

VIII Lisbon Arctic International Conference and Workshop

Venue: Instituto Superior de Ciências Sociais e Políticas, Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal)

Date: November 28, 2025

"Arctic Crossroads: Strategic Competition, Geopolitics, Security, and Sustainability in a Rapidly Changing Region"

The Arctic has become a pivotal arena where strategic competition, geopolitical ambitions, and security concerns intersect with the urgent need for sustainable development. As climate change transforms the region, opening new shipping routes and access to vast natural resources, global powers are increasingly positioning themselves to secure influence in this strategically vital area. This intensifying competition has heightened territorial disputes, military activity, and governance challenges, raising critical questions about the future stability of the Arctic. At the same time, these developments pose significant risks to the region's fragile ecosystems and indigenous communities, whose livelihoods are deeply intertwined with its environment.

This conference examines these interconnected challenges through a multidisciplinary lens, exploring how strategic competition and geopolitical rivalries can be managed to foster cooperation while addressing security threats and ensuring sustainability. Key themes include the role of international governance frameworks, the impact of militarization on regional stability, and innovative approaches to balancing economic development with environmental preservation. By bringing together experts from policy, academia, and indigenous communities, this event aims to generate actionable insights and collaborative solutions for navigating the Arctic's rapidly changing landscape.

Call for Papers:

The Arctic is undergoing profound transformations driven by climate change, geopolitical competition, and the pursuit of sustainable development. As melting ice opens new shipping routes and access to natural resources, the region has become a focal point for global powers. These dynamics have heightened territorial disputes, military activity, and governance challenges while threatening fragile ecosystems and indigenous communities.

We invite scholars to submit papers for the international conference *"Arctic Crossroads: Strategic Competition, Geopolitics, Security, and Sustainability in a Rapidly Changing Region"*.

This one-day event aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and generate actionable solutions to address the Arctic's most pressing challenges.

Key Themes:

1. **Geopolitical Rivalries and Strategic Competition:**
 - The role of global powers in shaping Arctic policies.
 - Managing territorial disputes and military activities.
 - Balancing national interests with regional stability.
2. **Governance and International Cooperation:**
 - Evaluating existing governance frameworks (e.g., Arctic Council).
 - Innovative policy solutions for multilateral collaboration.
 - The role of non-Arctic states in Arctic governance.
3. **Sustainability and Environmental Preservation:**
 - Strategies for balancing resource extraction with environmental protection.
 - Indigenous knowledge systems in sustainable development.
 - Impacts of climate change on Arctic ecosystems and livelihoods.
4. **Security Challenges in a Changing Arctic:**
 - Emerging threats from militarization and economic competition.
 - Maritime security in newly accessible shipping routes.
 - Resilience-building for Arctic communities.
5. **Indigenous Perspectives and Community Resilience:**
 - Safeguarding indigenous rights amid geopolitical shifts.
 - Co-production of knowledge with indigenous stakeholders.
 - Empowering local communities through inclusive policymaking.

Submission Guidelines:

- Abstracts should be no more than 300 words and submitted by April 30, 2025 | 23:59 (Lisbon time)
 - E-mail address: balao.sandra73@gmail.com
 - Subject: **VIII Lisbon Arctic Conference**
- Papers will be selected based on relevance to the conference themes, originality, and interdisciplinary approach.
- The authors of the accepted abstracts will be notified by May 30, 2025.
- Full Papers should be submitted by September 30, 2025.

Output:

- After the Conference, the Full Papers are to be submitted to a double-blind peer review and published in an e-Book.