



Fulbright Portugal @65 Talks

Ben Ford

Fulbright Scholar in Archaeology at Universidade do Porto

23 April 2025

6.30 PM – 7.30 PM

FLAD – Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento
(Rua do Sacramento à Lapa, 21. Lisboa)

"The Lagoa da Pederneira and Human Response to Rapid Environmental Change"

From the 13th to 18th century the Lagoa da Pederneira, located inland of Nazaré, transitioned from a maritime environment, to riverine, to agricultural as the lagoon rapidly filled with sediment. Due to a complex combination of geological and human causes, a landscape that once supported large ships and fishing communities is now farmland. Pederneira Lagoon is only one example of this process that occurred in several locations along the Portuguese coast. A combination of geological, archaeological, and historical data are brought together to explore how the residents of the lagoon adapted to this changing landscape.

Ben Ford is the Chair of the Anthropology Department and Indiana University of Pennsylvania and an anthropologist specializing in historical and underwater archaeology. Originally from Cincinnati, he now lives in Indiana, Pennsylvania with his spouse, two kids, dog, and bearded dragon. His Ph.D. from Texas A&M University was preceded by several years as an archaeological consultant and degrees from the College of William and Mary and the University of Cincinnati. He recently published *The Shore is a Bridge: The Maritime Cultural Landscape of Lake Ontario* and *Our Blue Planet: An Introduction to Maritime and Underwater Archaeology* (with Jessi Halligan and Alexis Catsambis).