

## **Executive Summary: Professional relationship between Carla Paiva and Boaventura de Sousa Santos**

This executive summary aims to present the facts that dismantle the public accusations made by **Carla Paiva (CP)** against **Boaventura de Sousa Santos (BSS)**, related to her participation in the ALICE project of the Centre for Social Studies (CES) of the University of Coimbra.

### **Joining the ALICE project.**

**24 June 2011:** CP sends a mail requesting to join the ALICE project, highlighting her South African origin as relevant to the focus of the project (Exhibit 1: Request mail, June 2011).

*Delivered to: [REDACTED]  
Fri, 24 Jun 2011 14:58:28 WEST*

*Dear Professor Boaventura de Sousa Santos,  
Regular visits to the CES website had me stumble upon a recent prestigious research project, entitled “ALICE”. I was immediately captured by the sheer scientific, thematic and geographic dimension of the project but it was one of the focus areas, South Africa my country of birth, which grabbed my attention to want to get involved in this enthralling project. (.. .)*

**25 and 26 June 2011:** BSS replies personally accepting her application, encouraging her to register for the PhD and assuring her of the payment of fees (Exhibit 2: Confirmation of place, August 2011).

*From: Boaventura de Sousa Santos [REDACTED]  
To: Alice circulo intimo <alice@ces.uc.pt>; BoaP [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sat, 25 June 2011 13:16:05  
Subject: Re: [Alice] Reference: CES-BI/17/2011*

*Cara Carla Paiva*

*Muito obrigado pela sua mensagem e por ter concorrido ao projecto ALICE. You did well to write in English as you have already passed the language proficiency test.*

*A sua candidatura está aceite e Ã© uma boa candidata as bolsas de doutoramento. She has already applied for one of our doctoral programmes which will open in September 2011. Depending on your interests, it seems to me that the best programme will be post-colonialism and global citizenship, so let's keep in touch.*

*Boaventura*

### **First stage of participation.**

**13 October 2011:** A first meeting is held between BSS and CP. BSS authorises recording of face-to-face meetings, which contradicts later allegations that there were no records of ill-treatment (Exhibit 3: Minutes of meeting of 13 October 2011).

*The meeting began with a brief introduction by Boaventura about regular meetings with ALICE team members. These meetings will be personal and informal. They may also be recorded.*

### **Recognition of underperformance.**

**18 January 2012:** In a follow-up meeting, CP admits that her performance was poor and that she did not understand the theoretical basis of the project. She acknowledges being "on probation" until the end of the year (Exhibit 4: Minutes of meeting of 18 January 2012).

*With regards to our first task, the think piece, there seemed to be some frailties but as it was my first work Boaventura chose to give me the benefit of the doubt. Notwithstanding my intervention at the first in-house seminar was disappointing. It failed to reflect an understanding of the project ALICE: Excellence is a requirement of the project and this is what I must aim for if I am to remain in the project. The problematic of not having engaged effectively with the theory is an area which needs an overhaul. To conclude, then, I am on probation until the end of the year. Most certainly Boaventura would like me to stay onboard but I need to reflect this determination and quality in my work. The point of departure now is to gain a solid understanding of Boaventura's work.*

CP knew that she had to demonstrate excellence to remain in the project and that her initial intervention was not up to the mark.

### **Evaluation and exit from the project**

During the first few months of 2012, CP continues to underperform and has difficulties in adapting, according to the team.

**17 May 2012:** At a coordination team meeting, given the possibility that the contract with CP would not be renewed (as happened to so many other people who never complained of harassment) BSS requested that, if the CP contract is not renewed, she be informed as soon as possible so that she can apply for an FCT scholarship and thus continue to receive financial support for her PhD. (Exhibit 5: Minutes of the meeting of 17 May 2012). This demonstrates that decisions were not made by BSS, but by a collegiate body, which had complete autonomy to make these decisions. In fact, as BSS always said, he was focused on the scientific production, delegating executive coordination, financial management, and human resources to others.

## **ALICE - REUNIÃO DA COORDENAÇÃO**

17 de Maio de 2012

Presenças: BSS, JLE, SA, SF e JPD

A decisão sobre a saída ou continuidade da Carla é a mais urgente, uma vez que é portuguesa e pode candidatar-se a uma bolsa de doutoramento da FCT. É preciso decidir antes que os prazos de candidatura encerrem (28 de Junho).

