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# Book of Abstracts

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# Translation during the Salazar dictatorship: Archives clarifying the past

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## **Abstract**

Recent scholarly investigations (Chumbo, 2023; Seruya, 2020) have significantly enhanced our understanding of the Salazar dictatorship's approach to translation during the early decades of the 20th century. Beyond the conventional dissemination of propaganda materials and various publications, the Estado Novo (New State) regime placed considerable emphasis on political communication in foreign languages, particularly to shape international perceptions of Portugal. These efforts were primarily coordinated by the National Secretariat of Propaganda during the 1930s, a period crucial to establishing the regime. Many of these initiatives have remained forgotten in the archives and are not recognized as authentic propaganda efforts aimed at constructing a specific narrative about Portugal—one that emphasized the nation's cultural, historical and economic achievements, with the intent of influencing international relations. Archival research conducted for this study has yielded valuable insights, primarily through the analysis of correspondence among the leadership of the National Secretariat, editors, publishers, and translators. In addition to materials housed in the Portuguese Central National Archive, smaller-scale archives have played a significant role in impacting essential information. Their contributions have enabled a more comprehensive understanding of the Salazar dictatorship's use of translation as a political and soft power tool. The primary objectives of this paper are to assess the significance of translation during this specific period of the 20th-century Portuguese dictatorship and to explore how archival sources can shed light on the regime's propaganda strategies. Through a rigorous examination of a range of documents contained in several archives, this study will clarify the regime's stance on translation. Importantly, it will offer conclusions that significantly contribute to our understanding of the nature of institutional translation managed by the central propaganda office through archival evidence.

## **Keywords**

Translation and propaganda, New State dictatorship, Archives