



NOVAFRICA Annual Report 2022

NOVAFRICA

Report 2022

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Economics at The Service of People



NOVAFRICA's
Message



NOVAFRICA has been in the front line to face recent challenges of the world. From the Covid-19 pandemic to the war in Ukraine, we are working to create evidence-based policy solutions designed to improve the lives of people around the world

The unsettling combination of war, inflation, energy scarcity and climate change in the wake of a pandemic has left the world bewildered.

After a global pandemic, that has proven to be one of the most challenging events in history, no one expected a war in Europe. The international armed conflict Ukraine have caused already millions of refugees, and a huge food crisis that is particularly affecting the poorest countries.

During this weird times NOVAFRICA team, partners, board, and network of researchers has worked intensely to generate evidence on what does and doesn't work to improve peoples lives.

With this purpose, during this period, our knowledage center started several new filed projects in Mozambique and Portugal, and concluded one of our biggest research projects the "information Gaps and Irregular Migration to Europe". A work implemented in The Gambia, the country in West Africa with the highest incidence of irregular migration to Europe. The aimed was understanding the determinants of irregular migration from West Africa to Europe, and the best policies to inform potential migrants about its dangers. We have learned that informing people that one in three people dies on their trip to Europe does not reduce, but instead increases their will to emigrate! The reason is simple, but it would not be clear without this kind of fieldwork: the initial expectation of the potential migrants was that one in two migrants would die when trying to emigrate – and yet they think this risky emigration is worthwhile given the extreme poverty they face in their daily lives.

On a different geograhly in Portugal for example, we are conducting an experimental impact evaluation of an accelerated management training program targeting small businesses. The program includes training in various areas of management that may be hampering firm performance, which will allow comparing the effectiveness of different training programs. We are focus on business managers without a college degree, who are most likely to benefit from the training and constitute a substantial fraction of SME managers in Portugal and in other parts of the world. Our project provides insights to policy makers to design policies and training programs that can improve the prospects of small businesses, and hence job creation, social mobility, and inclusion. This training program can be a cost-effective strategy to promote sustainable development that is worthy of large-scale replication.

One of our main achievements in 2022 was an ERC Grant.

The NOVAFRICA Nova School of Business and Economics researcher, Professor Alex Armand, won this grant from the European Research Council on Development Economics. The global impact of coastal water contamination on economic development was the winning project.

We must also highlight the two international conferences that NOVAFRICA has organized in Nova School of Business and Economics: “*The 2022 NOVAFRICA Conference on Economic Development*”, and the “*15th International Conference on Migration and Development*”. *These initiatives show the centre's growing international reputation.*

All these projects and activities show the diversity of research at NOVAFRICA and the centre’s growing international reputation.

In the context of our projects, we gratefully acknowledge the financial support provided by multiple international donor agencies and funding institutions, namely: 3ie, ATAI program at MIT, European Union, International Growth Centre at the London School of Economics and Oxford University, Islamic Development Bank, IZA, Portuguese National Science Foundation (FCT), UNHCR USAID, and the World Bank. Ongoing collaborations with Carteira Móvel, VIDA NGO, and the World Bank were also crucial to maximize the impact of the research projects.

The funding of our research projects has enabled a crucial investment in our student body, which make us very proud. These students are the leaders of the future and it is vital to raise awareness that Economics needs to be closer to people to make a difference in the world.

NOVAFRICA believes that investing in rigorous research is essential to finding solutions to the world’s greatest challenges. We want to contribute with our work to find the answers to improve people lives in African Continent. NOVAFRICA have led more than 100 randomized evaluations in eight countries across a diverse range of topics, from migrations to digital payments to climate changes



Cátia Batista

Scientific Director



Pedro Vicente

Scientific Director



Vera Pinto

Executive Director



ABOUT NOVAFRICA



NOVAFRICA

NOVAFRICA is a knowledge center created by Nova School of Business and Economics in 2011. Its mission is to produce expertise with an impact on business and economic development in African countries and Portugal. The center has a particular focus on Portuguese-speaking countries, i.e., Angola, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Timor-Leste.

The knowledge created by NOVAFRICA is based on the top-quality economic and management research in economics and management. produced by its members. This research is meant to reach all interested stakeholders through policy recommendations, operational and strategic advice to companies and organizations, consulting and capacity building. Several international institutions have funded NOVAFRICA research projects, including the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, USAID and DFID. Some of these projects have been managed in partnership with peer research centers such as the Oxford Centre for the Study of African Economies, the International Growth Centre and Innovations for Poverty Action.

The center includes a resident team of renowned professors at Nova SBE, and a team of established external members based on prominent international institutions, representing a diversity of backgrounds and a broad range of areas of expertise relevant to research on economic development in Africa, Asia, Europe and Central/South America. NOVAFRICA also has an advisory board, which includes several experts on economic development policies in Africa and elsewhere, who support the center in transforming the knowledge it produces into policy impact. The NOVAFRICA Student Group is a student-led initiative that includes many dozens of students from Nova SBE who are interested in economic development in Africa, and who support the center's activities in a variety of ways, including interviews with NOVAFRICA visitors, discussion groups, and social media dissemination of the knowledge produced by the center.

NOVAFRICA organizes events such as conferences, seminars and debates in Lisbon and in various African cities such as Maputo and Luanda, with the purpose of disseminating the knowledge produced by the center and promoting exchanges and the creation of networks among the participants.

It is also worth mentioning that NOVAFRICA's actions are focused on the promotion of sustainable development and its mission is aligned with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), aimed at ensuring a life in human dignity, with equal opportunities for all, within the limits of our planet.

NOVAFRICA's research work has the goal to produce expertise that promotes business and economic development through methodologies to measure the impact of policies aimed at reducing poverty, promoting employment, and providing equal opportunities for all.

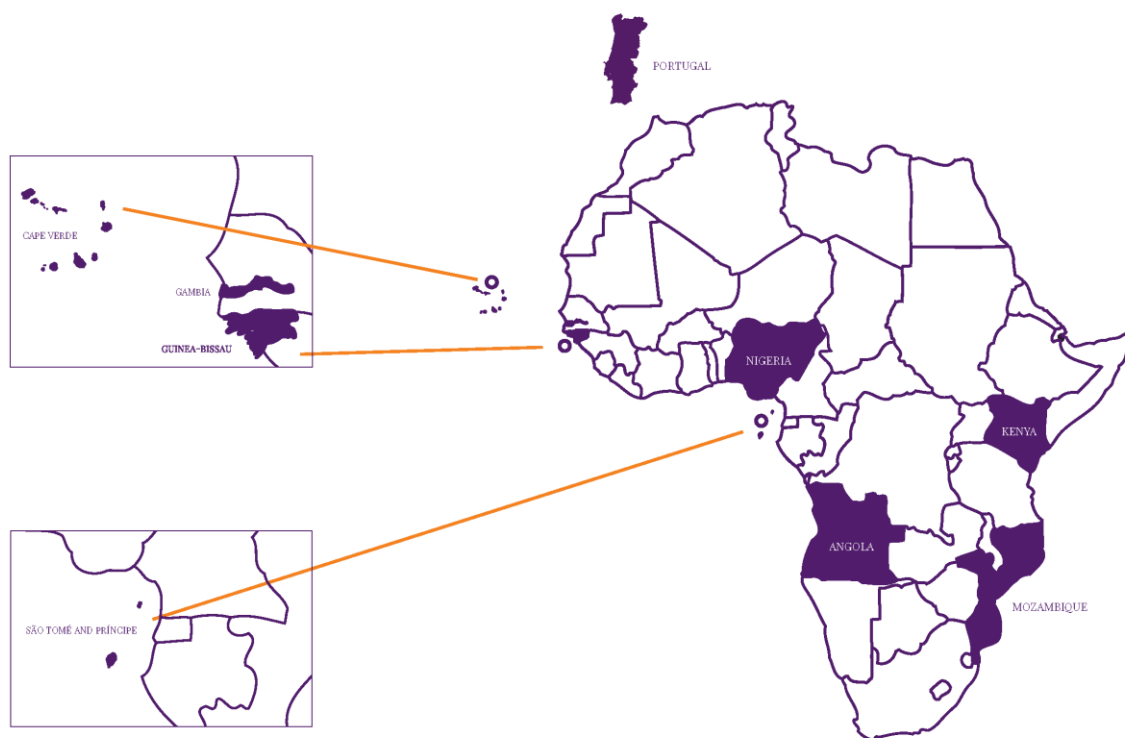


Where We Are

NOVAFRICA has designed and implemented impact evaluations of development interventions in a variety of sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa, including natural resources, education, health, agriculture, financial inclusion, international migration, and civic education.

From its headquarters in Lisbon NOVAFRICA collaborate with local associations in the countries where it operates. Globally the knowledge center has already designed and implemented more than 55 projects in Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Nigeria, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe and The Gambia which confirms the technical, financial and logistical capacity of the centre.

The centre has a pool of experienced field coordinators and enumerator teams in the different countries where it works. These collaborators go to the field on a regular basis to collect data, thus being familiar with firm-level and household surveys, face-to-face semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions.





RESEARCH

Research

To achieve our purpose, to produce evidence-based policy making, we do high level research.

