

Social Research Call

Title:

Exploring the Impact of recent Crisis on Food Habits in Contemporary Portugal



Acronym: FoodHabCrisis

Project leader: Vasco Ramos

Host organisation: Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa

Main purpose of the project: The project will focus on how recent events (rising prices, COVID-19) are impacting food habits in Portugal. The team will study how food-related routines (from procurement to consumption) are being reshaped and shed light on the diverse strategies employed by families in adapting to the current circumstances.

Design/methodology/approach: The project relies on quantitative methodology. The principal data source will be a nationwide survey of a representative sample whose questionnaire will cover aspects of foodwork, changes in consumption of essential items, and a food security module. The team will also conduct secondary data analysis of the Household Budget Survey.

Potential results: The project will contribute to the state-of-the-art research on food and eating habits in Portugal and add a vital social science perspective to this subject. The project will generate a representative survey dataset and develop outputs tailored for academic and non-academic audiences (research papers, newspaper articles, online materials).

Social relevance of the research: A survey on food habits will provide valuable insights on how recent crises affect the dietary patterns of the population. The research aims to influence and inform efforts to address the foremost social and health-related challenges facing the country (inequalities, access to healthy nutritious food, obesity, and other health-related issues).

Originality/value of the project: To date, there is limited understanding of how recent events impact patterns of food acquisition and consumption and their relationship to social, familial, and economic contexts. Also, there is a lack of information on the extent of food insecurity and coping strategies used to address inflation, low income, and scarcity.