



Fulbright Portugal @65 Talks

David Taylor

Fulbright Scholar in Journalism at Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa

16 April 2025

6.30 PM – 7.30 PM

FLAD – Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento

(Rua do Sacramento à Lapa, 21. Lisboa)

"Cork and Environmental Security: A Story of Portugal and the United States."

This talk looks at environmental security through a history shared by Portugal and the United States. One example centers on World War II, when Portuguese cork was a material crucial to modern life, and the United States imported nearly half the world's production of cork for manufacturing. When a World War II blockade cut off Atlantic trade, cork scarcity threatened U.S. national security. That led to cork workers getting recruited for espionage and a nationwide tree-planting campaign. Today cork and Portugal's Montado forests play a different role in environmental security. My Fulbright project examines recent experience and resilience in extreme weather and wildfires.

David Taylor graduated from Davidson College with a B.A. degree in English, and the Rainier Writing Workshop at Pacific Lutheran University with an M.F.A. in Creative Writing. Since 2015 he has taught in the M.A. in Science Writing Program at Johns Hopkins University. His articles appear in the Washington Post, Discover, Smithsonian, and Scientific American, and he has written for podcasts and documentary films. His books include *Cork Wars: Intrigue and Industry in World War II*, which received an Independent Publisher Book Award for world history. He's a member of National Association of Science Writers and the Society of Environmental Journalists.



Mr. Taylor's project looks at Portugal's cork oak forests, building on research conducted for his book about environmental security. His project is titled Journalism Study of Cork Forests and Sustainability in Climate Change.