

## **Taiana Catharino**

I am a doctoral student in Communication Sciences at NOVA School of Humanities and Social Sciences - NOVA FCSH (Lisbon, Portugal), member of the Research Group on Media and Journalism at ICNOVA.

My doctoral research is entitled "My life, my words, my view - The perception of women about the role of their personal online narratives". The main objective of my research is to analyze the perception of women about their narratives on social media regarding life experiences related to social control over their bodies and voices. I aim at doing it according to three perspectives (without hierarchy or order of relevance):

a. Personal and social change

Under what conditions do women identify their personal online narratives related to social control over women as driving tools for personal and social change?

b. Socio-political knowledge

How do women perceive the relationship dynamics between personal online narratives and the (re)construction of socio-political knowledge?

c. The Internet and social media

What are the women's perceptions on the role of the Internet in addressing issues related to social control over women? How do they perceive differences in their speeches and actions in online and offline environments?

I position my work within Cultural and Gender Studies, Media and Sociopolitical Communication Studies with methodological influences drawn from Constructivist Grounded Theory in conjunction with Autoethnography and Narrative Analysis. Based on a Communication Sciences program, I have access to Media Studies and Political Communication backgrounds for my research. Research stay at ZtG will be important to complete my research trajectory in Gender Studies. Also, it would be great to debate with other students and scholars about my research during my period of investigation at ZtG.

The research is designed to understand the intention of personal online narratives related to the control over women in contemporary society. We expect to understand the women's perception of the importance of the Internet, especially social media, for their self-expression and as platforms for life experiences storytelling.

We also intend to contribute to the debate on the performativity of sociopolitical concerns related to the control over women in everyday life. At the same time, and in an innovative way, when approaching the topic from the perspective of women, our underlying goal is also to contribute to the understanding of women's agency in carrying out sociopolitical practices in their daily lives as means for personal and social change.

Considering the construction of knowledge as a dynamic, discursive, and interactive process, one might argue that this research will broaden the debate about the importance of non-institutionalized, non-formal spaces for the construction of sociopolitical knowledge and personal and social change. It is also expected that, in the process, this research promotes and contributes with yet another channel for personal change, construction, and search for sociopolitical knowledge among women, opening new opportunities for sharing their life experiences and enabling their self-expression by their own words and view.