

Ricardo Garcia

Environmental, climate and data journalist

Journalism trainer

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[LinkedIn](#)

Qualifications

PhD student at the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies [Doctoral Programme](#), University of Lisbon (2009-2010). Taught component concluded with a 90% average.

Fellow at the Reuters Programme for Journalists, Green College, Oxford University (1999/2000).

BA in History, University of São Paulo, Brazil (1981-1985).

Two years attendance of Civil Engineering, Escola Politécnica, University of São Paulo, Brazil (1980-1981).

Work experience

Journalism trainer and mentor (2000 to the present)

I develop, adapt and deliver training courses for journalists, face-to-face and online. I also write guidebooks for journalists. Selected achievements:

- Have played a leading role in different training programmes for [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#) (TRF) since 2015, on issues such as:
 - ✓ Sustainable development goals
 - ✓ Land rights (in collaboration with the Pulitzer Center)
 - ✓ Modern slavery
 - ✓ Illicit financial flows
 - ✓ Mentoring of journalists on investigative stories
 - ✓ Post-course evaluations on published stories in English, Spanish and Portuguese
 - ✓ Currently working on the development of climate change training programmes
- Worked with Internews' [Earth Journalism Network](#) on a fellowship programme for international journalists at the UN Oceans Conference, in Lisbon, in June 2022;
- Developed, fund-raised and led a [climate change training course](#) for Norwegian and Portuguese journalists in 2020, in partnership with [Science Retreats](#) and supported by the EEA Grants;
- Wrote two guidebooks for journalists: one about environmental issues, which

became a reference not only for journalists, but also in schools and universities in Portugal; the other one on how to work with statistics, co-authored with two experts on the issue (see [Books](#));

- Developed and coordinated workshops for Portuguese speaking journalists between 2005 and 2008, on various issues such as climate change, heat waves, droughts and floods, bird flu and stem cells, for the Portuguese Association of Environmental and Science Reporters (ARCA);
- Organized, fund-raised and led a field trip for Portuguese journalists to the United States in 2000, supported by the Luso-American Foundation, which included a workshop on marine issues at Loyola University, New Orleans, and the participation in the Society of Environmental Journalists' 10th Annual Conference in East Lansing, Michigan.

Freelance journalist (2016 to the present)

I have been working as a freelance journalist and data visualization consultant since 2016, after a long career at a Portuguese daily newspaper (see [below](#)). Selected achievements:

- Covered major news stories in the UK, such as Brexit, terrorist attacks, the Grenfell tower fire and 2017's general election, while working as London correspondent for [Expresso](#), the main weekly in Portugal, during that year;
- Devised, coordinated and delivered, alongside graphic designers and developers, around 40 data visualization projects (infographics, interactive websites and videos) on a wide variety of issues for [Fronteiras XXI](#), a weekly TV programme jointly produced by the Portuguese public broadcaster RTP and the Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation (FFMS). Included are data visualization projects on climate change, forests, oceans, environmental behaviour, urbanization and science;
- Produced other 30 infographics since 2017 for FFMS's statistics portal [Pordata](#);
- Wrote op-eds and analysis on environment and climate change for [Público](#), a leading daily newspaper in Portugal.

Staff journalist at Público (1989-2016)

I have spent most of my career at [Público](#), a national daily newspaper in Portugal, where I specialized in environment, sustainability, energy and climate change. I have played different roles in the paper, from local reporter to editor. Selected achievements:

- Played a leading role in elevating Público as the main reference for environmental news, having spent 26 years covering environment and climate change on a continuous basis;
- Produced investigative and in-depth stories that uncovered, showed and explained a wide range of environmental issues, raising public and political attention to them;
- Further promoted climate and environmental issues among the public, having coordinated major coverages, such as UNFCCC COPs, and other projects, including

five special supplements on sustainability;

- Translated the complexity of climate science and climate negotiations into accessible language for the general public, while covering most of IPPC's assessment reports launches, interviewing key players on climate science and policy and attending eight decisive UN climate and sustainability summits;
- Provided analytical insight into environmental issues, writing op-eds and editorials on environment and science, while a member of the paper's editorials writers board;
- Offered alternative and more down to earth views on sustainability, having authored two weekly columns with chronicles on transportation and on sustainability in day-to-day life;
- Was part of the team that strengthened Público's transition from paper to online, having co-edited *on rota* the newspaper's online edition and edited its environmental page;
- Continually worked with Público's infographics team, initiating and coordinating numerous complex data journalism projects that helped Público build a solid reputation on data visualization.

Freelance journalist at Expresso (1988-1989)

I started my career in journalism as a freelance reporter on social and environmental issues at [Expresso](#), the main Portuguese weekly.

Collaboration with other media outlets

I have contributed regularly or occasionally to some specialized media outlets such as:

- Climate News Network (UK)
- Environment Europe and Package Law (UK)
- Energías Renovables (Spain)
- O Globo (Brazil)
- Terra da Gente (Brazil)
- Vacance (Brazil)
- Up (Portugal)
- Revista Montepio (Portugal)

Other activities related to journalism

Guest speaker and moderator at universities, governmental and non-governmental organizations and other institutions.

Co-founder and member of the board of the Portuguese Association of Environment and Science Journalists (ARCA) since 2005. President between 2008 and 2013.

Portuguese delegate at the European Union of Science Journalists Associations ([EUSJA](#)), between 2006 and 2013.