Our approach is based on economic analysis that values rigorous evidence as a necessary basis for the formulation and implementation of public policies with greater impact through the application of randomized experiments. NOVAFRICA develops research activities in the areas of economics and business management, with the purpose of collecting rigorous evidence that has real impact on people's lives. As a result of these activities, the centre produces academic publications of relevance to the development process, and publications that have a significant applied nature – including publications that contribute to manager training or to the design of public policies.

Methodology

Since its creation, NOVAFRICA has been using pioneering policy impact evaluation experimental methodologies, including data collection in the field working in close contact with policy beneficiaries. Only in this way it is possible to assess the real impact of measures and policies aimed at reducing poverty, promote social integration and provide equal opportunities for all. NOVAFRICA typically assesses policy impact through randomized controlled trials, enabling comparability between treatment and control groups, which constitutes the state-of-the-art method for establishing the causal impact of development interventions.

Evidence with Policy Impact

Field research is one of the most important pillars of NOVAFRICA. The scientific evidence produced by our international research projects has focused on relevant topics to the emerging economies of sub-Saharan Africa, notably those located in the Portuguese-speaking countries. Our research projects aim at producing evidence to influence and support the formulation and publication of public policies. These projects typically involve a partnership with a relevant stakeholder interested in knowing the impact of its innovative activities on indicators related to the living standards of the beneficiaries. These indicators are collected through surveys, behavioral measures, and the analysis of administrative data. Moreover, in all its activities NOVAFRICA engages with the local organizations and governments to build a culture of evidence-based decision making.

ERC Grant



One of our greatest successes in the year of 2022 was to win a **European Research Council (ERC) on Development Economics**.

The NOVAFRICA Nova School of business and Economics researcher, Professor **Alex Armand**, won an ERC grant for his project: **“The global impact of coastal water contamination on economic development was the winning project.”**

Recent evidence shows human contamination of coastal waters has a significant impact on marine life. As a large part of communities depend on fisheries, it is likely that this problem is already having a negative impact on the local socio-economic development of these countries. However, knowledge about this phenomenon is still very limited.

The project awarded with an ERC grant, from NOVAFRICA will produce scientific knowledge about the consequences of pollution for human development, and will contribute to inform policy decisions, as international organizations recognize the need for urgent global action to prevent all types of marine pollution.

Healthy coastal waters play a critical role in global food security, which requires to assess the effect of their contamination on economic development. The Ocean supports the livelihoods of more than 3 billion people, the vast majority of whom are in low- and middle-income countries, so the expected impact of this project is of enormous relevance worldwide.



Research Projects Currently Active

In 2022 we had several ongoing large field research, typically involving randomized impact evaluations to measure changes in the lives and businesses of thousands of African nationals (namely Mozambicans, Guineans, Gambians, Angolans and Cape Verdeans).

Angola:

An Impact Evaluation of the Fundo de Apoio Social (Social Support Fund) of the Government of Angola

Principal Investigators

Vicenzo di Maro (Nova SBE)

Pedro Vicente (Nova SBE)

Funding

International Growth Center (IGC)

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Field Coordination

Stefan Leeffers (Nova SBE)

Partnership

Fundo de Apoio Social

World Bank

Description:

The Fundo de Apoio Social (FAS) provides support to local decision-making institutions while financing local infrastructures (schools, health centers). In collaboration with the Development Impact Evaluation Initiative of the World Bank, we designed and implemented an impact evaluation project of a capacity building component of FAS. This evaluation took place in the Kwanza-Sul, and included detailed measurements implemented through primary data collection.

In this project, we followed the implementation of a community-based monitoring intervention in randomly selected primary schools in Angola. The first component we analyzed was an information campaign using score cards comparing the performance of the local school relative to other schools in the area, as well as a comic strip with detailed information on the importance of participating in kids' education. The second component included parent meetings and the facilitation of discussions about school related issues raised by parents.

Contributing to SDG:



ProFuturo: Evaluating the impact of the technology-based program Aula Digital in primary schools

Principal Investigators

Pedro Vicente (Nova SBE)

Teresa Molina (Nova SBE)

Funding

Telefónica Foundation

La Caixa Foundation

Field Coordination

Joana Cardim (Nova SBE)

Management Institution

ProFuturo

Description:

Primary school coverage has been increasing in many developing countries. Angola is no exception. However, learning indicators such as literacy and numeracy rates are not as optimistic. Many programs have been trying to improve education quality in developing countries, some using technology as part of new pedagogical methods. Computer hardware combined with adaptive-learning software can potentially have a strong positive impact on student achievement. ProFuturo is one of these programs. Through its own pedagogical vision, it goes well beyond the provision of technologic hardware, as it offers an innovative and personalized approach to teaching and learning.

This study aims to evaluate the impact of the ProFuturo – Aula Digital program in the specific context of the capital city of Angola, Luanda, through a randomized controlled trial. The core purpose of the evaluation is to measure the impact of the program Aula Digital, revealing its main strengths, and which improvements can be made. In order to reach a comprehensive analysis, we propose to measure not only outcomes that illustrate students' cognitive abilities, such as the ones employing standardized written tests, but also mediating outcomes, namely those related to teacher and student motivation and absenteeism rates, parents' expectations and satisfaction, and students' non- cognitive skills such as confidence, cooperation and self-knowledge.

Contributing to SDG:



Cape Verde

Higher Future – The role of information on student migration from Cape Verde

Principal Investigators

Cátia Batista (Nova SBE)

Ana Balcão Reis (Nova SBE)

Pedro Freitas (Nova SBE)

Gonçalo Lima (EUI)

Project Coordinator

Gonçalo Gameiro

David Costa

Funding

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)

Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)

About this Project:

Every year large numbers of students from Cape Verde enroll in college in Portugal. These students face multiple academic and social integration challenges upon arrival, dropping out of college at much higher rates than other groups of students. Imperfect information at origin may lead many of these students to misperceive their expected costs and benefits from a college degree in Portugal.

Does providing tailored information on the average costs and benefits from a college degree in Portugal change high school students migration decisions? To test this hypothesis, the project is implementing an experimental impact evaluation of information sessions in Cape Verdean high schools. The study helps understanding how being exposed to better, more targeted information on living costs, graduation prospects, as well as future returns to education shifts students' decisions to migrate, and whether this ultimately improves their educational outcomes.

Contributing to SDG:



Guinea Bissau:

Belief Systems and Health Behaviors in Guinea Bissau

Principal Investigators

Alexander Coutts (Schulich School of Business)

Teresa Molina (University of Alicante)

Pedro Vicente (Nova SBE)

Funding

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)

Partnership

VIDA, NGO (Voluntariado Internacional para o Desenvolvimento Africano)

Description:

While recent decades have seen remarkable progress in improved global health outcomes, Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) remains a region where maternal and newborn diseases remain the primary causes of death [World Bank (2013)]. Guinea-Bissau is no exception, with nearly 70 percent of the population living below the poverty line. In addition to a high rate of maternal mortality, Guinea-Bissau suffers from a high rate (25%) of chronic malnutrition.

This project investigates how much of low demand for preventive health care can be explained by lack of awareness or knowledge and to what extent can knowledge and beliefs on health be shifted. Our study will take place in two regions within Guinea Bissau, Biombo and Cacheu. We will conduct a randomized controlled trial (RCT) which aims to provide reliable health information to effectively change behavior. A key focus of this research will be on studying and understanding health related beliefs, as an important first step to understanding how to best develop policies to change behavior. A primary component of our study is providing information on the benefits of preventative care products and services that are available but underutilized. A key innovation of this intervention is that we will study how the identity of the provider of information matters for how individuals perceive this information, and subsequently use it when making health decisions. This will be combined with a detailed survey on individuals' beliefs about health outcomes.

This project will be the first large-scale study to put together a randomized information intervention on health behaviors and direct measurement of beliefs in Guinea Bissau.

Contributing to SDG:



Reducing maternal and infant mortality in Guinea-Bissau

Principal Investigators

Alexander Coutts (Schulich School of Business)

Teresa Molina-Millán (University of Alicante)

Brais Alvarez Pereira (Nova SBE)

Pedro Vicente (Nova SBE)

Funding

Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)

Partnership

VIDA, NGO (Voluntariado Internacional para o Desenvolvimento Africano)

Description:

Preventable maternal and child mortality remains a global problem, with the highest rates found in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Guinea-Bissau is no exception, exceeding the regional average with 549 maternal deaths (per 100,000) and 93 under 5 deaths (per 1,000 live births) [UNICEF, 2015]. This project seeks to reduce the number of these mostly preventable deaths through a novel community health campaign for rural areas, which incorporates traditional healers to address widespread traditional health beliefs and practices in an inclusive way.

With the aim of combating maternal and infant mortality, we will work directly with both modern health workers and traditional healers to 1) organize workshops which identify the best ways for them to work together to combat specific harmful beliefs in a respectful way, and 2) organize an informational campaign for them to bring these best practices to rural villages. By integrating traditional beliefs in health campaigns instead of ignoring or repudiating them, our intervention will make gradual but real progress in increasing health knowledge, shifting behavior towards the modern health sector, and reducing maternal and child deaths and morbidity.

We will evaluate this intervention using a rigorous randomized evaluation. After the impact evaluation is concluded, we will make the (anonymous) comprehensive survey on health knowledge and behaviors publicly available and we will develop plans for effectively scaling-up the program.

