

Ford Madox Ford International Symposium

School of Arts and Humanities/ Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de
Lisboa

9-10 November, Lisbon

Book Of Abstracts

Livro de Resumos

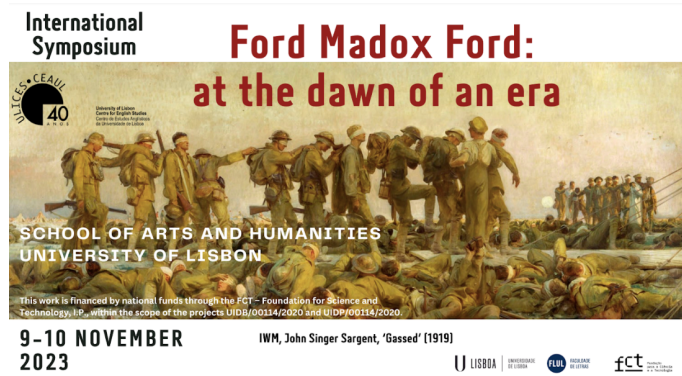
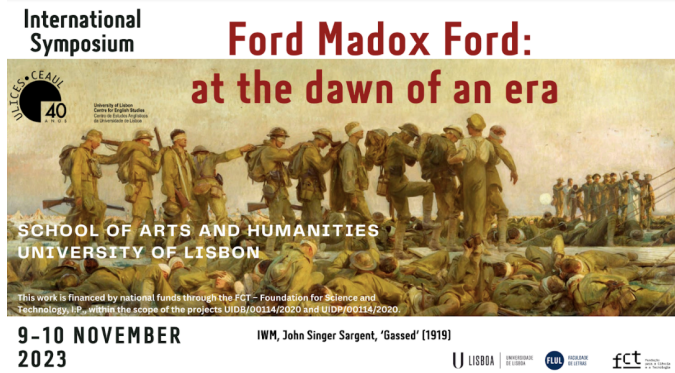


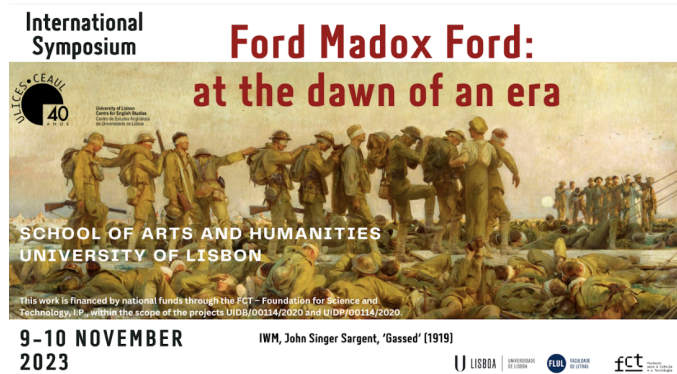
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9th November 2023

