

BOAVENTURA DE SOUSA SANTOS

# Documents and arguments presented before the Independent Commission



**THE PROFESSOR'S TESTIMONY**  
**BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT**  
**COMMISSION ON DECEMBER 4 WAS**  
**COMPLEMENTED BY MORE THAN**  
**600 PAGES OF DOCUMENTS AND**  
**ARGUMENTS REFUTING EACH OF**  
**THE ALLEGATIONS.**

# MAIN ACCUSATIONS OF THE MEDIA AGAINST THE PROFESSOR

## 1. WHAT IS BSS ACCUSED OF?

Of **institutional oppression, abuse of power and misconduct** in the (CES), including the **silencing of women** who have suffered sexual abuse or sexual misconduct”



The professor does not rule out the existence of irregular behavior on the part of the researchers, but he can only speak in the first person and **has a clear conscience** in this regard, since as of 2010/2011 **he stopped having close contact with the internal life of the CES** due to two reasons:

- 1 Administrative responsibilities** outside your jurisdiction. They became the CES management, the executive director and the president of the Scientific Council.
- 2 Short stays in Portugal**, no more than four months, due to her annual stays at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and trips abroad since the Alice project began.

# IMPORTANT INTERVENTIONS OF THE TEACHER WITHIN THE CES

2014

**Intervention in the only case of sexual harassment at the CES** by a postdoctoral researcher from the ALICE project to a doctoral student in human rights.

03  
january  
2018

**Intervention in a problem derived from the European project** directed by a researcher and coordinator from the CES

12  
january  
2018

**Intervention in the conflict that arose between the CES and the main author of the chapter, Lieselotte Vaiene.**

THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF HIS WORK IS REFLECTED IN THE **21 HONORARY DOCTORATES** THAT HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO HIM.

WHEN THE DEFAMATORY CHAPTER WAS PUBLISHED, SOME **COLLEAGUES WROTE AND SIGNED A MANIFESTO IN THEIR DEFENSE.**

THROUGHOUT HIS ACADEMIC LIFE HE HAS DEALT WITH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, HUNDREDS OF WOMEN, AND **HE HAS NEVER RECEIVED A COMPLAINT ABOUT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR.**

# MAIN ACCUSATIONS OF THE MEDIA AGAINST THE PROFESSOR

## 2. WHAT IS BSS ACCUSED OF?

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Of the **lack of ethical safeguards at the CES** and the **lack of protection for students who filed complaints against him** or against senior officials at the CES.



There is no factual framework for this accusation. **As of 2019, there was an Ethics Commission within the CES.**

# MAIN ACCUSATIONS OF THE MEDIA AGAINST THE PROFESSOR

## 3. WHAT IS BSS ACCUSED OF?

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**He sexually abused a student** and was covered up because he was a high-level researcher.



After the appearance of several graffiti in January 2019, the professor decided to **intervene in the Winter School Ecologies of Feminist Knowledge**. In his speech, **he rejected the idea that a culture of silence existed within the CES**, and exposed the institutional difficulties that existed within the institution and transmitted to the Scientific Council the suggestions that were made there to solve them. It was a sincere, genuine and human statement, which does not typify any type of abuse, sexual intent or insinuation.

**“RADICALISM IS, EVIDENTLY,  
DANGEROUS FOR THE INSTITUTION AND  
IT PARTICULARLY OFFENDS ME, SINCE I  
MAINTAIN THAT **MODERN DOMINATION  
IS CAPITALISM, COLONIALISM AND  
PATRIARCHY. SO I THINK WE HAVE TO  
TAKE A VERY FIRM PEDAGOGICAL  
STANCE.**”**

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# MAIN ACCUSATIONS OF THE MEDIA AGAINST THE PROFESSOR

## 4. WHAT IS BSS ACCUSED OF?

He **abused power** by requiring students to cite his work as the main academic reference in their work; and **appropriated the students' work and knowledge**, denying them their intellectual authorship.



The professor is **member number 3 of the Portuguese Sociology Association.**

Throughout his career he has shared his knowledge and has always felt the responsibility of encouraging young people to embark on academic life.

**It has published the works of 309 researchers, always recognizing their authorship.**

AS IS COMMON THESE DAYS IN  
ACADEMIA, OVER THE YEARS,  
BOAVENTURA HAS HIRED RESEARCH  
ASSISTANTS, WHOM IT HAS PAID FOR  
THEIR WORK. **THESE ASSISTANTS  
WROTE AND SIGNED A MANIFESTO  
DENYING ANY EXTRACTIVISM**

# MAIN ACCUSATIONS OF THE MEDIA AGAINST THE PROFESSOR

## 5. WHAT IS BSS ACCUSED OF?

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He was the **mentor of a network created at the CES of "friends with benefits."**



**Contact with the authors of the defamatory chapter was very limited from the beginning.** The only author with whom he rarely coincided was Lieselotte Viaene. The other authors were not his doctoral students, so he did not have personalized contact with any of them.

# MAIN ACCUSATIONS OF THE MEDIA AGAINST THE PROFESSOR

## 6. WHAT IS BSS ACCUSED OF?

He organized **debauchery sessions** at the Casarão restaurant.



Meetings between students to socialize and debate ideas are very common, for many years in Coimbra.

**These gatherings were born with the objective that students from various doctoral programs could interact outside the classrooms in a less formal environment.** It was a place where everyone was welcome, even students from outside Coimbra attended. Many professional and personal relationships were born from these gatherings.

The teacher attended these meetings not every time and, when he did, not all the time, so he should not be responsible for the interactions that arose from these meetings between adults, without his presence.

**“AT 80 YEARS OLD, I WOULD LIKE TO BE  
ABLE TO FOCUS ON SOMETHING ELSE,  
AND I THINK I DESERVE SOMETHING  
ELSE, BUT I AM WHERE I AM, AND I  
WANT TO ASSUME ALL MY  
OBLIGATIONS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY  
AND LEADERSHIP THAT I MUST HAVE IN  
THIS.”**

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