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Creating a sign language out of everything and everywhere: an example from the deaf people of Bissau

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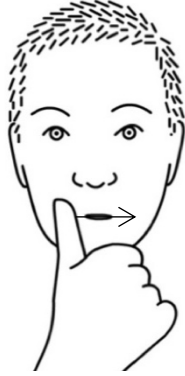
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Curriculum Vitae



Mariana's sign name

Mariana Martins was born in Lisbon, but she grew up in Angola and Mozambique. She graduated in linguistics in 1998 from the University of Lisbon, where she was introduced to the research of Portuguese Sign Language (LGP). She pursued her academic studies in deaf education, with a focus on culture, bilingualism and writing. She also taught (sign) linguistics at different universities in Lisbon.

In 2002, she started teaching at the Portuguese Deaf Association, namely written Portuguese to deaf adults and sign linguistics to LGP deaf teachers. She co-authored LGP dictionaries, especially aimed at deaf users; the LGP curriculum for deaf students of all school levels at the Ministry of Education; and the LGP adaptation of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. She also co-founded a publisher specialised in deaf-related topics, *Surd'Universo*.

With a particular interest in African countries, she has been documenting, since 2005, the emergence of the sign language in Guinea-Bissau. She co-authored two LGG dictionaries and further analysed such an emerging language in her PhD thesis at Leiden University in the Netherlands and in a few publications. She is often involved in projects empowering the deaf communities she works with, promoting deaf education and describing their sign languages.