



## Fulbright Portugal @65 Talks

**Daniela F. Melo, Timothy D. Walker**

**18 June 2025**

6.30 PM – 7.30 PM

FLAD – Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento

(Rua do Sacramento à Lapa, 21. Lisboa)

**""The Captain's Coup": Reviving Wilfred Burchett's Activist Journalism about the Portuguese Carnation Revolution"**

Professors Daniela Melo and Timothy Walker are co-editors of a new scholarly edition of legendary Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett's writing on the Portuguese "Carnation" Revolution -- published in English for the first-time (Verso Books, UK). Their illustrated presentation will review Burchett's activist journalism and his analysis about the military coup d'état in Portugal on 25 April 1974 that overthrew modern Europe's longest dictatorship. This new publication is based on Burchett's original English-language typed manuscripts discovered in the National Library of Australia. Melo and Walker will discuss the historical context, as well as the political and journalistic significance of Burchett's work.

Wilfred Burchett (1911-1983), a well-known and prolific but highly controversial figure, has been described as "one of the most important journalists of the twentieth century." Burchett became famous for his reporting on the "atomic plague" (radiation poisoning) in Hiroshima following the United States' atomic bomb attack in August 1945. Burchett's writing on the Portuguese Revolution offers a rich comparative frame of reference, borne out of his immense experience with rebellion and other forms of mobilization around the world during the mid-20th century. Burchett's work is notable for unique contemporary interviews with the key military and political leaders of the Revolution, as well as with average people: farmers, fishermen, factory workers, and women – especially in rural Portugal, where other journalists



did not venture.

Melo and Walker will discuss how Burchett's reporting sought to demonstrate the power and strength of popular mobilizations during the Revolution, shifting the focus away from political elites toward mobilized citizens. Burchett's analysis on the roles of political elites, economic elites, and mobilization provides rich insights, revealing the types of networks and interactions between these actors, and the roles that narrative, storytelling, and emotions played in the making of the Portuguese Revolution.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Daniela F. Melo** is a political scientist and lecturer in social sciences at Boston University (College of General Studies). Her work is published in such academic journals as *Comparative European Politics*, *Social Movement Studies*, and *Foreign Policy Analysis*. She is co-editor, with Paul Manuel, of *After the Carnation Revolution: Social Movements in Portugal Since 25 April 1974* (Liverpool University Press, 2025). Melo held a Fulbright fellowship in Portugal, has served as a consultant to the US State Department regarding domestic politics in Portugal and Spain, and is a frequent contributor of political analysis to various Portuguese media outlets, commenting on US politics and foreign policy.

**Timothy D. Walker** is professor of history at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where he serves on the executive board of the Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture, and is graduate faculty of the Department of Portuguese. Walker is also an affiliated researcher of the Centro de História d'Aquém e d'Além-Mar (CHAM), Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal. From 1994 to 2003, he was a visiting professor at the Universidade Aberta (Open University) in Lisbon. He is the recipient of a Fulbright dissertation fellowship to Portugal, and fellowships from the Portuguese Camões Institute, the Luso-American Development Foundation, and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Sustainability in Climate Change.