Journalism awards and commendations

2015

- ÑH bronze award for infographics: [Water prices rankings](#)
- Society of News Design award of excellence: [Schools rankings 2014](#)

2014

- ÑH silver award for infographics: [80 years of summer](#)

2013

- Portuguese Energy Association Print Media Award: second prize, for a series of articles on the European carbon market crisis

2012

- Malofiej silver award for infographics: [7 billion people](#)
- Malofiej silver award for infographics: [Tagus estuary pollution](#)

2011

- ÑH runner-up for infographics award: 7 billion people

2010

- Valorsul Journalism Award: first prize, for a series of chronicles about sustainability in everyday life
- Runner-up for the Rock in Rio award, for the relevance of work as an environmental journalist

2009

- Portuguese Energy Association Print Media Award: first prize, for the Earth Day special supplement on energy and environment
- ÑH silver award for infographics: [Where does the light come from](#)
- ÑH silver award for infographics: [The CO2 world map](#)

2008

- Malofiej bronze award for infographics: [Heatwaves in Portugal](#)

2005

- Fernando Pereira Environment Award: runner-up for the relevance of work as an environmental journalist

2004

- Portuguese Energy Association Print Media Award: first prize, for a series of articles on the Kyoto Protocol and emissions trading

2003

- Portuguese Sustainable Cities Network media award: first prize, for a feature story

about indoor pollution

2002

- Portuguese Sustainable Cities Network media award: runner-up, for an article on the high levels of dioxins in the air in Porto

1994

- Sinergia Communication Agency Environment National Award: runner-up, for a feature story on Lisbon's environmental problems

1991

- Porto Journalists Club *Terra Mãe* Award: first prize, for an investigative report on illegal imports of hazardous waste from Switzerland into Portugal

1989

- Ministry of Health and Environment State Department media award: first prize, for a feature story on anti-smoking policy in Portugal and Europe

Main short courses/workshops/media forums attended

Conduzindo conversas online que dão resultado [Leading online successful online conversations], CoCriar, Online (2020)

Training the trainers course, Thomson Reuters Foundation, London (2015)

9th ASEF Journalists' Colloquium on Media and the Green Agenda, Asia Europe Foundation, New Delhi, India (2013)

Multimedia training course, Cenjor, Lisbon, Portugal (2010)

Deutsche-Welle Global Media Forum on climate change, Bonn, Germany (2010)

EU-external cooperation in action: special focus on climate change workshop, European Journalism Centre, Brussels, Belgium (2009)

International Media Forum on Nature Conservation, Greenaccord association, Rome (2007, 2005) and Rapolano (2003), Italy

Brazilian Environmental Journalism Conference, Santos (2006) and São Paulo (2015), Brazil

Medical Evidence Boot Camp, Knight Science Journalism Fellowships, MIT, Cambridge, USA (2002)

Earth Dialogues, Green Cross International e Earth Council Foundation,, Lyon , France (2002)

Wetlands Workshop, Loyola University Center for Environmental Communications, New Orleans, USA (2000)

Society of Environmental Journalists annual conferences, Chattanooga (1998), Los Angeles (1999) and East Lansing (2000), USA

Eicos Initiative for Communicators of Science – Hands-on Laboratory, Max Planck Institute, Göttingen, Germany (1999).

Books

Frankenberg, L., Garcia, R. (2022). *Cinco Vezes Vivo: um sobrevivente do Holocausto em busca do seu passado*. [Five times alive: a Holocaust survivor in search of his past] Terceiro Nome, São Paulo. (Biography of a Dutch Holocaust survivor in Brazil.). [Buy](#)

Garcia, R., Rosa, M.J.V., Barbosa, L. (2017), *Que número é este? Um guia sobre estatísticas para jornalistas* [What is this number? A handbook on statistics for journalists], Pordata/Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos, Lisboa. (A handbook on statistics for journalists.) [Download](#)

Garcia, R. (2012), *Nós no Mundo: a sustentabilidade no dia-a-dia*, [We in the world: sustainability in everyday life] Ed. Papiro, Porto. (A selection of chronicles on sustainability in everyday life.) [Cover](#)

Garcia, R. (2004), *Sobre a Terra: um guia para quem lê e escreve sobre ambiente*, [On Earth: a guidebook for those who read and write about the environment] Público, Lisboa, 2nd ed.: 2006 (A handbook on environmental issues for journalists, teachers, students and the general public.) [Cover](#)

Chapter in books/other publications

Garcia, R. (2010), “Os carros eléctricos vêm para ficar” [“Electric cars are here to stay”], *Janus 2010*, Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa/Público, Lisbon, 2010, pp. 82-83. [pdf](#)

Garcia, R. (2010), “O lento renascimento do nuclear” [“The slow rebirth of nuclear power”], *Janus 2010*, Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa/Público, Lisbon, 2010, pp. 78-79. [pdf](#)

Garcia, R. (2002), “Avanços e recuos nos tratados internacionais de ambiente” [“Progress and setbacks in international environmental treaties”], *Janus 2002*, Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa/Público, Lisbon, 2002, pp. 44-45. [url](#)

Garcia, R. (2000), *What is different about green news? A reflection on environmental reporting*, Reuters Foundation Paper 148, Oxford, Green College, 2000. ([pdf](#))

Garcia, R. (1990), “Domingo” [“Sunday”], in *Antologia DN Jovem* [short stories], 1990, pp. 345-251

Languages

Portuguese: native speaker

Other languages

	Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing
English	C2	C2	C1	C1
Spanish	C1	C2	B2	A2
French	C1	C1	B1	A2

IT skills

Data and coding

- Advanced user of Excel (complex functions, pivot tables, VBA coding)
- Competent user of Tableau
- Basic knowledge of Python, QGIS, HTML, Access

Other

- Competent user of other Office software (Word, Power Point)
- Competent user of video and audio software (Ableton Live, Lightworks, Premiere)
- Familiarity with editing and illustration software (Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign)

Hobbies

Sourdough homebaking, guitar playing, home studio recording, flight simulators, woodwork.