MARLI GUIMARÃES FERNANDES

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary fields: Applied microeconomics, Political economy
Research methods: Causal inference, Natural language processing

ACADEMIC POSITION

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow   09/2025-Present
Università Degli Studi di Padova, Department of Economics and Management "Marco Fanno"
Project #POPULISMCONTAGION "Populism contagion: Strategic policy responses to populist opponents" funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe program

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics   2017 - 2024
Nova School of Business and Economics
Approved with Distinction and Honors
Visiting PhD student at Sciences Po   02/2022 - 04/2022

Master in Economics   2014 - 2016
Major in Public Policy
Nova School of Business and Economics

Undergraduate degree in Economics   2011 - 2014
Nova School of Business and Economics
Exchange Program at Aarhus School of Business and Social Sciences   Fall 2013

AFFILIATIONS

Economics for Policy Knowledge Center (Nova SBE)   2022 - Present

RESEARCH - WORKING PAPERS

When Women Run Against Men: Evidence from Political Platforms
Do female and male candidates differ in their political campaigns? And why do they differ? Using individual political platforms from legislative elections in France, I combine computational text analysis with a regression discontinuity design setup in the two-round French legislative elections to understand political campaign differences between women and men. I find that women give more salience to topics such as security and foreign policy than males. This result is stronger in places where there is more substantial voter gender bias: in districts that have never elected a woman or where the gender wage gap is higher. I causally show that when women run against men, as opposed to running against a woman, they strategically give more prevalence to male-stereotypical topics. However, once elected, women provide more coverage to female stereotyped issues, health and education compared to male colleagues. In contrast, when male politicians run against women, they adapt their platforms more marginally. Finally, I show that giving less salience to health & education during campaigns mobilizes voters and leads them to vote on women, while providing more salience to male-stereotyped topics does not have any effect.

Ne Me Quitte Pas! School Closures and Electoral Outcomes in France with José Tavares
This paper analyses the impact of school closures on electoral outcomes in France, between 1995 and 2022. Using a difference-in-differences design, we show that the closure of the only school in a given municipality leads to an increase of 0.527 percentage points in votes for the populist far-right and 0.968 percentage points for the left in presidential elections. Voters have a preference for the populist far-right over left-wing parties when they already have low levels of trust in mainstream parties. The effects are absent in municipalities with multiple schools at the time of closure, suggesting that citizens are particularly concerned with lack of access to public education.

The Effects of Non-cognitive Skills on the Native-migrant Labour Market Gap

RESEARCH - WORK IN PROGRESS

Populism Contagion: Strategic Policy Responses to Populist Opponents (with Antonio Nicolò)

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Marie Sklodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellowship (€ 193,643.28)	2025
Project #POPULISMCONTAGION funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe program HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF-01-01. Grant agreement no. 101205531	
dSEA Mini Grant 2024 (€ 2000)	2024
Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) Graduate Scholarship	2017-2022
Socrates/Erasmus scholarship (EU)	2013

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

2025 18th Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Economic Journal
2024 ENS Lyon, Verona Early Career Workshop in Economics, NICEP Conference 2024, 3rd Junior Economists Meeting UniMi - JEM24, BoMoPaV Economics Meeting 2024, "Text-as-Data in Economics" Workshop at the University of Liverpool Management School, 8th Monash-Warwick-Zurich Text-as-Data Workshop, 7th University of Bolzano Workshop on Political Economy, 18th CESifo Workshop on Political Economy
2023 22nd Journées Louis-André Gérard-Varet, 16th Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Economic Journal, European Public Choice Society, Lisbon Micro Group (x2), Nova SBE Applied Micro Lunch
2022 Nova SBE PhD Research Meeting
2021 36th Annual Conference of the Italian Association of Labour Economists, 14th Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Economic Journal, 14th Spanish Labour Economics Meeting, SOEP Brown Bag Seminar
2020 Nova SBE PhD Research Meeting (x2)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral researcher 02/2024-07/2025
Università Degli Studi di Padova, Department of Economics and Management "Marco Fanno"

Research Assistant 2022-2025
Supervisor: Prof. Francesco Franco
Evaluation of public policies in an intergenerational perspective

Invited Teaching Assistant - Grader 2018-2020, Spring 2023-2024
Nova School of Business and Economics
Economics of Poverty, Public Finance, Seminar on Current Economic and Financial Issues, Politics for

Policy (MSc), Empirical Methods for Finance (MSc); Macroeconomics, Global Business Environment (BSc)

Research Assistant 2016-2017
Supervisor: Prof. Teresa Bago d'Uva (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
Project "Social Mobility in Portugal".

Economic analyst for Portugal Economy Probe 2015
Summer intern

POLICY RESEARCH

Fernandes, M.; Francisco, M.; Franco, F. 2024. European Union Pact on Migration and Asylum *Nova SBE Economics for Policy Knowledge Center*

Fernandes, M.; Francisco, M.; Franco, F. 2024. Restoring teachers' total service time *Nova SBE Economics for Policy Knowledge Center*

Fernandes, M.; Francisco, M.; Franco, F. 2024. More housing. *Nova SBE Economics for Policy Knowledge Center*

Fernandes, M.; Francisco, M.; Franco, F. 2023. Non-adjustment of the pensions according to law 53-B/2006 *Nova SBE Economics for Policy Knowledge Center*

Fernandes, M.; Francisco, M.; Franco, F. 2023. Sustainable employment commitment *Nova SBE Economics for Policy Knowledge Center*

Bago d'Uva, T. and Fernandes, M. 2017. Mobilidade social em Portugal *Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos*

Fernandes, M; Santos, S. and Gouveia, A. 2016. The empirics of agglomeration economies: the link with productivity. *GEE Papers n. 67*

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION

15th Lisbon Machine Learning Summer School 2025
Instituto Superior Técnico

1st Machine Learning Porto Summer School 2021
Católica Porto Business School

Big Data (with R) 2019
Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa

REFEREE SERVICE

Economic Modelling

OTHER INFORMATION

Software	Stata, Python, R, Latex, MS Office
Language	Portuguese (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Italian (basic)
Nationality	Portuguese