João Franco
Updated December 31, 2025

PERSONAL
DETAILS

Ph.D. student in Complex Systems and Data Science
College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences & Vermont Complex Systems Institute
University of Vermont
Burlington, VT, USA

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Websites: https://www.linkedin.com/in/joao-s-franco/ and Google Scholar profile
Github: @OkFranco
BlueSky: @okfranco

RESEARCH
INTERESTS

Computational Social Science, Complex Systems, Natural Language Processing, Belief Dynamics, Economics

EDUCATION

University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, USA
　　Ph.D. in Complex Systems and Data Science, 2025–Present
　　Labs: The Joint Lab, Computational Ethics Lab
　　Advisors: Professor Laurent Hébert-Dufresne and Professor Juniper L. Lovato

Nova School of Business and Economics, Lisbon, Portugal
　　M.Sc. in Finance with Area of Expertise in Data and Business Analytics, 2018–2020
　　Lab: Social Physics and Complexity Lab
　　Advisor: Professor Joana Gonçalves de Sá

　　B.Sc. in Management, 2015–2018

PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE

Vermont Complex Systems Institute, Burlington, VT, USA
　　Graduate Research Assistant, 2025–Present
　　Labs: The Joint Lab, Computational Ethics Lab

Laboratory of Instrumentation and Experimental Particle Physics, Lisbon, Portugal
　　Technical Consultant, 2025–2025
　　Lab: Social Physics and Complexity Lab

Social Data Lab, Lisbon, Portugal
　　Data Analyst, 2022–2024

Copenhagen Business School, Remote
　　Research Assistant (Part-time), 2022–2023
　　Supervisor: Professor José Mata

The Boston Consulting Group, Lisbon, Portugal & Stockholm, Sweden
　　Strategy Consultant, 2020–2022

Nova School of Business and Economics, Lisbon, Portugal
　　Teaching Assistant, 2018–2020

SELECTED
FUNDING &
AWARDS

Fulbright Grant for Ph.D. with the support of FCT[1]. Fulbright Portugal, Role: Awardee. ($22.000, 2025)
Nova Fellowship for Excellence. Nova School of Business and Economics, Role: Awardee. (80% of M.Sc. tuition fees, approx. €9.000, 2018–2020)
Nova Excelência Scholarship. Nova School of Business and Economics, Role: Awardee. (1st year B.Sc. tuition fees, €1.000, 2015–2016)

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[1] Portugal's Foundation for Science and Technology

PUBLICATIONS

Thesis

- Franco, João (2020). Understanding the political agenda: New tools to the study of public discourse. Intergenerational politics and sustainability in political discourse, traditional and social media – a baseline study (Master's thesis, Nova School of Business and Economics) [Link]

HONORS

Academic Merit Honor, Nova School of Business and Economics, 2018

CONFERENCE PRESENCES AND TALKS

Poster presentations

- Poster presentation of "Evaluating Political Salience Using Topic Modeling Approaches" in CompleNet 2024, Exeter, UK

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Teaching

- (Spring & Fall 2019) Teaching Assistant, Nova School of Business and Economics: Strategy (B.Sc.) [in-person]

- (Fall 2019) Teaching Assistant, Nova School of Business and Economics: Introduction to Programming in Python (B.Sc.) [in-person]

- (Fall 2018) Teaching Assistant, Nova School of Business and Economics: Calculus I (B.Sc.) [in-person]

VARIA

Technical: Python, SQL, LaTex, Power BI, Looker Studio, SQL Server Products, Google Cloud Platform, Airflow, Pandas, Web scraping, APIs, NLP, data harvesting, data visualization and machine learning.

Languages: Portuguese (Native), English (Proficient), French (Basic)

Additional: Strategic planning, large-scale transformation initiatives, budgeting and financial forecasting, stakeholder management.