Contributing to SDG:



Incentives of Community Health Agents in Guinea-Bissau

Principal Investigators

Pedro Vicente (Nova SBE)

Teresa Molina (University of Alicante)

Mattia Fracchia (Nova SBE)

Funding

Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)

Partnership

VIDA, NGO (Voluntariado Internacional para o Desenvolvimento Africano)

Description:

Preventable maternal and child mortality remains a global problem, with the highest rates found in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Guinea-Bissau is no exception, exceeding the regional average with 549 maternal deaths (per 100,000) and 93 under 5 deaths (per 1,000 live births) [UNICEF, 2015]. This project seeks to reduce the number of these mostly preventable deaths through a novel community health campaign for rural areas, which incorporates traditional healers to address widespread traditional health beliefs and practices in an inclusive way.

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Contributing to SDG:



Agricultural intervention: the impact on livelihoods and social capital of subsistence farmers in Guinea-Bissau

Principal Investigators

Pedro Vicente (Nova SBE)

Paulo Santos (Monash University)

Rute Martins Caeiro (Nova SBE)

Funding

União Europeia e Instituto Camões

Field Coordination

Rute Martins Caeiro

Partnership

VIDA

Description:

The large majority of Guinea-Bissau population lives in rural areas and is highly dependent on subsistence agriculture. This research project evaluates the impact of an agricultural intervention program for farmers implemented by the partner organization VIDA, in northwest region of Guinea-Bissau.

The intervention, fosters cooperation between farmers, provides agricultural technical training and inputs, and promotes linkages to local markets. We therefore conduct a randomized field experiment to evaluate the impact of this intervention on the levels of social cohesion between farmers, the adoption of agricultural technology, production patterns and living standards. Moreover, we also examine the role of social networks in the agriculture adoption process.

Contributing to SDG:



Preventing malaria in Guinea-Bissau

Principal Investigators

Brais Álvarez Pereira (Nova SBE)

Mattia Fracchia (Nova SBE)

Pedro Vicente (Nova SBE)

Teresa Molina-Millán

Funding

UNDP

Description:

This project explores whether progressive traditional health practitioners can collaborate with the formal health sector to improve Malaria prevention and treatment in Guinea-Bissau. To this aim, we will implement a clustered randomized controlled trial in 300 villages across 10 health areas with high malaria prevalence. We propose an experimental design that enables comparability between villages with an integrated traditional healer, villages with an activated CHW, and villages with none. When promoting preventive practices, they fill in a checklist and store the filled form. When referring to the health centre, they issue a referral ticket with their unique ID. Pregnant women bring the referral ticket to the health centre, where medical staff collect it and validate it. Working with a selected sample of progressive traditional healers for a specific disease could be a first step towards integrating them in the formal health system.

Contributing to SDG:



Mozambique

Countering Islamic Radicalization in Northern Mozambique: Radio Campaigning and Adolescent Sensitization in Religious Schools

Principal Investigators

Pedro C. Vicente (Nova SBE)

Alex Armand (Nova SBE)

Flávio Cunha (Rice University)

Field Coordinator

Frederica Mendonça

Funding

International Growth Centre (IGC)

In the context of Islamic insurgency in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, NOVAFRICA developed a conflict-prevention project where religious sensitization decreased anti-social behavior.

The violence perpetrated by radicalized Muslims is a major problem around the world. We collaborated with the main Islamic authority in Mozambique, which sponsored two randomized interventions to prevent violence related to youth radicalization: a religious campaign against extremist views of Islam, targeting change in beliefs; and a training module on entrepreneurship and employment, aiming to increase the opportunity cost of conflict. Our measurement focuses on anti-social behavior in a lab game.

We find that the religious intervention decreased the prevalence of anti-social behavior measured in the lab game. We do not find effects for the economic intervention, although it increased the belief that others will be aggressive. We also observe that young Muslims become more optimistic, more trustful in state institutions, and less supportive of extremism, when faced with moderate religious campaigning. Although our results do not show that the interventions we followed prevented actual conflict, our study presents suggestive evidence that religious sensitization by Islamic authorities works in the direction of conflict prevention, through less anti-social behavior and less support for extremism.

This research contributes to a body of evidence on the important role of broad-based information campaigning in conflict-prevention. This is particularly relevant to policy-makers whose first-reaction, when faced with the emergence of violent Islam, is purely repressive. Repression entails well-known risks in the longer run, namely of losing the support of moderate local populations, when it is difficult to isolate the true origins of violence. Reaching to the communities with moderate information is not a substitute to guaranteeing security by force. However, as the evidence we presented suggests, it is likely to be a crucial element of a balanced and effective strategy of conflict prevention.”

Contributing to SDG:



Preventing Islamic Radicalization in Mozambique: through faith or employment?

Principal Investigators

Pedro C. Vicente (Nova SBE)

Inês Vilela (Nova SBE)

Field Coordinator

Imamo Mussa

Lucio Raul

Funding

International Growth Centre (IGC)

There is a vast economics and political science literature on conflict and civil wars. Mostly it focuses on the determinants of the outbreak and duration of conflicts, and distinguishes between (lack of) economic opportunity and grievance motivations. The generalized consensus is that economic variables are highly correlated with (and even affect) the outbreak of conflict. Our knowledge on the determinants of terrorism is not clear and the evidence on the motivations to support terrorism is mixed.

In this project we look at the recent violent attacks in northern Mozambique, conducted by groups advocating religious extremism. In May 2017, a group was arrested for “inciting the population not to consider the existence of the Government, to disrespect the authorities, non-adherence to schools, etc” ([Club of Mozambique News](#)). Last October, “a group of about 30 men attacked three police stations in the coastal district of Mocimboada Praia, Cabo Delgado province, in an armed raid” ([All Africa News](#)).

We propose to evaluate two interventions targeting mosque attendees in northern Mozambique. The first intervention focuses on discussing the Sharia law and Muslim faith in a secular state. The second intervention is a workshop about job searching and job opportunities. Both interventions are implemented in collaboration with the national Muslim organization, CISLAMMO.

Contributing to SDG:



Beliefs and Behaviours around COVID-19 in Mozambique

Principal Investigators

Pedro C. Vicente (Nova SBE)

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Field Coordinator

Frederica Mendonça

Funding

United Nations University (UNU-WIDER)

Description:

There is considerable uncertainty around the current state and future developments of the COVID-19 crisis in Mozambique, both for health outcomes as well as economic and social outcomes. As in many Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, measures such as imposed lockdowns are likely to be particularly challenging and even counterproductive in the face of fragile livelihoods. In these contexts, it is of utmost importance to make sure that the population correctly understands, internalizes, and adopts the best practices to prevent and limit contagion, while minimizing impacts on economic activity.

We will survey by phone, in two separate waves, two samples from previous large-scale randomized field experiments: a) household heads from 206 communities in the province of Cabo Delgado, from [Armand et al. \(2019\)](#); b) microentrepreneurs from 13 formal and informal urban markets in the greater Maputo, from [Batista et al. \(2020\)](#).

Contributing to SDG:



Preparing for urban flooding: The impact of risk mitigation information

Principal Investigators

Stefan Leeffers

Funding

IGC - International Growth Center

Description:

The Mozambican coast is vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change. Located close to the mouth of the Rio Dos Bons Sinais, the city of Quelimane is highly vulnerable to rising sea levels, cyclones, flooding, storm surge and coastal erosion. The population of Quelimane is growing rapidly due to a continuous influx of rural migrants. This has increased the number of informal settlements in flood-prone parts of the city, which are particularly vulnerable due to their poor socio-economic conditions.

Information dissemination could be a powerful tool to guide, educate and capacitate urban communities in preparation for inevitable shocks affecting their livelihoods. Early warning systems warn citizens about the arrival of storms and provide instructions. However, in the case of the 2019 Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, even with accurate forecasts and warnings, many did not expect a storm of such magnitude. To address this, early warning systems in Mozambique can be strengthened by providing contextualized, actionable warnings. Additionally, it is critical to be aware of how access and use of information is affected by gender and other characteristics (e.g., age and educational status) that may preclude its inclusiveness.

The objective of this project is to understand the role of information for the resilience of urban households to disaster shocks in the context of Quelimane. Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected to obtain a meaningful understanding of the current risk attitudes, exposure and action-taking of households living in poor socio-economic conditions. This data will also be used to identify disaster risk management related information gaps and cover the role of context specific framing

Contributing to SDG:



Integrating Rural Migrants in Cities - A Field Experiment in Mozambique

Principal Investigators

Pedro Vicente
Alex Armand
Wayne Sandholtz

Field Coordinator

Frederica Mendonça

Funding

Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia

Partnership

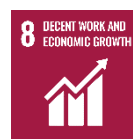
Municipality of Quelimane

Description:

Sub-Saharan Africa is the world's fastest-urbanizing region – a trend that will only continue in the coming decades. This urbanization is likely to be a force towards economic development, breaking known poverty cycles around subsistence agriculture. However, urbanization can also be destabilizing, and the scale and speed of this migration presents two main challenges. First, how can city leaders integrate these rural migrants into the local labor market with minimal harm to existing residents? Second, how does this migration change political incentives and behaviour of local leaders, existing residents, and migrants themselves?

