

Humanities in the future tense: mapping interdisciplinary approaches in a research project – Landscapes of the Self

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Departing from the so long discussed crisis in the Humanities, we will argue that when research is anchored on critical analysis which ignores other fields of work and of expertise, living within dogmas and canons, divorced from an interdisciplinary dialogue, we witness an isolation of Humanities. We, researchers of these new liquid and light times (Bauman 2000), have to be able to give a future to the Humanities, overcoming the epistemological barriers and frontiers.

This project emerged from the feeling that we need to act, to teach, and to undertake research in a world that no longer breaks down according to existing disciplinary boundaries. In this sense, the approach to the study of autobiographies grounds on a broader understanding of society and of politics, as well as on the inherent paradigms of each discipline that frames and sustains the project – discourse analysis and cultural studies. Only by having this more open-minded and sustained form of communication between the different fields of knowledge have we been able so far to produce new knowledge on discourse and representation in political autobiography.

The aim of this paper is to create knowledge based on an interdisciplinary research project on life writing, entitled Landscapes of the Self. As an example, we will present the former President of the Portuguese Republic's *Political Autobiography*, and discuss emotions as a means to construct his political identity. Based on his words and on the frequency with which he uses them, (lexicometric analysis) we will show how emotions develop and transform his intimate and public identity as a man and as a Statesperson. What emotions are will not be discussed, but rather how they function as identity makers in private and public spheres and whether or not they are constitutive of the President's landscape of the self.