23-24 October

2nd INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF YOUNG RESEARCHERS IN COGNITION, LANGUAGE AND NEUROSCIENCES

NICE START 2026

October 23rd

PORTUGUESE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, LISBON

9h **Attendees Registration**

9h30-10h **Opening Conference**

Professor Ana Mineiro

Professor Susana Varela

10h-11h **Invited Speaker**

What children's hands tell us: Motor behaviour, gesture and sign function between the ages of 2 and 5T

Monika Boruta, Ph.D.

Nicolaus Copernicus de Tórun University

11h-11h30 **Coffee Break and Poster Exhibition**

11h30-12h30 **Oral presentations**

1. *Self-Regulation and Family Context in Children and Adolescents with ADHD: A Multimodal Approach to Psychosocial, Neuropsychological, and Neurophysiological Profiles*

   Marisa Marques and Sandra Carvalho

   University of Minho – Centre for Research in Psychology (CIPsi)

2. *Shared Book Reading and Language Development in Early Intervention*

   Ana Sofia Lopes, Mara Moita and Sofia Lynce

   Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Health

12h30-13h **Escape Room "The Brain Unlocked"**

(ask for a spot at attendee registration)

Lunch

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14h30-15h30 Keynote Speaker

Developing a reading assessment tool for primary school learners of Portuguese as a second language

Ana Madeira, Ph.D. and Joana Batalha, Ph.D.

NOVA FCSH, CLUNL FLUL, CLUL

Active Break

FisioDance - PhysioT

Paula Pinto

15h45-16h15 Oral presentations

3. Can AI Become a Target of Significant-Other Transference? Toward an Idiographic Test of Relational Applicability

João Borges

ISPA - Instituto Universitário

16h15-16h30 Coffee Break and Poster Exhibition

16h30-17h30 Round Table Arts and Science

Indie Founder: Arts and Sciences

Host: Tiago Ferreira - https://www.wannabe-entrepreneur.com/

Guests: Tiago Ribeiro/Tiago Polignac (artista visual) - https://www.instagram.com/tiagopolignac/

Rudolfo Quintas (artista visual) - https://www.rudolfoquintas.com/Bio-CV

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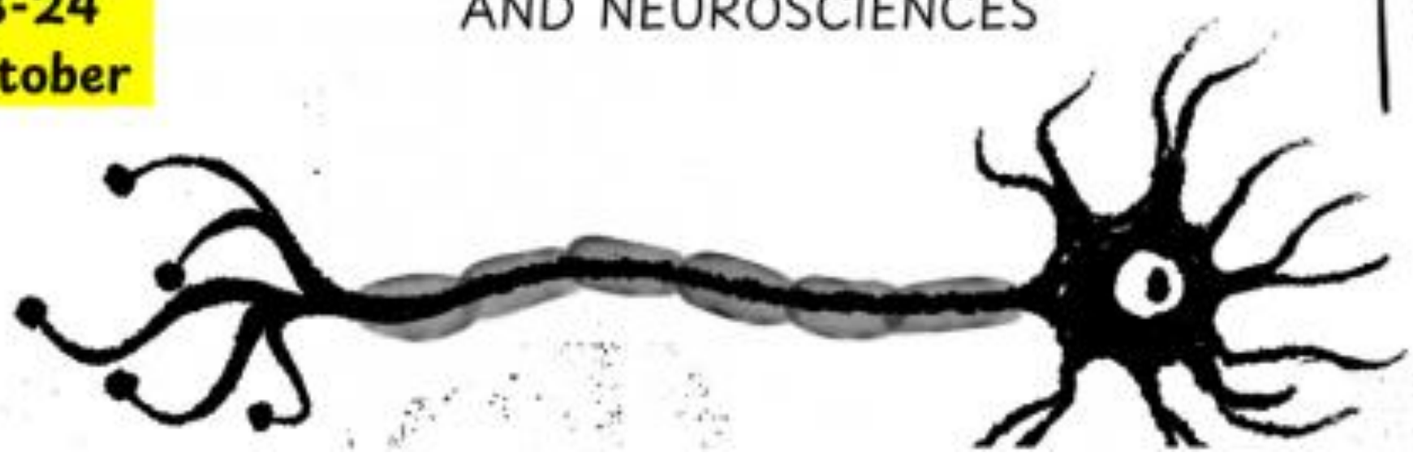

NICE START 2026

October 24th

PORTUGUESE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, LISBON

9h30-10h30 Oral presentations

4. *Beyond the Lesion: CD9 and MYLIP in Vascular Dysfunction and Cognitive Decline After Spinal Cord Injury*
   Olivia Domingos, Isa F. Mota, Dalila Neves-Sliva and Isaura Martins
   Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Health

5. *From Musical Expertise to the Experience of Emotion: Music Training, Emotional Granularity, and Emotional Intensity*
   Rafael Ribeiro
   Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Health

10h30-11h30 Keynote Speaker

Social perception and decision-making in neurological disease: neural correlates and clinical insights
Marta Granadeiro, PhD student
School of Medicine, University of Lisbon