Working with the municipality, we propose to evaluate an intervention with several components aiming at integrating rural migrants arriving in the coastal city of Mozambique, Quelimane. We will follow this sample of recent migrants as well as a sample of long-term residents. This experiment can set the stage for the design of urbanization in developing countries from the perspective of cities, such that urban migration may be controlled, well managed, and acceptable to existing residents.

Contributing to SDG:



Vulnerabilities and solutions for Mozambican enterprises in the face of the COVID-19 crisis

Principal Investigator

Braís Pereira

Funding

IGC - International Growth Center

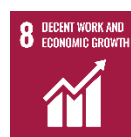
Description:

This study proposes to the National Directorate of Economic Policies and Development of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) of Mozambique to conduct a phone-based enterprise survey through a partnership with IGC and NOVAFRICA. The survey aims to inform MEF's response to the COVID-19 crisis, improving its capacity to offer adequate solutions to challenges posed by the pandemic to supply chains and the national private sector.

The project will collect information that enables public policy design to be consistent with the necessary public health measures, fitting the vulnerabilities of Mozambican companies on both the demand and the supply side. In addition, this study will pay particular attention to understanding how to maximise the likelihood that entrepreneurs know about and understand the policies and support mechanisms available to them.

This project seeks to understand the most successful channels for reducing the impact of the crisis and accelerate economic recovery in Mozambique. The survey design serves as a baseline for a subsequent RCT or survey experiment exploring the causal impact of some public policy of interest or its promotion among firms' managers.

Contributing to SDG:



Promoting Migrant Remittances using Mobile Money: Evidence from a Field Experiment

Principal Investigators

Cátia Batista (Nova SBE)

Pedro Vicente (Nova SBE)

Project Coordination

Stefanus Leeffers

Julia Seither

Ines Vilela

Funding

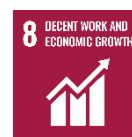
GLM – LIC

Growth and Labour Markets in Low Income Countries Programme

Description:

What is the economic impact of newly introducing mobile money in rural areas underserved by financial services? This study is the first to use a randomized controlled trial to answer this research question. Following a sample of rural communities in Southern Mozambique, our experimental results show that the availability of mobile money translated into clear adoption of these services, measured through administrative data on mobile money transactions. We find that mobile money improved consumption smoothing by treated households, i.e., they became less vulnerable to adverse weather and self-reported shocks. However, we also observe that mobile money led to reduced investment, especially in agriculture. We document increases in the number of migrants in a household and in the migrant remittances received by rural households particularly in presence of adverse shocks, while there are no clear effects on savings. We interpret these results as evidence that, by drastically reducing the transaction costs associated with migrant remittances and improving migration-based insurance possibilities, mobile money acted as a facilitator of migration from rural to urban areas.

Contributing to SDG:



Entrepreneurship Training in Mozambique: The Role of Business Skills vs. Aspirations

Principal Investigators

Cátia Batista (Nova SBE)

Julia Seither (Nova SBE)

Funding

IGC – International Growth Center

Description:

Increasing the productivity of entrepreneurship and transforming micro-enterprises into SMEs in Mozambique is one of the major challenges facing local policy makers, international institutions, and NGOs.

The aim of this research project is to provide experimental evidence on the mechanisms and possible solutions to support exactly this objective. For this purpose, a randomized control trial pilot study will be implemented among small-scale entrepreneurs in the outskirts of Maputo. Specifically, we will provide experimental evidence to answer the following key questions:

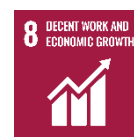
Can entrepreneurship training positively affect productive microenterprises in low-income countries?

Can the aspirations of entrepreneurs, i.e. the goals they set themselves, be changed in a positive way that leads microenterprises towards efficiency?

Can synergetic productivity gains be obtained by combining entrepreneurship training with setting positive aspirations of micro-entrepreneurs?

Please see [here](#) the working paper.

Contributing to SDG:



Portugal

Entrepreneurship as a Social Mobility and Inclusion Strategy

Principal Investigators

Catia Batista (Nova SBE)

Miguel A. Ferreira (Nova SBE)

Francisco Queiró (Nova SBE)

Project Coordinator

Maria Inês Gonçalves (Nova SBE)

Funding

La Caixa Foundation

Partnership

IAPMEI

Description:

Our project will conduct an experimental impact evaluation of an accelerated management training program targeting small businesses in Portugal. The program includes training in various areas of management that may be hampering firm performance, which will allow comparing the effectiveness of different training programs.

We will focus on business managers without a college degree, who are most likely to benefit from the training and constitute a substantial fraction of SME managers in Portugal and in other parts of the world.

Our project will provide insights to policy makers to design policies and training programs that can improve the prospects of small businesses, and hence job creation, social mobility, and inclusion. This training program can be a cost-effective strategy to promote sustainable development that is worthy of large-scale replication.

Contributing to SDG:



Raising Educational Aspirations – An Experimental Evaluation

Principal Investigators

Catia Batista (Nova SBE)

Pedro Freitas (Nova SBE)

Ana Balcão Reis (Nova SBE)

Wayne Sandholtz (Nova SBE)

José Tavares (Nova SBE)

Funding

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)

Description:

The number of students from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds completing higher education in Portugal is low. A possible reason for these low numbers is the lack of educational aspirations of these students, who have limited contact with college graduates in their daily lives.

This project implements a randomized controlled trial to test the hypothesis that an intervention as simple as a one-day visit to a university campus can increase the educational aspirations and academic performance of disadvantaged students. This type of campus visit is common internationally, but has not yet been investigated in the context of educational decision-making. This is a low-cost intervention that is easy to replicate on a large scale and can potentially contribute to reducing the problem of educational inequality in countries with significant immigrant, ethnic and linguistic minorities in contexts that undermine educational aspirations.

Contributing to SDG:



Mentoring Success of Immigrant College Students

Principal Investigators

Cátia Batista (Nova SBE)
Pedro Freitas (Nova SBE)
Gonçalo Lima (EUI)
Ana Reis (Nova SBE)

Project Coordinator

Gonçalo Gameiro
Diogo Sá
Márcia Serra

Funding

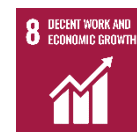
Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

Description:

This project implements a randomized impact evaluation of an intervention to promote the integration and academic performance of Cape Verdean college students in Portugal. The randomized intervention is a mentoring program which intends to simplify the transition of students from secondary schools in Cape Verde to college in Portugal.

The project will inform public policies promoting investment in human capital and the productive integration of immigrants – issues that are becoming more and more relevant, particularly in contexts of ageing population.

Contributing to SDG:



Portugal & Cape Verde

Integrating Immigrants as a Tool for Broad Development: Experimental Evidence for Portugal and Cape Verde

Principal Investigators

Cátia Batista (Nova SBE)

Sónia Dias (ENSP)

Project Coordinator

Sara Queirós (Nova SBE)

Funding

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)

Partner

Outsystems

Description:

Immigration can contribute importantly to the sustainable economic growth of ageing host countries like Portugal. The challenge for this policy to succeed is the integration of immigrants. This project proposes to experimentally evaluate the impact of an active immigrant integration program using a randomized control trial to be implemented among immigrants residing in the Greater Lisbon and their relatives in Cape Verde. The program to be evaluated will be multi-dimensional and is expected to promote better quality employment of migrants, better access and usage of health and education services, and to improve other integration indicators.

Contributing to SDG:



Information Gaps and Irregular Migration to Europe

Principal Investigators

Tijan L Bah (Nova SBE and U Gambia)

Cátia Batista (Nova SBE)

Flore Gubert (IRD Paris)

David McKenzie (World Bank)

Project Coordinator

Tijan L Bah (Nova SBE)

Funding

European Union

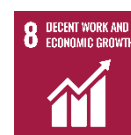
Institutional Support

Ministry of Youth and Sports – The Gambia

Description:

Irregular migration to Europe through the sea, though risky, remains one of the most popular migration options for many Sub-Saharan Africans. Policymakers have scaled up their efforts to deter potential migrants from embarking on this dangerous route. But the impact of these efforts has mostly not been rigorously evaluated. These efforts must address the relevant factors in the decision-making process of the potential migrants. Do the latter actually know how risky their intended voyage is? Do they have realistic expectations regarding their chances of being granted asylum after their arrival? If not, are their migration intentions and decisions affected by more accurate information? What other policies can be put in place to save lives in this process? Our project conducts a randomized controlled trial to evaluate the impact of different policies to reduce irregular migration to Europe. We work with 8000 potential migrants from rural areas in the Gambia, the country in West Africa with the highest incidence of irregular migration to Europe.

