

Talk on Portuguese Culture and Language

Approaching the culture and history of any country is always a tricky task that brings about mixed feelings about what we feel towards our nation and how much we should provide foreigners with – a balance is often a thorny issue.

Nonetheless, the current talk intends to demystify a number of stereotypes about Portuguese culture and history, by analysing myths ranging from the 800-year monolingualism to the fact that Portuguese are always late, including those that focus on the Portuguese as *the* good colonialists, *fado* as the national music, Portuguese people as lazy and unethical people, willing to spend their time at our lovely beaches, which do not suffice to describe the landscape of our country. It will be a step further from 2011's talk without neglecting a brief introduction to the country.

Additionally, special emphasis will be given to the Portuguese language, namely a bit of its history, its minority languages and its many dialects, and its basic distinctive sounds. We wish also to create interaction with the attendees, allowing them to learn some basic survival phrases.

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