

About ICS-ULisboa

The Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa (ICS) is an internationally renowned multidisciplinary university institution that produces scientific knowledge on contemporary societies. ICS activities are guided by scientific and ethical principles as well as by social responsibility. ICS treasures the values of scientific autonomy, intellectual openness, diversity, and institutional cooperation in its three main areas of activity: 1) Research, published in nationally and internationally renowned journals and books and disseminated in networks and scientific meetings; 2) Postgraduate programmes, closely connected to research lines, projects underway and international cooperation networks;

3) Outreach, in particular through the Observatories on Portuguese Society and research which affects public policy, as well as commissioned studies from private and public bodies. It also undertakes activities of disseminations of scientific knowledge to non-academic audiences.

The research that ICS undertakes falls under the disciplinary areas of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Political Science, Economics, Human Geography, History, Social Psychology, and Sociology. ICS has seven Research Groups: Environment, Territory and Society; Sociopolitical Attitudes and Behaviors; Identities, Cultures, Vulnerabilities; Empires, Colonialism and Post-Colonial Societies; Life Course, Inequality and solidarity; Power, Society and Globalisation; and Regimes and Political Institutions.

Currently, the Institute has about 100 researchers and 150 postgraduate students and is engaged in 60 research projects. Close to sixty per cent of its activities are financed from its own funds, which are obtained on a competitive basis. ICS has a skilled team of 6 officers, who provide both administrative and technical support to its researchers and to the ongoing projects for which they are responsible, including support for financial management. Currently, these officers are responsible for the management of 100 projects with national and international funding (ERANETs, Horizon 2020, ERC, among others).

Environment, Territory and Society Research Group (ICS-ULisboa)

The ICS' Research Group Environment, Territory and Society's main objective is to develop interdisciplinary research and critical analysis of the dynamics, social, territorial and governance underlying socioecological challenges and the transition paths to more just and sustainable societies. It brings together researchers with backgrounds in sociology, geography, planning, anthropology and history, among others.

The three main lines of research are:

- ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE CHANGE, with a focus on social representations, socio-ecological and political implications of environmental dynamics, as well as on processes of mitigation and adaptation to climate change at local and regional scales. Involvement of stakeholders and communities is promoted in order to foster processes of social learning and self-organization in matters such as climate and coastal vulnerability, water and waste management, sea and biodiversity, public health and lifestyles, as well as the use of natural resources and socio-environmental equity. It also addresses the social and cultural aspects of energy: uses, acceptance of technologies, energy poverty, transformative energy practices ([ETS RG website](#)).

- FOOD, focusing on food security, sustainable consumption and production, urban food planning and agro-food practices. The researchers address innovative perspectives on: food insecurity and poverty centered on access and consumption; design and implementation of sustainable food strategies in urban areas and their interconnections with surrounding food basins and rural areas; historical processes of agro-food practices and their impacts on resources and ecosystems. Our research is interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary, bringing together a diversity of perspectives from the social and human sciences, health and life sciences, and from pluralistic theoretical and methodological approaches. Several elements of ETS RG are part of ICS' Food Hub ([Food Hub website](#)).

- URBAN TRANSITIONS, with research oriented for understanding the factors underlying the current socio-economic and ecological crises and for promoting public debate and political change. It focuses on analyzing obstacles to change for equitable and sustainable urban futures that prevail in worldviews, epistemological preferences, and problem framing. The research is intrinsically interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary, striving to ensure an open, diverse and interconnected view of problems and solutions ([Urban Transitions Hub website](#)).

Research in the ETS RG is often done in collaboration with researchers from other scientific areas outside the social sciences and in international partnerships. Projects funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology and the European Commission, as well as several other public and private entities, both for profit and non-profit, are being developed. Members of the RG take part in the Interdisciplinary Thematic Networks and in College F3 Food Farming Forestry of ULisboa.

The ETS research group is involved in several ICS advanced training courses, with emphasis on the Doctoral Program in Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies, the Doctoral Program in Sociology: Knowledge for Open and Inclusive Societies, the Doctoral Program in Development Studies, and the Doctoral Programme in Sustainability, as well as Summer Schools. The GI has an important dissemination tool, OBSERVA Observatory of Environment, Territory and Society, which promotes training actions and seminars on policies and publish policy and research briefs and a blog, as well as a range of other knowledge dissemination activities to stakeholders and non-academic stakeholders (central and local government, schools, NGOs, companies, etc.)

OBSERVA – OBSERVATORY OF ENVIRONMENT, TERRITORY AND SOCIETY

Observa - Observatory of Environment, Territory and Society is a permanent interaction structure between scientific research and society within the ICS-ULisboa Research Group for Environment Territory and Society. The main objective of the ETS RG is to develop interdisciplinary research and a critical analysis of the social, environmental, territorial and governance dynamics underlying socio-ecological challenges, as well as the transition paths to more just and sustainable societies, with a vision to contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals. It brings together researchers with academic backgrounds such as sociology, geography, planning, anthropology and history, among others.

OBSERVA's mission is to acquire knowledge on the relations between society and environment. Under analysis are both the social phenomena resulting or influenced by environmental and territorial issues, and the way the environmental conditions themselves are modified by social phenomena.

The materialization of OBSERVA's mission encompasses a vast and complex field of study reached by the research group (GI ATS), and this program is translated into projects, activities and publications that are organized according to several themes: participation and environmental citizenship; organization, governance and territorial planning; assessment of environmental, territorial and urban public policies; the role of the media in the environment; consumption, lifestyle and food; socio-ecological transition processes; environmental and sustainability education; study of representations, attitudes and behaviors towards the environment, climate change, energy and territory.

Alongside the dissemination of these projects, the observatory maintains a database on environmental themes. Also part of the activities of the observatory are the publication of studies and providing useful information for policy-making and knowledge dissemination on environment, territory and society for the general public.