Nina Vieira Portugal Azevedo

Statement for Candidacy for Regional Representative for Portugal at ESEH 2025-2029 (Second term)

Dear colleagues,

For the last decade, I've been investigating the historical relationships between people and marine mammals, mediated by practices of appropriation and extraction, perceptions and uses. I believe my main contribution to the environmental history field has been to zoom in into marine/aquatic ecosystems and particularly to the role nonhuman animals have been playing in human life, with much interest in the history of whales and whaling. I've been actively involved in several networks such as the Ocean Past Initiative or the European Cetacean Society, and projects funded by national (Portuguese) and European funding, e.g. EUTOPIA Connected Community on Environmental Humanities; EEA Grants; MSCA-RISE; ERC Synergy Grant. I'm currently the PI of the project "ANIMALx: Animals of Lisbon – Tracking the presence and role of (nonhuman) animals in the history and landscape of the city" at CHAM, the Centre for the Humanities at NOVA University of Lisbon – School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

I've been engaged with ESEH for the last four years and participating in several ways. Together with Anna Olenenko and Kati Lindström, I've been a convenor of the Environmental History Today Webinars 2023-2025, being also responsible for organising the Portugal's Webinar. I've also been part of the Communication Committee, and I am presently updating the ESEH YouTube channel.
I'm always in close contact with the Portuguese Network for Environmental History, REPORT(H)A, being responsible for managing the network's profile on Instagram. Through that channel and many others, benefiting from my own networks, research and teaching, I believe I've been committed to ESEH's mission of encouraging the study of environmental history, fostering communication among scholars across and beyond Europe, promoting institutional development of the field and consolidating environmental history in academic programmes – for instance, organising Summer Schools and offering EH courses at NOVA University of Lisbon –, and strengthening the vital link between research in environmental history, policy and society – e.g. citizen science and participatory actions; open access resources; providing data to policy makers, among others.

With all the experience I've gained over the last few years, I now feel even more prepared to continue as Portugal's regional representative at the ESEH and to continue dedicating myself to this community. Far beyond our skills and interactions as academics, I believe that the members who make up this society reinforce a notion of a multiple and diverse Europe, grounded in empathy for our differences and similarities. I truly believe that affirming environmental history is essential to the way we make history and relate to each other, regardless of our culture, beliefs or species.

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Scientific and research topics

Environmental History, Animal History, Whales and Whaling, Environmental Humanities, Marine Historical Ecology.

Academic Education

- PhD in History - Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, NOVA University of Lisbon, 2015/2020.
- Masters in Marine Ecology - Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, 2008/2010.
- Degree in Biology - University of Évora, 2003/2008.

Affiliation and current positions

- Subdirector: CHAM-Centre for the Humanities, NOVA University of Lisbon (since 2022).
- Assistant Researcher: ERC Synergy Grant 4-OCEANS: Human History of Marine Life - Extraction, Knowledge, Drivers and Consumption of Marine resources, c.100 BCE to c. 1880 CE (since 2021).
- Principal Investigator: Animals of Lisbon: Tracking the presence and role of (non-human) animals in the history and landscape of the city (2025-2027, FCT - Portuguese Foundation of Science and Technology).

Latest publications (as first author)

VIEIRA N, JANEIRINHO R, VENÂNCIO R & BRITO C. 2025. "My Grandmother's House". A Collaborative Exhibition on the History of Whales in Atouguia da Baleia. *Práticas da História*, n. 19: 185-216. DOI: https://doi.org/10.48487/pdh.2024.n19.36984

VIEIRA N. 2024. Unravelling the whales of Brazil, ghosts in the global history of whaling. Bol. Mus. Para. Emílio Goeldi. Cienc. Hum., 19(2), e20230021. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1590/2178-2547-BGOELDI-2023-0021

VIEIRA N. 2023. A Story of Whales and People: the Portuguese Whaling Monopoly in Brazil (17th and 18th Centuries). HALAC – Historia Ambiental, Latinoamericana y Caribeña, 13 (3): 20-48. DOI: https://doi.org/10.32991/2237-2717.2023v13i3.p20-48

VIEIRA N. 2023. Whales lost and found. Rescuing a history of biodiversity loss in early modern Brazil. *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, 10(2): 106-130. DOI: https://doi.org/10.31273/eirj.v10i2.976