Contributing to SDG:



Understanding Willingness to Migrate Irregularly: Evidence from a Lab in the Field Experiment

Principal Investigators

Tijan L Bah (Nova SBE and U Gambia)
Cátia Batista (Nova SBE)

Project Coordinator

Tijan L Bah (Nova SBE)

Funding

European Union

Institutional Support

Ministry of Youth and Sports – The Gambia

Description:

Illegal migration to Europe through the sea, though risky, remains one of the most popular migration options for many Sub-Saharan Africans. This study aims at improving our understanding of the determinants of the willingness to migrate illegally from West Africa to Europe. We implemented an incentivized lab-in-the field experiment in rural Gambia, the country with the highest rate of illegal migration to Europe in the region. Sampled male youths aged 15 to 25 were given hypothetical scenarios regarding the probability of dying en route to Europe, and of obtaining asylum or legal residence status after successful arrival. According to our data, potential migrants overestimate both the risk of dying en route to Europe, and the probability of obtaining legal residency status. The experimental results suggest that the willingness to migrate illegally is affected by information on the chances of dying en route and of obtaining a legal residence permit. Our estimates show that providing potential migrants with official numbers on the probability of obtaining a legal residence permit decreases their likelihood of migration by 2.88 percentage points (pp), while information on the risk of migrating increases their likelihood of migration by 2.29pp – although the official risk information provided may be regarded as a lower bound to actual mortality. Follow up data collected one year after the experiment show that the migration decisions reported in the lab experiment correlate well with actual migration decisions and intentions. Overall, our study indicates that the migration decisions of potential migrants are likely to actively respond to relevant information

Contributing to SDG:



Uganda

Returns to College in Uganda

Principal Investigators

Wayne Sandholtz (Nova SBE)

Lenka Fiala (University of Bergen)

Kizito Omala (Makerere University)

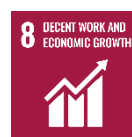
Funding

IGC - International Growth Center

Description:

Our project sits squarely in the economics tradition of measuring how human capital acquisition affects earnings potential. It is highly policy relevant, shedding light on the controversial trade-off between investing in early vs later education. Further, it also contributes to the debate on reducing within-country inequality, as tertiary education is both relatively expensive and results in high future wages. The existing evidence on returns to college education comes exclusively from high-income countries, where the structure of the labor market and the education establishment are both very different to the reality faced for the 700 million people who live in low-income countries such as Uganda.

Contributing to SDG:



The global impact of coastal water contamination on economic development

Principal Investigators

Alex Armand (Nova SBE)

Coordination

Myriam Marending

Funding

European Research Council grant

Description:

Recent evidence shows human contamination of coastal waters has a significant impact on marine life. As a large part of communities depend on fisheries, it is likely that this problem is already having a negative impact on the local socio-economic development of these countries. However, knowledge about this phenomenon is still very limited.

A new project awarded with an ERC grant, from Nova SBE (Nova School of Business & Economics) will produce scientific knowledge about the consequences of pollution for human development, and will contribute to inform policy decisions, as international organizations recognize the need for urgent global action to prevent all types of marine pollution.

Healthy coastal waters play a critical role in global food security, which requires to assess the effect of their contamination on economic development. The Ocean supports the livelihoods of more than 3 billion people, the vast majority of whom are in low- and middle-income countries, so the expected impact of this project is of enormous relevance worldwide.

Contributing to SDG:



Sexual violence as a weapon of war

Principal Investigators

Maleke Fourati (University of Geneva)

Victoire Girard (Nova SBE)

Jérémy Laurent-Lucchetti

Description:

This study highlights that armed groups may use sexual violence against civilians as a strategy to extort economic resources. We combine new and fine-grained data about local economic resources and sexual violence against civilians by armed groups in Africa from 1997 to 2018 at the 0.5 x 0.5 degree resolution. We show that an exogenous rise in the value of artisanal mining increases the incidence of sexual violence. We demonstrate how standard rationales of violence as a taxation strategy explain this finding. Theoretically, if the resource is labor-intensive, the armed group needs civilian labor to produce the resource. Sexual violence, a form of non-lethal violence that allows perpetrators to enforce high taxation while preserving local labor, will become more likely if (i) the price of the resource increases (rapacity effect), and (ii) the resource can be concealed easily (is difficult to tax). Our empirical findings align with our model: an increase of one standard deviation in the value of gold mined in artisanal mining areas – a labor-intensive resource that can easily be concealed – increases sexual violence by two thirds of the sample mean. In contrast, local resources that are either more capital-intensive than artisanal mining, or the production of which is harder to conceal than gold, have no relation to sexual violence. Moreover, we show that the relation between artisanal mining value and sexual violence is mostly driven by the presence of armed actors who are most likely to rely on illegal local taxation (rebel groups).

Contributing to SDG:



Artisanal mining in Africa

Principal Investigators

Victoire Girard (Nova SBE)

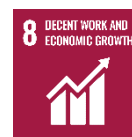
Teresa Molina (University of Alicante)

Guillaume Vic (Exploration geologist)

Description:

The livelihoods of 130 to 270 million people depend on artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), a labor-intensive method of mineral extraction. Based on geological mapping and gold price variations in a yearly panel of 10,628 fine-grained cells, we provide the first estimation of the environmental and wealth impacts of the main form of ASM, gold ASM, throughout the African continent. We first demonstrate that artisanal mining leads to tropical deforestation and vegetation degradation. We find that the historical increase in the gold price accounts for 20 percent of the total deforestation in the gold-prone tropical regions in Africa. Second, we contrast these negative environmental impacts with the positive economic effects of ASM, which increases night-time light emissions and households wealth. Last, we show how droughts magnify the effects of ASM, suggesting that mining may be a way for households to diversify their livelihoods when agricultural incomes fall short. These results are policy relevant: a one standard deviation increase in artisanal gold mining revenues increases wealth by 2% of a standard deviation, an effect larger than the effect of drought alone on wealth.

Contributing to SDG:



The Real Effects of ESG Capital

Principal Investigators

Victoire Girard (Nova SBE)

Mehdi Lehlali

Melissa Porras-Prado (Nova SBE)

Funding

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)

Description:

Achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals requires the public and private sectors to take urgent action to combat environmental degradation and its impacts for life on land and below water. ESG (environmental, social, governance) principles aim to allow the private sector to contribute to sustainable development by screening investment opportunities that are environmentally and socially conscious. This project focuses on ESG impacts in two key dimensions. First, does a significant inflow of ESG capital make production processes more environmentally responsible globally? Second, do production process become greener in every country, or do we observe a relocation of polluting activities?

Contributing to SDG:



Research Work Completed in 2011 - 2022

NOVAFRICA engages conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations and institutions in the promotion of economic sustainable development.

A selection of international quality research on topics relevant to emerging economies in Africa conducted by resident faculty at Nova SBE in 2011-2020 follows:

Published Articles

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- Batista, C., Fafchamps, M. and Vicente, P.C. (2022). Keep It Simple: A field experiment on information sharing among strangers in *World Bank Economic Review*. Volume 36, Issue 4, November 2022, Pages 857–888;
- Batista, C., Sequeira, S. and Vicente, P.C. (2022) Closing the Gender Gap Profit Gap in *Management Science*. Vol. 68, No. 12
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- Batista, Catia, Jules Gazeaud, and Julia Seither. (2022) "Integrating Immigrants as a Tool for Broad Development". (NOVAFRICA Working Paper 2205)
- Batista, Catia, and Rita Neves. (2022) "Social Networks And Mental Health: The Experience Of Cape-Verdean Migrants In Portugal". (NOVAFRICA Working Paper 2204)
- Caeiro, Rute, Alexander Coutts, Teresa Molina-Millán and Pedro C. Vicente. (2022) "Follow the Leader: Community-based Health Insurance in West Africa". (NOVAFRICA Working Paper 2206)
- Coutts, Alexander, Teresa Molina-Millán, and Pedro C. Vicente. (2022) "Belief Systems and Health Behaviors in Guinea-Bissau". (NOVAFRICA Working Paper 2207)
- Girard, Victoire, Teresa Molina-Millán, and Guillaume Vic. (2022) "Artisanal mining in Africa". (NOVAFRICA Working Paper 2201)
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Other Publications



Fintech Africa Report 2022

Africa's Fintech ecosystem is heating up. Fuelled by increasing foreign direct investment, Fintech is becoming the technological enabler of Africa's economy. These are some of the conclusions the FinTech Africa Report, a partnership with Nova Finance Knowledge center, within the Social Equity Initiative of Nova School of Business and Economics, Banco BPI and Fundacion La Caixa.

These are some of the conclusion the FinTech Report about Africa a initiative of the NOVA Finance Center from Nova SBE under the Social Equity Initiative of Banco BPI and Fundação la Caixa.

Fintech Africa Report 2020

Over 60% of the sub-Sharan African adult population is unbanked. African demographics are exploding, and the rate of mobile phone penetration is extremely high – even where there is no electricity or paved roads. FinTech is a huge opportunity for leapfrogging and closing gaps in financial inclusion and several other business areas. These are some of the conclusion the FinTech Report about Africa a initiative of the NOVA Finance Center from Nova SBE under the Social Equity Initiative of Banco BPI and Fundação la Caixa.



Policy Report on Irregular Migration

This Policy Report summarizing the policy lessons from the research project "Information Gaps and Irregular Migration to Europe". A project which evaluated the impact of policies to deter risky irregular migration to Europe through the sea and provide livelihood alternatives to potential migrants from West Africa.



Knowledge Dissemination Activities

Knowledge is a way of connecting people and improve their skills. In line with the Nova SBE's international strategy, NOVAFRICA develops several actions with faculty community, stakeholders, international universities, NGO's and other partners with the goal of dissemination knowledge.

