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Personal experience narratives in three West African sign languages: the influence of time-depth, community size and social interaction

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Citation

Dias Da Silva Morgado Pereira, M. (2024, February 27). *Personal experience narratives in three West African sign languages: the influence of time-depth, community size and social interaction*. LOT dissertation series. LOT, Amsterdam. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3719763>

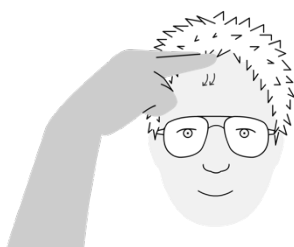
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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Curriculum Vitae



Marta Morgado was born in 1977 in Lisbon, Portugal, and grew up thinking about pursuing art studies until her final year of secondary school. She was invited to take part in a sign language research project at the University of Lisbon in 1995 and since then the arts have become her hobby and deaf studies a growing focus of interest.

She has bachelor's and master's degrees in deaf education. She was a teacher of the deaf for 21 years and was also the coordinator of the Portuguese Sign Language department at the Jacob Rodrigues Pereira School for the Deaf in Lisbon from 1997 to 2018. Many of the deaf students were from different African countries. Aside from her teaching occupation, she has collaborated with the Portuguese Deaf Association on many occasions, including partnerships with the deaf communities of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde.

Since 2005, she has witnessed the emergence of sign language in Guinea-Bissau, where she collaborated on training courses, and produced educational materials and dictionaries of the Guinea-Bissau Sign Language.

At the same time, in trying to fill the gap in children's books addressed specifically to deaf children, she became interested in deaf literature, writing children's books for deaf children and a book about sign language literature, as well as papers on the subject. She was part of the team that developed the Portuguese Sign Language curriculum as a first language for deaf students from nursery to high school level, at the Ministry of Education. She was part of the Research Unit department at the Jacob Rodrigues Pereira School for the Deaf, producing bilingual materials on how to teach and learn written Portuguese through Portuguese Sign Language.

She was a lecturer at different universities in Portugal, such as the Portuguese Catholic University and the Setúbal School of Education, teaching, for example, Sign Language Literature and Orientation and Internship for Kindergarten Educators in schools for the deaf.

She was interested in the area of language acquisition by deaf children and was part of the research project: Longitudinal corpus of Portuguese Sign Language acquisition, at the Portuguese Catholic University.

Her particular interest in personal experience narratives arose when she started her PhD in 2018 at Leiden University as part of the larger research Vidi project "From Gesture to Language", coordinated by Victoria Nyst and funded by the NWO. In her

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PhD project, she focused on the influence of language age, community size, and social interaction in three West African sign languages.

Marta is currently a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Birmingham, as part of the ERC SignMorph project coordinated by Adam Schembri.