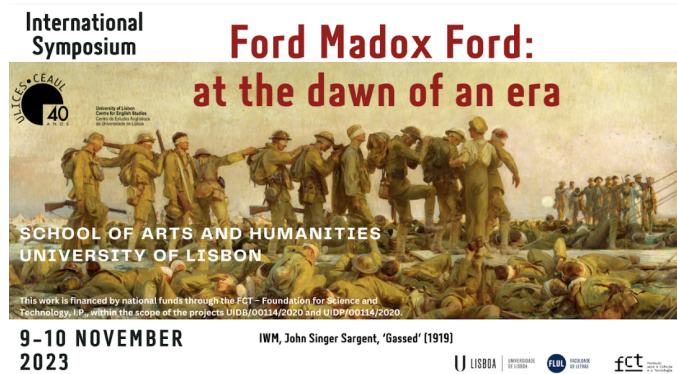
9h00-9h30	Reception			
9h30-10h00	Opening Session — Room B112C			
10h00-11h00	Keynote Lecture — Seamus O'Malley (Yeshiva University) <i>“One of those stupendous mornings of human thought”</i> : Ford's cycles of <i>literary history</i> Chair: Adelaide Meira Serras Room B112C			
11h00-11h15	Coffee Break			
11h15-12h45	Session I — <i>Literary Parade</i> Room B112C	Chair: Elisabete M. Silva	Session II — <i>War Recollections</i> Room B112D	Chair: Iolanda Freitas Ramos (NOVA FCSH/ULICES/CEAUL)
	Elisabete M. Silva (IPBragança/ULICES/CEAUL/ULisboa) <i>The Inheritors by Joseph Conrad and Ford Madox Ford: unravelling Victorian society through the lens of the Press</i>		Iolanda Freitas Ramos (Nova FCSH/ULICES/CEAUL) <i>Heaven and Hell: Madox Ford's warfare and other trauma narratives</i>	
	Ana Sofia Louro (ULICES/CEAUL/ULisboa) <i>on the fatality of sentimentalism</i> <i>A note on the perils of literature in The Good Soldier and The Panel</i>		Nur Karatas (Loyola University Chicago) <i>Madness versus Sanity: The Case of an Englishman</i>	
	Ana Pizarro (ULICES/CEAUL/ULisboa) <i>A goodly apple: Memory, perception and re-writing in The Good Soldier</i>			
12h45-14h15	Lunch Time			
15h00	Cultural Program — Tour Fernando Pessoa's house			



Elisabete Mendes Silva (IPBragança/ULICES/CEAUL)

***The Inheritors* by Joseph Conrad and Ford Madox Ford : unravelling Victorian society through the lens of the Press**

The Inheritors: an extravagant story (1901), written collaboratively by Joseph Conrad and Ford Madox Ford, delves into the intricate nuances of Victorian society, exploring the interplay between wealth, power and morality, by means of a quasi-science fiction (or merely “extravagant”) plot. Set against the backdrop of late 19th century London, the novel examines Victorian Society where wealth disparity, unrestrained capitalism, and relentless industry shape evolving socio-economic landscapes. The novel explores the personal struggles of the main characters, Duc the Mersch – the philanthropist, and financier of the state foundation project in Greenland; Gurnard – the inscrutable, “cynically immoral politician”, Chancellor of the Exchequer and a Dimensionist –; Churchill – the Foreign Minister –; Fox, the editor of the newspaper the *Hour*; the morally conflicted artist/journalist, Arthur Granger Eschingan; and his so-called sister, also a Dimensionist, in addition to the broader societal challenges they face. By exploring the intertwined lives of these characters, the authors offer a critique of the decadent moral Victorian society through the lens of the *Hour*, a fictional representation of the Victorian Newspaper industry, created by the Duc de Mersch “to pat the Government’s back; influence public opinion”. Through Arthur’s journalistic pursuits and ethical dilemmas, in the attempt of aspiring to rise in society, but illusively succumbing to sentimental urging, the work reflects on the fine line between objective reporting and sensationalism, resonating with the challenges faced by journalists during that time. This paper aims to highlight some insights offered by the novel, namely class distinctions, imperialism, and the clash between tradition and progress, as well as exploring the power of the press in political decision-making, entwining the fictional representation of the *Hour* of the Victorian Newspaper industry with the press of that time.



Keywords: Victorian society, imperialism, press, human morality, artistic integrity

Elisabete Mendes Silva holds a PhD in English Literature and Culture studies. In her M.A. studies she specialised in English Culture. She is an Assistant Professor in the department of foreign languages at the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Portugal, where she teaches English Language and Culture. She is a researcher at the University of Lisbon Centre for English Studies. Alongside her 23-year teaching experience, mostly in higher education, she has developed research in English culture, English didactics and language learning having published within those areas of study. She has been involved in several international projects within the Erasmus+ programme, e.g. Intact; AduLeT, QuILL, being the scientific coordinator of the latter.