Active Break

Body, balance and flexibility: challenge in motion.
Anabela Correia

11h45-12h00 Coffee Break and Poster Exhibition

12h00-13h00 Keynote Speaker

The Importance of Neuropsychology in Mild Cognitive Impairment in the Era of Biomarkers
Luísa Alves, Ph.D.
Nova Medical School

13h-13h30 Awards for best Oral Presentation and Best Poster

Closing Conference

Professor Mara Moita

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Poster Exhibition

1. *Effects of Hypnotic Suggestions on Cognitive Performance, Attention, Motor Control and Neural Activity in Athletes: An EEG-Based Perspective Study*
   Américo Madeira
   Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro University

2. *The Kinematic Properties of Constructed Action in Polish Sign Language in Relation to Pantomime*
   Antoni Żyndul
   Centre for Language Evolution Studies, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

3. *The Hidden Geometry of Thought": Cognitive Inhibition during the Acquisition of an L3*
   Leonor Inés Cara Iáñez
   University of Latvia

4. *Mapping Pain Among Brazilian Nursing Students: Occurrence, Intensity and Duration*
   Manoela Gomes Grossi, Department of Nursing, Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar)
   Priscilla Hortense, Department of Nursing, Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar)
   Rita Canaipa, Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Health, Portuguese Catholic University

5. *Screen Time and Attention in Children and Adolescents: Does the Moderating Role of Parental Supervision Differ by Age and Sex?*
   Iara Saraiva, School for Health Sciences and Nursing, Portuguese Catholic University
   Joana Rato, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Health , Portuguese Catholic University

6. *Learning Opportunities and Life Satisfaction in Older Adulthood: Exploring a Path Towards Healthy Ageing*
   Diogo Miguel, ISCTE - University Institute of Lisbon
   Catarina Palma, ISCTE - University Institute of Lisbon
   Suze Lu Gomes, ISCTE - University Institute of Lisbon

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After a successful first edition that brought together early career researchers from the **fields of Cognitive Sciences, Language and Neurosciences**, the second edition will take place this October with the same aim: providing a dynamic space for the exchange of ideas and the sharing of original work, with special emphasis on doctoral students.

Organized by doctoral students from the School of Health Sciences and Nursing, the event's main objective is to **foster interdisciplinarity, promoting in-depth discussions** on the latest challenges and advances in these fields. More than just an academic meeting, NICE START aims to be a catalyst for new collaborations and scientific networks, bringing together diverse perspectives and stimulating the construction of a more connected and innovative research community.

In this context, participants will have the opportunity to present their work, explore new approaches and reflect on the future of neuroscience and cognitive sciences, in an environment of learning, sharing and cooperation. **This edition also offers a new format of scientific pitch - PhD Tank -** for students interested in enrolling in a PhD program.

NICE START reinforces **the importance of interdisciplinarity in scientific research** and stands out as an essential platform for the academic and professional growth of young researchers, encouraging the development of long-term collaborative network.

This pioneering event offers a unique opportunity for doctoral students to share and discuss their work, fostering the exchange of innovative ideas and building collaborative networks**.**

Sponsor

Edu Hub Lisbon is a growing education and innovation campus in Marvila, anchored by United Lisbon International School (ULIS). Bringing together international schooling, higher education, professional learning and spaces for collaboration, the campus is designed to connect learners, educators and organisations across disciplines and generations. ULIS, part of Dukes Education, provides an international education in English for students aged 3–18, with a curriculum culminating in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Its emphasis on curiosity, critical thinking and learning beyond the classroom sits at the heart of the wider campus vision. This ecosystem also includes the Global Learning Hub (GLH), designed to support universities and educational partners in delivering national and international programmes, study abroad opportunities and executive education in Lisbon. Marvila Studios will complement these activities with flexible accommodation for visiting students, academics and professionals. Together, these interconnected elements create a setting where education, work and international exchange can develop alongside one another.

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Keynote Speakers

ANA MADEIRA

Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistics at the School of Social and Human Sciences of NOVA University, Lisbon and researcher at CLUNL—the Linguistics Center of NOVA University, Lisbon. She holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics from University College London, United Kingdom (1995). Her research focuses on the acquisition and teaching of Portuguese as a second language, bilingual acquisition, and syntax, with a focus on Portuguese. She has also participated in projects in the areas of multilingualism and language policy, as well as in the development of materials for teaching and assessing Portuguese as a second language.

JOANA BATALHA

Joana Batalha is an Assistant Professor in the School of Arts and Humanities at the University of Lisbon and a researcher with the Grammar & Resources group at the University of Lisbon's Center for Linguistics. She holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics, with a specialization in Linguistics and Language Teaching, from NOVA FCSH. Her research focuses on language development and educational linguistics, and she has participated in research projects on first- and second-language acquisition as well as in various areas of Portuguese language teaching. She was a team member of the Read4Succeed project from 2019 to 2022.