● Organization of 180+ seminars on economic development with top international academics and practitioners such as:

- Imran Rasul, University College London
- Elias Papaioannou, London Business School
- Frédéric Docquier, LISER
- Joshua Angrist, MIT
- Abhijit Banerjee, MIT
- Anna-Maria Mayda, Georgetown University
- Emily Breza, Columbia University
- Paul Collier, Oxford University
- Christian Dustmann, University College London
- Marcel Fafchamps, Stanford University
- David McKenzie, World Bank
- Tavneet Suri, MIT
- Leonard Wantchekon, Princeton University.

● Organization of annual international conference on economics development:

- 500 + submissions following international open calls for papers.
- 80 + speakers from academia, private sector and policy making, including a Nobel Prize Winner.
- 200 + participants from Europe, US, Africa and other international regions.



Seminars in 2021 / 22

In 2022 the world gradually returned to normal, or rather a new normal in which the Covid-19 remains in our lives but vaccines ensure greater control of the situation.

The NOVAFRICA seminars were again held in a face-to-face format, some were still online, but most of them were once again held at the Nova School of Business and Economics campus in Carcavelos.

These seminars allow diffusion of frontier research, while also promoting networking among participants and enabling the dissemination and greater visibility of the knowledge produced in NOVAFRICA. Several development economists based at the best universities in Africa, Europe and North America, but also at international institutions such as the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), are invited to present their papers in various topics twice a month at Nova SBE, facilitating the exchange of ideas and discussions between them and the School's faculty and PhD students.

The following table summarizes the seminars that have been organized by the center in 2022.

Date - 2022	Speaker	Title
APR 13th	Gharad Bryan, London School of Economics	Big Loans to Small Businesses: Predicting Winners and Losers in an Entrepreneurial Lending Experiment
APR 22nd	Christopher Rauh, University of Cambridge	Predicting conflict
APR 29th	Monica Martinez-Bravo, CEMFI	The Management of the Pandemic and its Effects on Trust and Accountability
MAY 4th	Agustin Casas, CUNEF Universidad	Checks and Balances and Nation Building: The Spanish Constitutional Court and Catalonia
MAY 6th	Patricio Dalton, Tilburg University	Goals for Development: Experimental Evidence from Cassava Processors in Ghana
MAY 18th	Lore Vandewalle, The Graduate Institute	Childcare, labor supply, and business development: Experimental evidence from Uganda
MAY 24th	Dean Karlan, Northwestern University	Special Lecture Does Poverty Change Labor Supply? Evidence from Multiple Income Effects and 115,579 Bags
MAY 25th	Andrea Tesei, Queen Mary University	Mobile Internet and the Rise of Political Tribalism in Europe
JUN 1st	Meera Mahadevan	Meera Mahadevan
JUL 1st, Friday	David McKenzie, World Bank	Special Lecture Impact Evaluation using Bayesian Methods

JUL 7th, Thursday	Claudio Ferraz, Vancouver School of Economics	Special Lecture When Democracies Refuse to Die: Evaluating a Training Program for New Politicians
Sep 7th	Ane Fisker, University of Southern Denmark	Real-life effects of health interventions in Guinea-Bissau
Sep 28th	Davide Cantoni, Ludwig- Maximilians-Universität	The Rise of Fiscal Capacity
Oct 7th	Gabriella Conti, University College London	For Better or Worse? Subjective Expectations and Cost-Benefit Trade-Offs in Health Behavior: An application to lockdown compliance in the United Kingdom
Oct 12th	Sofia Amaral, ifo Center for Labour and Demographic Economics	Sexual Harassment in Public Spheres and Policing: Experimental Evidence from Urban India
Oct 26th	Jorge Agüero, University of Connecticut	Human Capital, Internal Migration and Structural Transformation in Africa
Nov 2nd	Alexander Moradi, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano	Community effects of electrification: Evidence from Burkina Faso's grid extension
Nov 9th	Imran Rasul, University College London	Intrahousehold Spillovers of Early Childhood Interventions: Experimental Evidence from Nigeria
Nov 23rd	Marcos Vera-Hernandez, University College London	Forced Displacement and Human Capital
Dec 2nd	Elias Papaioannou, London Business School	Forced Displacement and Human Capital

Podcasts

The scientific research that is being carried out around the world in the field of Development Economics is important for the creation of public policies that will improve people's lives. To promote and disseminate this knowledge more widely, NOVAFRICA created the "NOVAFRICA Sustainable Development Talks" podcast.

In 2022 this series of audio talks about development in Africa brought together experts from a wide range of institutions, namely: Kate Orkin from the University of Oxford, David McKenzie from the World Bank; Simone Bertoli from CERDI; Anja Benschaul-Tolonen from Columbia University; Nick Bloom from Stanford University, among others.

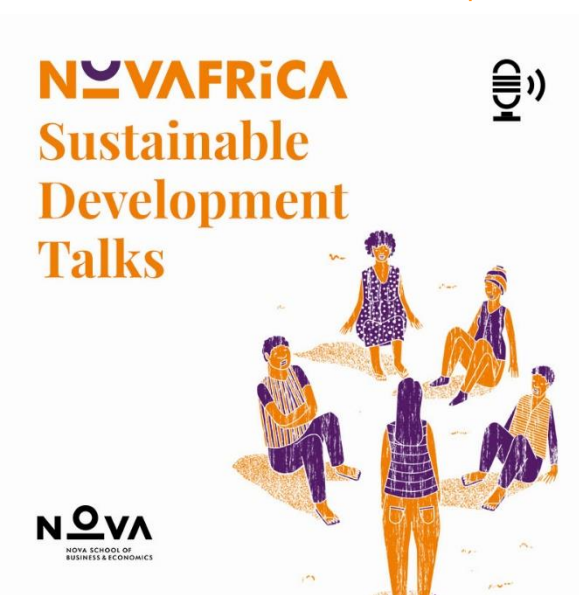
This corresponds to an innovative way of sharing knowledge with academia, but also with the public that may be interested in the topic of development economics. These series are published in the NOVAFRICA website, social media and podcast platforms:

["NOVAFRICA Sustainable Development Talks" Podcast – Season 1](#)

["NOVAFRICA Sustainable Development Talks" Podcast – Season 2](#)

["NOVAFRICA Sustainable Development Talks" Podcast – Season 3](#)

["NOVAFRICA Sustainable Development Talks" Podcast – Season 4](#)



Conferences & Workshops

Conferences and workshops are important ways to exchange experiences and knowledge. Through this kind of events NOVAFRICA disseminates the practical impact of the center's research in developing countries and create new insights by bringing together researchers and other experts in development economics.

Two large conferences of international scope marked NOVAFRICA's activity in 2022:

"2022 NOVAFRICA Conference on Economic Development"

**2022 NOVAFRICA
CONFERENCE**
» ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
JUNE 22-23 | NOVA SBE, LISBON PORTUGAL



The *NOVAFRICA* Conference 2022 on Economic Development held in Lisbon on 22 and 23 June brought together a large number of researchers working in the economic development area with significant contributions in this area of knowledge. As a proof of its international exposure, the Conference had two keynote addresses delivered by the renowned researchers, Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak from of Yale University and Jakob Svensson from Stockholm University.

Globally 200 hundred papers were submitted in the conference and 217 people from all continents attended it.

Besides the keynote addresses, there was a series of thematic sessions in areas defined by an internationally open 'call for papers', which had been open until 15 March. In total, 86 researchers presented their papers in twenty parallel sessions, which covered the following topics: Intrahousehold (4); Investments in Human Capital (4); Labor (4); Health (4); Social Programs (4); Firms (5) Public Sector Incentives (4); Political Economy I (5); Gender (5); Education (5); Property Rights (5); Taxation (4); Migration (5); Finance (3); Political Economy II (5); Conflict (4); Fertility (4); Refugees (4); Natural Resources (4); Environmental (4).

The Conference also had a development policy side, including the opening session presided by Daniel Traça, Dean of *Nova School of Business*, and Manuel de Araújo, Mayor of Quelimane, Mozambique.

One of the highlights of the event was the policy roundtable on "Gender Gaps", which had as participants Catia Batista, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA, Magda Robalo Silva, Women in Global Health, Esselina Macome, Financial Sector Deepening Mozambique and Wendy Teleki from the World Bank.

The objective was to gather renowned researchers, policymakers, and entrepreneurs that work in this area of knowledge.

This conference was:

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Watch the video here: <https://bit.ly/3DwfEwD>



“15th International Conference on Migration and Development”



The *NOVAFRICA* knowledge center hosted, the 15th International Conference on “Migration and Development” on September 15th and 16th, at Nova School of Business and Economics (Nova SBE) in Carcavelos.

This conference is one of the world's most important conferences on migrations, and had as keynote speakers Frédéric Docquier, from LISER and Anna-Maria Mayda, from Georgetown University.

The conference was devoted to investigating ways in which international migration affects economic and social change in developing countries, and took place on September 15 and 16 at Nova School of Business and Economics (Nova SBE)

At a time when the world is facing new challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and by the war in Ukraine, this conference analysed the impact of these facts on migration and development in the poorest countries.

The topics in discussion included the effects of migration on poverty, inequality, and human capital formation; social networks and migration; migration and globalization; remittances; brain drain; migration and institutional/technological/demographic change in sending countries, today and in the past.

