

## **Silêncio! Vai-se cantar o fado!\* - Portuguese song and identity**

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Fado\*\* is a song that it was developed in Lisbon in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, sum of a multicultural synthesis involving African-Brazilian dances singed, and folk music from Portuguese urban and rural areas, through successive waves of internal migrations. Along the XX century, Fado was gradually (and still is) recognized by all Portuguese people and its emigrant communities all around the world as a symbol of national cultural identity. This presentation will discuss the process how Fado was historically constructed as an artistic element of identity in two periods: 1. The period of dictatorship (1933-1974 / 'Estado Novo' (New State) as part of the nationalist frame of reference; 2. The 'recovery' of democracy (1974) until nowadays as part of a wide renovation of Portuguese popular music sustained by the mobilization of new singers, poets and musicians and the appreciation of 'world music' as a musical genre. We also intended to show how songs could be explored in the classrooms using worksheets that propose reading and interpretation tasks embracing both a historical and artistic approach.

\* It is a phrase that is often heard in a loud voice among the public before the singer starts singing / Silence! Fado will be singing"; \*\* Fado was considered as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO (2011)