Luís Teles Morais

Nova School of Business and Economics

R. Holanda, 1 2775-705 Carcavelos Portugal

Education

2026 (exp.) PhD in Economics. Nova School of Business and Economics, Lisbon, Portugal

PhD Visiting Scholar. Dep. Finance, Stern School of Business, New York University (Spring 2024)

PhD Visiting Student. Dep. Economics, U. Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain (Spring 2020)

2015 Master in Finance. Nova School of Business and Economics

2013 Bachelor in Economics. ISEG, University of Lisbon

References

Prof. João B. Duarte %

Associate Professor of Economics Nova School of Business and Economics

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Prof. Daniel L. Greenwald %

Assistant Professor of Finance Stern School of Business, New York University

☑ dlg340@stern.nyu.edu

Prof. Miguel A. Ferreira %

"la Caixa" Chair Professor of Responsible Finance

Nova School of Business and Economics

Prof. Francesco Franco %

Assistant Professor of Economics Nova School of Business and Economics

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Placement coordinators

Prof. Cátia Batista (Economics) > 9 | Prof. Tim Eisert (Finance) > 9

Research interests

Macroeconomics and finance – topics in housing and household finance, consumption and saving

Job market paper

Mortgage structure, saving rates and the wealth distribution

In this paper, I show that fixed amortization schedules have powerful and heterogeneous effects on household consumption, saving and wealth. I study an otherwise standard life-cycle model with realistic mortgages, showing that homeowners rationally respond to mandatory repayments by cutting consumption and increasing precautionary saving in liquid assets. Consistent with this mechanism, I document in Euro area data that younger, poorer homeowners have much higher saving rates than their non-mortgage peers, and allocate a large share of saving to mortgage repayment. The exception is the Netherlands, where interest-only mortgages are common. This complements recent quasi-experimental evidence showing large effects of amortization requirements on saving. A quantitative version of the model reproduces these facts and shows that mandatory amortization increases both home equity and financial wealth accumulation, particularly up to age 40. Wealth-to-income ratios increase by close to a quarter for lower-income homeowners at age 40, while the impact for the highest-income households is minimal. These effects build up over time and have substantial implications for aggregate consumption and wealth: mandatory amortization dampens total wealth inequality, but increases consumption volatility and financial wealth inequality.

Presented at NYU Student Macro Lunch; Nova Finance Final Countdown; Banco de Portugal; 9th Luxembourg Household Finance and Consumption Workshop; LBS Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference, 18th Young Economists' Seminar at HNB Dubrovnik Economic Conference, 7th Baltic Economic Conference, 18th Portuguese Economic Journal Meeting, Vigo Workshop on Dynamic Macroeconomics, AREUEA International Conference 2025 Barcelona, CIRET (KOF-ETH Zurich) Workshop 2025 (poster), 4th Naples PhD and Post-Doctoral Workshop, 1st Zurich-Oxford Doctoral Symposium on Real Estate Markets, 8th Doctoral Workshop on Quantitative Dynamic Economics Konstanz, AFA/ASSA 2026 (poster)^ (^ scheduled)

Working papers

The cost of homeownership

w/ J. B. Duarte (Nova) and F. Rodrigues (Nova)

We argue that current metrics for the cost of homeownership inadequately represent the actual cost burden faced by potential homeowners and fail to capture household heterogeneity. In this paper, we develop a novel, fully microfounded measure of homeownership cost based on household's dynamic decision to buy versus rent by comparing the welfare consequences of each alternative. Formally, we define the cost of homeownership as the welfare loss incurred by committing to a purchase relative to remaining a renter. This framework incorporates key dimensions typically overlooked by conventional measures, such as uninsurable labor income risk, liquidity constraints, and mortgage market frictions — including down payments and interest rate dynamics. Moreover, by accounting for household heterogeneity, our measure captures distributional differences, revealing, for instance, how the cost of becoming a homeowner may be rising for lower-income households even when aggregate indicators suggest stable affordability.

Presented at 18th Portuguese Economic Journal Meeting,* 10th Luxembourg Household Finance and Consumption Workshop,* Lisbon Mini Workshop on Housing*+ (*co-author, +scheduled)

Monetary policy and household portfolio composition

w/T. Bernardino (IIES), P. Brinca (Nova), A. M. Ferreira (Nova), H. Holter (U. Delaware) and M. Pires (Nova)

How does monetary policy affect household portfolio composition? Resorting to highly granular data on the balance sheets of Norwegian households, we analyze how their wealth portfolios change in response to well-defined monetary policy shocks. We document three empirical facts on the aggregate response of households after a 1 percentage point increase in the policy rate: i) the total value of households' portfolios decreases by 4.1% two years after the shock; ii) monetary policy tightening decreases the risk exposure of portfolios, in particular the value of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds; iii) stock market participation is unaffected by monetary policy, but those who already own stocks increase their holdings. We find pronounced heterogeneity in the responses, noting these additional facts: iv) the drop in risky asset values is mostly driven by the wealthiest 10 percent, while a short-term positive response of safe assets comes from middle-class households' portfolios; v) middle-aged homeowners benefit from a short-term house price appreciation, but for younger households, the effect becomes negative over time, indicating that tighter policy delays entry into home ownership.