The event joined renowned leading researchers and policymaker who presented and discuss their work on migration and development. In total have been presented XXX papers

Co-organizers:



Watch the video here: <https://bit.ly/3HL89EP>



CAPACITY BUILDING



Capacity Building

NOVAFRICA Special Lectures

NOVAFRICA Special lecture by Professor **Dean Karlan** from Northwestern University on "Does Poverty Change Labor Supply? Evidence from Multiple Income Effects and 115,579 Bags".

NOVAFRICA Special Lecture by Professor **Claudio Ferraz** from University of British Columbia on "When Democracies Refuse to Die: Evaluating a Training Program for New Politicians Training Program for New Politicians".

NOVAFRICA Special Lecture by Professor **David McKenzie** from The World Bank on "Impact Evaluation using Bayesian Methods".

PhD Summer School Courses on Economic Development

Professor **David McKenzie**, from the World Bank, taught a course on "Practical issues in designing and analyzing field experiments".

Professor **Claudio Ferraz**, from Vancouver School of Economics and PUC, taught a course on "Political Economy and Development".



NOVAFRICA Scholarship

The NOVAFRICA Merit Scholarship has the goal to support the African leaders of tomorrow! With this scholarship NOVAFRICA recognizes the importance of acknowledging merit by rewarding students from sub-Saharan African countries with the highest academic potential. This scholarship promotes and empowers these students who demonstrate exceptional ability, preparing them to be the future generation of leaders and change makers that impact on business and economic development in Africa, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations.



In 2022 we awarded one of these scholarships to a brilliant Uganda student, **Ahabyona James**.

Training Program

- NOVAFRICA developed and implemented a Leadership Training Program for promising young managers of Millennium BIM in Mozambique. It is a customised online programme that focuses on all stages of leadership

In 2022, NOVAFRICA offered 5 internships to PhD candidates who were directly working on NOVAFRICA projects.

Following the successful experience of the NOVAFRICA research internship program initiated in 2012, several students from Nova SBE worked in several research projects in 2021 and 2022. These research interns contributed to the successful implementation of the research projects by integrating the local teams that conducted fieldwork.

These activities take place in several places between Lisbon, Luanda, Maputo and Bissau.

Several students from Nova SBE, local and international universities participate yearly in NOVAFRICA research projects, developing research skills that promote local businesses, quality of public services and more generally foster economic development.

The research projects are conducted in close contact with local private companies, NGO's and/or public institutions and promote the sustainable development of the local and global economy.

In 2021/ 2022 NOVAFRICA offered 4 internships in Portugal and 4 PhD candidates were directly working on the NOVAFRICA projects.

“Integrating Rural Migrants in Cities – A Field Experiment in Mozambique”, in Quelimane

Interns:

Rita Neves

Constantin Nixdorf

Joana Reis

Marta Botelho

The feedback of the NOVAFRICA research interns over the past years highlights how this experience contributes to developing their sensitivity to the needs and specificities of local development strategies, ultimately helping the interns to develop their research skills and to strengthen their motivation to contribute towards promoting local businesses and fostering economic development at large.

NOVAFRICA Ph.D. Candidates work on different research topics in Africa with faculty at Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA affiliates worldwide.

● NOVAFRICA PhD candidates in 2022:

- **Sara Almeida**

Fields of study: Development Economics, Health, Education, Impact Evaluation

- **Mattia Fracchia**

Fields of study: Development Economics, Behavioral Economics, Incentive Theory

- **Matilde Grácio**

Fields of study: Development Economics, Behavioral Economics

- **Stefan Leeffers**

Fields of study: Development Economics, Political Economy, Behavioral and Experimental Economics

- **Carolina Gameiro Nogueira**

Fields of study: Development Economics, Gender



Consulting Activities & Other Events

Consulting Activities



Social Impact Evaluation of BPI / La Caixa Prizes

Evaluation of this initiative of BPI and the "la Caixa" Foundation destined to financially support projects of private non-profit institutions that promote the improvement of the quality of life and the equality of opportunities of people residing in Portugal and in situations of social vulnerability.



Assessment of the efficiency of the digital payments market

The report will provide an assessment of the digital payments market, identify the main barriers to efficiency, and point out directions for the role that financial innovation and regulation can play in increasing the efficiency of the payments market. The report will provide a comprehensive overview of the main players, regulation environment, overall market activity and efficiency of payment systems.



Other Events

NOVAFRICA Fellows

NOVAFRICA organized a welcome ceremony to the 2022 NOVAFRICA Fellows at NovaSBE.

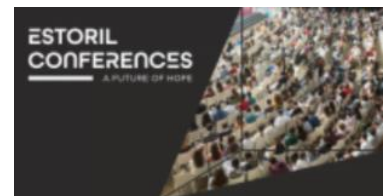
A fantastic group of bright current and former students from sub-Saharan Africa shared experiences and knowledge. An event that was also attended by NOVAFRICA directors and representatives of the different student services of Nova SBE.



NOVAFRICA in the Estoril Conferences

NOVAFRICA took part of the Estoril Conferences, contributing to the discussion of some of the global challenges of today.

Catia Batista, scientific director of NOVAFRICA had a conversation with José Ulisses Correia da Silva, Prime Minister of Cape Verde, about democracy in developing countries.



The New Cycle of the Angolan Economy conference

Organized by NOVAFRICA and the Portugal-Angola Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Nova SBE Campus, this conference had as keynote speaker the Governor of the Central Bank of Angola, José de Lima Massano. Faculty, students, and private sector representatives discussed the financial reforms and the future of Angola in the current geopolitical context





FUNDERS & PARTNERS



Funders & Partners

NOVAFRICA has several partners working on different areas that operate in the private and in the public sector.



3ie strives to improve lives through evidence-informed equitable, inclusive and sustainable development action in developing countries. Since its founding in 2008, 3ie has awarded over 300 grants in over 50 countries.



The Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative is a collaboration between researchers at MIT's Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab and UC Berkeley's Center of Evaluation for Global Action, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is a Portuguese institution under private law and of general public utility, perpetual in nature, with its statutory purposes spanning the arts, beneficence, science, and education.



The Banco de Moçambique (Bank of Mozambique) is the central bank of Mozambique. Since its creation in 1975, it has been active in developing financial inclusion policy.



The Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (Foundation for Science and Technology) evaluates and funds scientific research activities, in particular in the areas of natural sciences, exact sciences, social sciences and humanities in Portugal.



The Centre for the Study of African Economies has undertaken research on Africa since 1986, and is part of the University of Oxford. The Center applies modern research methods to economic problems in several developing countries.



Fundación Telefónica aims to be a significant agent in the development of the social aspects of digital transformation. For 20 years, it has contributed to making a digital and supportive world possible and has sought to improve people's development opportunities through educational, social and cultural projects.



The International Fertilizer Development Center is a science-based public international organization working to alleviate global hunger by introducing improved agricultural practices and fertilizer technologies and by linking farmers to markets.



The International Growth Centre is a research institute that provides advice on economic growth to the governments of developing countries. It is based at the London School of Economics operated in partnership with the University of Oxford



The IZA – Institute of Labor Economics is a private, independent economic research institute and academic network focused on the analysis of global labor markets. It was founded in 1998 with the support of the Deutsche Post Foundation.



Johnson & Johnson is an American multinational medical devices, pharmaceutical and consumer packaged goods manufacturing company founded in 1886. The corporation includes some 250 subsidiary companies with operations in 60 countries.



The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is a private research university founded in 1861. The MIT is often ranked among the world's top universities.



Outsystems is a low-code platform for the development of enterprise web and mobile applications, which run in the cloud, on-premises or in hybrid systems.



The Stockholm School of Economics is one of Europe's leading business schools. It offers BSc, MSc and MBA programs, along with highly regarded PhD and Executive Education programs. The School is accredited by EQUIS and is a member of CEMS.



The United States Agency for International Development is an independent agency of the US federal government that is primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance.



The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans to countries for capital projects. It comprises the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the International Development Association.



ADD European Union as a funder instead – AMIF (in English) is funding several of our projects and it is originally coming from the EU and this should be the logo/funder that we acknowledge



UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.



NOVAFRICA IN THE MEDIA



NOVAFRICA in The Media

NOVAFRICA's work was featured in many renowned national and international media outlets. The COVID-19 Pandemic, irregular migrations from Africa, the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Cabo Delgado were some of the topics of our research projects that were in the spotlight.



