

11.03.2024 – Revolution and Memory. 50 years on: the struggle continues, Francisco Bairrão Ruivo, Universidade Nova de Lisboa

I will try to look at some fundamental features of the politics of memory and the public uses of the past, especially the ways in which the 1974-1975 Revolution has been evoked over the last fifty years, taking as my starting point the statue of António de Oliveira Salazar, erected in 1965 in Santa Comba Dão, which was the target of several actions in 1975 and 1978, very revealing of what was happening in the field of memorial disputes.

In February 1975, during the revolutionary process, Salazar's statue was beheaded, in a gesture of cutting with the past that, despite the violence, reflected a generalised consensus regarding the condemnation of the dictatorship that dominated the first cycle of memory issues between 1974 and 1976.

The statue remained headless until February 1978, when, as part of the so-called "democratic normalisation", a group of citizens tried to replace the dictator's head. A few days later, a bomb destroyed the statue, which was then removed for good. The events of 1978 took place at the beginning of a 2nd cycle of memory arising from the balances after 25 November 1975. There will also be a 3rd cycle, at the turn of the century, marked by the demand for the Right to Memory, the valorisation and recovery of the memory of the resistance and the anti-fascist struggle and the demand for public policies to memorialise or create places of memory.

50 years later, there is a new moment of dispute surrounding the Portuguese Revolution, where official commemorations coexist with discourses devaluing the revolutionary process, or the opening of a National Museum of Resistance and Freedom coexists with a movement to create a museum about Salazar.

Francisco Bairrão Ruivo est chercheur à l'Institut d'histoire contemporaine de l'Universidade Nova de Lisboa. Il est titulaire d'un doctorat en histoire contemporaine avec sa thèse *Spínolismo : viragem política e movimentos sociais*, lauréat du prix 2014 de la Fondation Mário Soares-EDP et publiée en 2015 sous le titre *Spínola e a Revolução*. Son principal domaine de recherche est le processus révolutionnaire de 1974-1975 et l'action des mouvements sociaux et des usages publics de la mémoire, en particulier la manière dont la révolution portugaise de 1974-1975 a été évoquée. Il a réalisé divers projets de recherche et travaillé sur des films, des émissions de télévision, des expositions et des projets éducatifs tels que *Livro Livre*. Il est historien et travaille actuellement au musée Aljube de la résistance et de la liberté.