MARTA GRANADEIRO

PhD student at the School of Medicine, University of Lisbon, and a Clinical Psychologist at Laboratório de Estudos de Linguagem within the same institution. She completed her Master's degree in Applied Social Cognition at the School of Psychology, University of Lisbon, in 2019. Her research interests include the neural substrates of decision-making in social contexts and of social perception. Her work draws on methods from neuroeconomics, neuroimaging and social psychology to study clinical populations with neurological disease, with a particular focus on how lesions and white matter tract disconnection impair the integration of social cues in decision making. Her clinical work involves the neuropsychological assessment of patients from the Neurology outpatient clinic at ULS Santa Maria hospital, supporting diagnosis, characterization and treatment decisions for these patients.

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Keynote Speakers

LUÍSA ALVES

Luisa Alves is a neurologist and researcher at NOVA Medical School and a Graduate Assistant in Neurology at Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Ocidental. She completed her PhD in Medicine at NOVA Medical School in 2021, and her research has focused on cognitive disorders.

Invited Speaker

MONIKA BORUTA

Dr Monika Boruta is a linguist working in the fields of gesture studies, child language development, and sign languages. Since 2013, she has been a member of the Centre for Language Evolution Studies (CLES, cles.umk.pl), where she has collaborated with an international audience. Currently, as the Principal Investigator of an NCN grant, she continues her research on early gestures in young children, aiming to demonstrate that gestures are an important indicator of the acquisition of communicative abilities in childhood. Professionally, she is affiliated with Nicolaus Copernicus University, where she works in the Department of Experimental Linguistics.

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Round Table Podcast

TIAGO FERREIRA

Tiago is the host of the Indie Founder Podcast, where he shares insights and actionable advice to empower indie entrepreneurs. With a strong background in software engineering, he co-founded Podsqueeze, a SaaS platform that helps podcasters effortlessly transform audio content into engaging newsletters. Tiago thrives on pursuing new challenges and continuously building innovative products - recently launching Flarecut, a tool for creating impactful social media videos from written content, and Rankchase, designed to help businesses boost their domain authority through backlinks. Passionate about great coffee, travel, and sailing, Tiago embraces a lifestyle fueled by creativity and exploration.

RUDOLFO QUINTAS

Portuguese visual artist working at the intersection of art, data and artificial intelligence. Through computational artworks, data paintings and immersive installations, his practice investigates how emerging technologies shape mental health, democracy, collective memory and human perception. His work has received national and international distinctions, including the Norberto Fernandes Prize for Art and Technology (2024) for Sentiment Data Paintings – World News 2024, the Transmediale Distinction Award (Berlin, 2009) for Burning The Sound, and the Inter.faces First Prize (2005) for SWAP, an early augmented reality performance. Quintas has exhibited and presented his work at institutions including MAAT, KIASMA, Transmediale, Sónar+D, Harvard Medical School, Fundação Champalimaud, MNAC, and ARCO Lisboa. His work is held in collections including FLAD and Fundação MEO. In 2027, he will present three major retrospective exhibitions across Portugal and participate in MAAT's international exhibition on AI.

TIAGO PINTO RIBEIRO

Clinical Psychologist and Neuropsychologist, specialising in Clinical and Health Psychology and Neuropsychology with the Portuguese Psychologists' Association. He holds a Master's degree in Clinical and Health Psychology from the School of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Porto. His clinical practice focuses particularly on neurodevelopment, mental health and behaviour, working with children, adolescents, young adults and families. He is part of PIN – Partners in Neuroscience, in Porto, where he coordinates the regional Autism Spectrum Disorders and Cognitive Disabilities Unit. His academic and research experience also includes the study of movement disorders, and he has contributed to scientific publications and participated in national and international scientific meetings and conferences.Alongside his clinical and scientific work, he has developed a career in the visual arts under the artistic name Tiago Polignac. His artistic practice explores painting and mixed media, with a particular interest in the relationships between matter, colour, memory, perception and human experience. His work has been presented in exhibitions and artistic projects in Portugal and internationally.At the intersection of Psychology, Neuroscience and Art, he is particularly interested in how different forms of knowledge and expression can contribute to our understanding of identity, subjective experience, perception, and the multiple ways in which we experience and make sense of the world.

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Scientific Illustration

SARA CRISTINA COSTA

https://saracristinacosta.pb.online/comunicaodecincia

Illustrator, researcher, and science communicator, whose career bridges illustration and animation with the cognitive sciences. At the UCP Center for Interdisciplinary Health Research, she transforms the complexity of scientific knowledge into clear and rigorous visual narratives. From oral health and microbiology to neuroscience, her work seeks to shed light on the internal, invisible processes that have a real impact on our daily lives.

With projects presented at conferences, digital resources, training workshops, and work recognized by the Portuguese Society of Microbiology, Sara invites us to discover how visual creativity can amplify the impact of science and build bridges between researchers and the public.

Opening and Closing Conference Speakers

ANA MINEIRO

Head of the School of Health Sciences and Nursing of the Portuguese Catholic University

Coordinator of the PhD in Cognitive Sciences, Language and Neuroscience

Head of the Translational Neuroscience Platform - CIIS

SUSANA VARELA

Coordinator of the PhD in Cognitive Sciences, Language and Neuroscience

School of Health Sciences and Nursing of the Portuguese Catholic University

MARA MOITA

Head of the NICE_Lab

School of Health Sciences and Nursing of the Portuguese Catholic University

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