Forbes Portugal: Crucial days for the future of fisheries



CNN Portugal: [Ukrainian refugee crises](#)



The Economist: [Many more Africans are migrating within Africa than to Europe](#)



SIC Notícias: [African migrants vs Ukrainian refugees](#)



africanews: [Novafrica: Gender equality is a must in Africa](#)



RTP: [The integration of Ukrainian refugees](#)



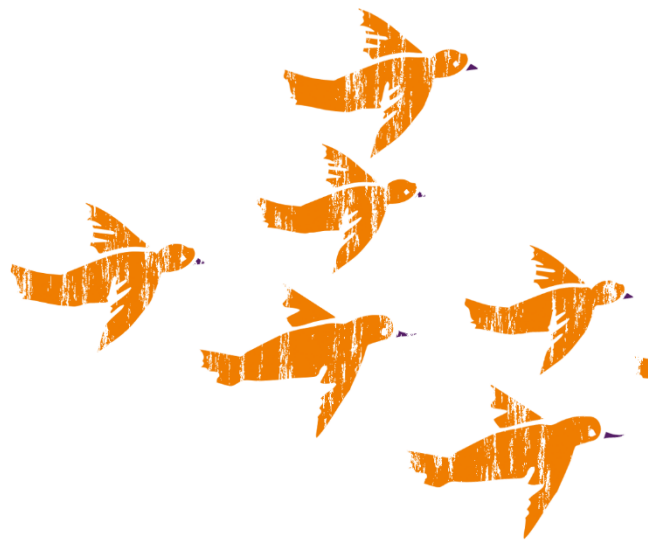
CNN Portugal: [The food crisis provoked by the war in Ukraine](#)



Expresso: [Podcast on Migration as a Tool to Fight Poverty](#)



Euronews: [Agriculture, hunger and migration in Africa](#)



NEXT STEPS FOR 2023



Next Steps for 2021

To keep on doing **research** at the highest level creating and promoting evidence-based policies that promote **sustainable growth** in the world, particularly in low-income countries.

Education is intrinsic to economic development. NOVAFRICA in 2023 will continue to contribute to the research training of students and new researchers who want to develop projects that **contribute to making the developing countries nations less poor and with access to essential goods and services.**

To accomplish this goal, **NOVAFRICA** will promote the adoption of best practices in economic policies aimed at local and global economic development, ultimately continuing its mission to put economics at the service of the people.





NOVAFRICA PEOPLE



NOVAFRICA TEAM

Management Team



Cátia Batista

Cátia Batista is Full Professor of Economics at the Nova School of Business and Economics, where she is also Founder and Scientific Director of the NOVAFRICA research center. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Department of Economics of the University of Chicago. Cátia has research interests related to international migration and remittance flows, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, technology adoption, education and policy evaluation. Her work, mainly randomized and lab-in-the-field experiments, took place in countries such as Cape Verde, the Gambia, Ireland, Kenya, Portugal, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe. Cátia has taught at the University of Chicago, University of Oxford, Trinity College Dublin, and Notre Dame University. She is currently a Research Fellow at the international research centers CReAM (London, UK), IZA (Bonn, Germany) and JPAL-Europe (Paris, France). Previously, Cátia worked at the International Monetary Fund and at the Portuguese Catholic University, and consulted for the World Bank and the International Growth Center.



Pedro Vicente (foto)

Full professor of economics at Nova SBE, co-founder and scientific director of NOVAFRICA. Pedro C. Vicente is a Full Professor of Economics at Nova School of Business and Economics (Nova SBE), where he is also the founding scientific director of the knowledge center NOVAFRICA. He specializes in development economics and Africa, with a focus on political economy issues. Previously to Nova SBE, Pedro Vicente was a professor and researcher at the University of Oxford and Trinity College Dublin. He was also a visiting professor at the University of Notre Dame and a consultant to the World Bank. Pedro Vicente has published in leading economics journals such as the American Economic Review, the Review of Economics and Statistics, the Economic Journal, and the Journal of Development Economics.

His research has entailed substantial fieldwork efforts in African countries including Mozambique, Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Cape Verde, and São Tomé and Príncipe, as well as funding by national and international agencies such as DFID, USAID, 3IE, IZA, and FCT. Pedro Vicente has a PhD in economics from the University of Chicago.



Vera Pinto

Executive Director of NOVAFRICA

Vera Pinto is an enthusiastic communications professional with several years of experience as a journalist and communications manager with a focus in economics and politics. Her educational background includes a master's degree in International Economics (ISCTE Business School), a post-graduation in Journalism by the Complutense University of Madrid and a degree in Communication Science.

As journalist she worked at Lusa, at R. Com (Canal 1, RFM e MEGA FM) and at TVI. Throughout her career Vera made reports, interviews, journal editions and covered the official visits of high-level state officers (President and Prime-Minister) to foreign countries. Some of the most remarkable experiences included visits to developing countries in Africa, such as Angola and Mozambique. After journalism Vera focused her activity in corporate communication. She worked as communication manager in LPM Communication, the leading Portuguese company in communication consulting. Recently she developed her skills in communication management at AGEAS Group.



Raquel Fernandes

Coordinator of NOVAFRICA

Raquel Fernandes has worked in Luanda as Human Resources Director, coordinating the HR department in companies with interests in various business areas. In Mozambique, Raquel has collaborated with the NGO Equipa d'África in the field of health and education. Raquel holds an executive master in Management from Nova SBE – Executive Education. She has a BSc in Clinical Psychology from the Instituto Superior de Psicologia Aplicada.



Magda Ferrão

Financial Officer

Magda Ferrão worked for several years as a Management Controller focusing on Financial Reporting in the private health sector. She had the opportunity to be part of the creation and development of a clinical units of one of the largest private health groups in the country.

She graduated in Health Management from the Atlantic University and undertook a professional internship in one of the largest private health hospitals. The aim of the study was a microeconomic analysis of the emergency department.

She was part of social support projects as a volunteer.

Advisory Board

The NOVAFRICA Advisory Board includes a number of experts in implementing and advising on policies that promote sustainable economic development in Africa. The board provides overall strategic guidance and supports the implementation of activities in research, capacity building and policy outreach.

In 2018, the advisory board members were the following:

Luís Amado

Former Foreign Affairs Minister of Portugal and
Organizer of the 2007 Africa-EU Summit.

Paul Collier

Professor of Economics at the University of Oxford.

Luísa Diogo

Chairwoman of Barclays Mozambique, Former Prime
Minister and Finance Minister of Mozambique.

Jorge Braga de Macedo

Professor of Economics at Nova SBE and Former
Finance Minister of Portugal.

José António Ferreira Machado

Vice-Rector of Universidade Nova de Lisboa and
Former Dean of Nova SBE.

Roger Myerson

Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago
and Nobel Prize in Economics laureate 2007.

José Octávio Serra Van-Dúnem

Professor of Philosophy and Sociology of Law at the Faculdade de Direito da Universidade Agostinho Neto.

External Members

With a diversity of backgrounds and areas of expertise, the NOVAFRICA external members are the network of researchers outside of the Nova SBE who collaborate in the implementation of NOVAFRICA's activities.

In 2020, the external members were the following:

Tijan L. Bah

Resident Fellow at the Navarra Center for International Development.

Tilman Brück

Founder and Director of International Security and Development Economics at IGZ.

Pedro Carneiro

Professor at the University College London.

Adeline Delavande

Professor at the University of Essex.

Marcel Fafchamps

Senior Fellow at the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, Stanford University.

Ana Margarida Fernandes

Senior Economist at the Development Research
Group of the World Bank.

Dean Karlan

Professor at Northwestern University and
President of Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA).

Pedro Silva Martins

Professor at Queen Mary, University of London.

David McKenzie

Lead Economist in the Development Research
Group, Finance and Private Sector Development
Unit of the World Bank.

Teresa Molina Millan

Assistant Professor at the University of Alicante

Paulo Santos

Lecturer at Monash University.

Elsa Morais Sarmiento

Principal Evaluation Officer at the African
Development Bank.

Sandra Sequeira

Lecturer at the London School of Economics.

Danila Serra

Associate Professor at the Texas A&M University

Resident Members

With a diversity of backgrounds and areas of expertise, NOVAFRICA resident members are

the core of researchers affiliated with Nova SBE who collaborate in the implementation of

NOVAFRICA activities.

In 2022, the resident members were the following:

João Amador

Alex Armand

Cátia Batista

Filipa Castanheira

Alexander Coutts

Cláudia Custódio

Sofia F. Franco

Miguel Lebre de Freitas

Jules Gazeaud

Victoire Girard

Emanuel Gomes

Carmen Lages

Luís Filipe Lages

Teresa Molina Millán

Pedro Neves

Susana Peralta

Luís Brites Pereira

Ana Balcão Reis

Maria do Carmo Seabra

André Silva

Daniel Traça

Pedro Vicente

NOVAFRICA Student Group

The NOVAFRICA Student Group (NSG) is managed by post-graduate students from Nova SBE and its main objective is to promote a fruitful connection between those junior researchers/students and the Center, by encouraging participation in the internships, and by promoting and supporting the Center's activities and projects.

The group organizes discussion series on a biweekly basis with Nova SBE professors, allowing them to discuss relevant issues in development economics and frontier research in related topics. The aim is not only to serve as a platform for knowledge sharing, but also to increase networking between faculty members and all types of students interested in the field of economics.

In 2022, the resident members of the NOVAFRICA Student Group were the following:

- Patrícia Caetano – Co-President
- Frederica Mendonça – Co-President
- Gonçalo Gameiro - Advisory Board Member
- Galina Vysotskaya – Advisory Board Member
- Simão Paiva - Advisory Board Member
- Vitor Cavalcante - Advisory Board Member
- Lara Corrêa - Marketing Team Leader
- Ashlyn Osendorf - Podcast Team Leader
- Beatriz Gomes - Pizza & Topic Team Leader
- Jorge Páscoa - Blog Team Leader
- Catarina Louro - Mentorship Team Leader
- Rita Mira Vaz - Pizza & Topic Content Director

More information about NOVAFRICA in our site and Social Media:

<https://novafrica.org>



Thank you