**A próxima reunião da coordenação é para decidir quem fica e quem sai.**

**5 June 2012:** A collective decision is taken not to renew CP's contract. BSS was not present; **Sara Araújo** was and participated directly, as well as **José Luis Exeni**, who informed CP of the decision (Exhibit 6: Minutes of the meeting of 5 June 2012 and emails).

## Equipo coordinación ALICE

Reunión BSS, José Manuel, Paula, Sílvia, Sara y JL (CES, 5 de junio, 2012)

- Evaluación y decisiones sobre el equipo de investigadores: como estaba previsto, se hizo una evaluación general del equipo de investigadores, con énfasis en los PhD. En tres casos (Carla, Fernando y David) se debían tomar decisiones acerca de su continuidad o no en el Proyecto.
  - Casos Carla, Fernando y David: se hizo una evaluación particular y cuidadosa de cada uno en función a sus méritos, contribución al Proyecto y su familiaridad con las epistemologías del Sur, además de la pertinencia temática para ALICE de sus trabajos para los seminarios del Doctorado.
    - *Decisión:* no se renuevan sus contratos con el Proyecto.
    - *Condiciones:* se respetará el Contrato con pagos hasta el 30 de septiembre, pueden decidir libremente su vínculo con ALICE en este período, no participarán en los seminarios del 25-27/06, pueden seguir en la oficina, esta decisión no afecta su situación en el Doctorado, se les brindará apoyo para la gestión de becas.
    - Silvia, Paula y JL fueron encomendados para comunicar la noticia a cada uno de ellos, lo cual se hizo la mañana siguiente de la reunión

Te cuento que esta mañana, de acuerdo a lo previsto, tuvimos las reuniones con Carla, David y Fernando. Fue una misión muy incómoda y difícil, pero ya está cumplida.

David y Fernando tuvieron una buena reacción. Creo que ambos ya intuían la mala noticia.

Carla tuvo una mala reacción inicial. Entre sorpresa y llanto dijo que no aceptaba la evaluación y decisión de la coordinación, que le parecía injusta. Insistió en destacar sus méritos académicos y sus competencias para el Proyecto. Y dijo que se le debió dar más oportunidades. Al final quedó más tranquila con la posibilidad de apoyo para que

consiga una beca de la FCT (en el fondo tiene un problema financiero). Creo que su reacción muestra que no logró entender la naturaleza del Proyecto.

Later, CP wrote to BSS thanking him for the support and requesting a letter of recommendation, which **contradicts her subsequent public allegations** (Exhibit 7: exchanged emails reproduced in the source document).

X-Mailer: YahooMailWebService/0.8.120.356233  
Date: Tue, 17 Jul 2012 02:44:28 -0700 (PDT)  
From: Carla Paiva <[REDACTED]>  
Reply-To: Carla Paiva <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Carta de recomendação  
To: Boaventura de Sousa Santos <[REDACTED]>

Caro Prof. Boaventura,

Tenho estado a candidatar-me a bolsas fora de Portugal para poder continuar no doutoramento. Um dos requisitos é que sou obrigada a apresentar uma carta actualizada de recomendação do Head of Department. Queria-lhe pedir se seria possível contar com o seu apoio para uma carta de recomendação em Inglês please? Ficaria-lhe muito grata!

Aguardo uma melhor resposta.  
Um abraço,  
Carla

#### **Evidence of contradiction.**

Despite not obtaining the FCT grant, CP requests letters of support from BSS, who delivers them, showing generosity and professionalism (Exhibit 8: Letter of recommendation request mail dated 17 July 2012).

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Aguardo uma melhor resposta.  
Um abraço,  
Carla

In court, under oath, CP stated that she would not have signed the 6th Letter (with serious allegations against BSS) if her grant had been renewed.

Statements in media, such as **Canal NOW**, **Agência Pública** and the **6th Letter of the Victims' Collective**, are contradicted by written evidence showing CP's appreciation and acknowledgement towards BSS.

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*This document is only an extract of the existing evidence on the relationship between Carla Paiva and Professor Boaventura de Sousa Santos. It is unequivocal evidence that Carla Paiva's accusations are inconsistent with her documented behaviour and communications during her time at ALICE.*

*Her departure from the project was for academic reasons, decided collectively by the coordination team, and BSS maintained a professional and supportive attitude at all times. The evidence cited - emails, minutes of meetings and written testimonies - directly refute the versions presented by CP in the media.*

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