024 EP Elections Under the Shadow of Rising*

Populism. 308-319. Brussels: European Center for Populism Studies (ECPS). DOI: 10.55271/rp0080

Biscaia, A., Salgado, S. (2023) The Russia-Ukraine War and the Far Right in Portugal: Minimal Impacts on the Rising Populist Chega Party. In: G. Ivaldi, E. Zankina. (eds.) *The Impacts of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine on Right-Wing Populism in Europe*. 234-249. Brussels: European Center for Populism Studies (ECPS). DOI: 10.55271/rp0026

Outreach

Salgado, S., **Biscaia, A.**, Barretos, M. (2024, March 18) O radical é o novo normal? *Público*

In Peer Review

Salgado, S., Rosales, F., **Biscaia, A.** (in peer review) The complex relationship between youth, climate change and support for democratic values: A snapshot from Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

Salgado, S., **Biscaia, A.**, Taggart, P., Berganza, R., Pereira, C.R. (in peer review) Political attitudes: The interplay of populism, denialism, conspiracy thinking, and trust in the political system

Salgado, S., **Biscaia, A.**, Taggart, P., Pereira, C.R. (in peer review) Political Denialism: A Conceptualization

Biscaia, A. (in R&R) "A plague of ruin and death": Iberian radical right wing populist leaders' narratives of distrust on social media.

Biscaia, A. (in peer review) "They're not normal people": Qualitatively exploring distrust in political institutions and the news media.

Biscaia, A., Salgado, S., Berganza, R., Pereira, C.R. (in peer review) Anti-elitism and perceptions of science: A complex relation moderated by political orientation and media use?

Conferences and Presentations

2025: American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition

- Salgado, S., Biscaia, A., Prudnikow, A., Pereira, C.R.: "Don't Let Reality Ruin the Narrative: Studying Denialism in Political Attitudes"

2025: 75th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association

- Biscaia, A., Salgado, S., Berganza, R., Pereira, C.R.: "Anti-elitism and perceptions of science: A complex relation moderated by ideology and media use?"

2024: 10th Annual Conference of the International Journal of Press/Politics

- Biscaia, A., Salgado, S., Sousa, J.C., Berganza, R.: "The impact of media use on the relation between anti-elitist attitudes and trust in science: Evidence from the United Kingdom, Spain and Portugal"

2024: PACT ECR - Populism, Conspiracy Theories and the War Against Ukraine Academic Conference

- Salgado, S., Pereira, C.R., Biscaia, A.: "Populism, Denialism, and Conspiracy Theories: A Survey Approach"

2024: ECPR General Conference

- Salgado, S., Berganza, R., Biscaia, A., Pereira, C.R., Taggart, P.: "Tales of trust? A study of the interplay of populism, denialism, and conspiracy thinking on attitudes"

2024: 12th Biennial Conference of the ECPR Standing Group on the European Union

- Salgado, S., Taggart, P., Biscaia, A., Gonçalves, E., Pereira, C.R.: "Political Denialism: conceptualization and discussion"

2023: Hate Speech: How to Counteract? International Conference - University of the Azores

- Salgado, S., Silva, P.A., Biscaia, A., Zúñiga, H.G., Coimbra, M., Martins, B. "The How and Why of Incivility in Newspapers' Comments Sections"

2021: 8th NZ Discourse Conference Virtual Event

- Biscaia, A., Salgado, S. "The Leader of the 'Righteous Portuguese': Analyzing the Populist Political Discourse of André Ventura"

2021: American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition Virtual Event

- Biscaia, A. "Radical Right-Wing Populist Digital Politics in Portugal, Spain, and Brazil"

2021: ECPR Joint Sessions Virtual Event

- Biscaia, A. "Radical Right-Wing Populist Polarization in Portuguese and Brazilian Social Media"

2020: ECPR Virtual General Conference

- Fernández-García, B., Biscaia, A., Salgado S. "Hate in Echo Chambers and Plural Environments: An Analysis of Reddit's Communities"

Journal Reviews

Journalism Practice (2023)

American Politics Research (2023-24)

Social Science Computer Review (2023-24)

The International Journal of Press/Politics (2024)

Public Understanding of Science (2025)

Teaching

Instituto de Ciências Sociais - Universidade de Lisboa (2026)

- Digital Methods and Migrations

Universidade Aberta (2018-2025)

- Tutor

Further Academic Activities

2024: ECPR Signature Course - "Working with Concepts" - KU Leuven - European Consortium for Political Research

2023: ECPS Academy Summer School — "Populism, War and Crises: How populism interacts with crises during wartime" - European Center for Populism Studies Virtual Event

- Moderator in session: Guriev, S.: "The political economy of populism"

2023: ECPR Winter School: "Visual Analysis in Politics Research" - KU Leuven - European Consortium for Political Research

2022: Milan International Summer School of Political Communication: "Political Communication in the Digital Information Environment" - Università Degli Studi di Milano - Department of Social and Political Sciences/Political Communication Division of the International Communication Association

2022: Spring School MAPLE ERC: "Political Europe: Themes, Methods and Techniques" - ICS-UL

2020: "Qualitative Data Analysis with MaxQDA" Summer School - ICS-UL

2020: RStudio Workshop – ICS-UL

2020: We, the Internet - A Global Citizen's Dialogue - Missions Publiques

- Dialogue facilitator

Awards

2024: Social Science Computer Review Peer Reviewer Award (Spring)

2023, 2024, 2025: ERICS - Estímulo e Reconhecimento à Internacionalização em Ciências Sociais (Universidade de Lisboa)

2021: Academic Merit Award - Excellent (Universidade Aberta)

Language Skills

Portuguese - Native

English - C2 (Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English, 2003)

French - B2 (DELFI, 2017)