Presented at Lisbon Macro Club,* Statistics Norway,* 2024 Royal Economic Society,* University of Oslo,* LSE Student Seminar,* 12th Swedish National PhD Workshop in Finance,* 17th Portuguese Economic Journal Meeting,* Sveriges Riksbank*+ (*co-author, + scheduled)

The costs of building walls: immigration and the fiscal burden of aging in Europe

w/ T. Bernardino (IIES) and F. Franco (Nova). Under review

In low-fertility societies with working-age immigration, reducing inflows disproportionately raises dependency ratios as native populations shrink. This creates a convex policy frontier: restricting migration raises fiscal burdens at an increasing rate. We quantify this mechanism using a demographic model and novel estimates of immigrants' fiscal contributions in the Euro area. Eliminating immigration raises the fiscal burden of aging by 16%, despite immigrants' low skills, while doubling inflows reduces it by 9%. Differences across countries are substantial, reflecting their positions on the frontier, but also heterogeneity in immigrants' ages and tax-benefit policies. Increasing natives' fertility does not provide comparable relief.

Presented at Nova SBE, Stockholm University,* 15th Portuguese Economic Journal Meeting, 18th Paris-Dauphine Int'l Conference on Pensions, Insurance and Saving, the 60th Public Choice Society meetings,* the Lisbon Migration Economics Workshop,* The Economics of Migration Junior Seminar, the 2nd NBER Conference on Fertility and Declining Population Growth, 3rd LACEA HUMANS Workshop CDMX, BSE Summer Forum* (* by co-author)

Work in progress

Demographic transition, access to homeownership and the transmission of monetary and fiscal policy

w/ J. Duarte (Nova) and F. Rodrigues (Nova)

Are you willing to pay to send migrants away? Theory and evidence from an information experiment

w/C. Batista (Nova), T. Bernardino (IIES) and F. Franco (Nova)

Teaching experience

Fall '22

Nova School of Business and Economics

Spring '25 Topics in Finance (BSc), grader for P. Santa-Clara

Advanced Programming for Data Science (MSc), grader for L. Guimarais

Fall '23 Data Curation for Business Analytics (MSc), grader for Y. Shen Spring '23 Data Analytics for Finance (MSc), grader for N. Hirschey

Introduction to R and Tidyverse (Executive), instructor

Stata for Finance (MSc), instructor

Fall '19, Fall '18 Principles of Macroeconomics (undergraduate), TA for J. Ferreira-Machado

Fall & Spring '19 Public Economics (undergraduate), TA for M. C. Seabra

Honors, scholarships and grants

2024	R&D@USA 2024 Scholarship, FLAD -	- Luso-American Development Foundation
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2023 Research grant (100,000 EUR), Social Research Call, "la Caixa" Foundation (PI: J. Duarte)

2020 Passed with Distinction, Field Exam in Macroeconomics, Nova SBE

2018 PhD research scholarship (4 years full funding), Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology

Policy research grant (80,000 EUR), Gulbenkian Foundation (PI: F. Franco)

2013 Dean's list, ISEG, University of Lisbon (top 2 in cohort)

2010-2013 Full tuition scholarship (top candidate in Economics), EDP Foundation

Academic service

2025 Organizer, Nova Macro/Finance PhD Job Market Workshop 2022-23 Organizer, Nova PhD Research Group (student seminar)

Additional training

2024 Empirical Methods, M. Campello – Short course, Nova SBE

2023 Housing and the Macroeconomy, D. Berger – Short course, Bank of Portugal, Lisbon

Subjective Inflation Expectations, M. Weber – Summer school, Nova SBE

2019 Credit cycles, asset prices and the macroeconomy, M. Schularick – Bank of Portugal, Lisbon

Selected policy papers and reports

Developing distributional national accounts: a joint distribution for income and wealth for the euro area with N. Blatnik (ECB) and I. K. Kavonius (ECB & U. Helsinki). ECB Working Paper Series, European Central Bank, Frankfurt

2020 Public finances, an intergenerational perspective

with F. Franco (Nova), J. Jalles (ISEG-U. Lisbon) and T. Bernardino (IIES). Report, Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon

2018 A sustainable fiscal strategy for Portugal

with P. T. Pereira, R. Cabral & J. Vicente (all ISEG-U. Lisbon). Book, Edições Almedina, Lisbon

Portugal's economic prospects: was the political miracle responsible for the economic miracle?

Report, Real Instituto Elcano, Madrid

Professional experience

2020-2022 European Central Bank (DG Statistics): Research analyst; PhD trainee

2015-2018 Institute of Public Policy - Lisbon: Research assistant & executive director

General skills

Computing LATEX, LyX, Matlab, Python, Stata, R

Languages English (fluent); Portuguese (native); French (intermediate); Spanish (intermediate); German (basic)

This version: 29th October 2025