

Executive Summary of the case Teresa Cunha vs. Boaventura de Sousa Santos

The document provides a detailed and documented chronological analysis of the professional, intellectual and personal relationship between Teresa Cunha (TC) and Boaventura de Sousa Santos (BSS) from 2005 to 2013, with an emphasis on refuting the narrative of victimisation expressed by TC in the so-called 'sixth letter' from the self-styled collective of victims.

Voluntary and Collaborative Relationship

Since the beginning of their academic relationship in 2005, TC has shown admiration, affection and intense collaboration with BSS, who agreed to supervise her PhD despite negative warnings about her. (*Evidence 1: Minutes of 16 March 2005, drafted by TC, evidence respectful and consensual academic relationship*).

Minutes of the orientation meeting with Professor Boaventura

16 March 2005

1- Professor Boaventura was presented with three working hypotheses for her doctoral thesis, corresponding to two broad areas of interest

1.1- To further the study carried out for the master's thesis, including a comparative study (East Timor, Mozambique and Angola).

1.2- Conduct a comparative study (East Timor, Mozambique and Angola) on women leaders in the post-colonial period, their emergence, their biographies and their narratives.

1.3- Study the feminist agenda at the WSF and its consequences within the Forum and for transnational feminist movements.

2- After brief discussions and strategic considerations (intrinsic scientific interest, interest and usefulness for CES and its lines of research, and time and resource constraints), Professor Boaventura suggested using common sense and opting for the first proposal, enriching it and deepening its theoretical and empirical scope.

3- The professor pointed out the interest and need for a comparative study in a doctoral thesis and the novelty of doing so in the space-time of Portuguese colonialism. On the other hand, there was interest in enabling a study that contributes to telling the history of colonialism and the post-colonial period in these countries in a different way, that is, from the biographies and narratives of women as subaltern or subalternised subjects.

It was also discussed that a phenomenological and ethnodescriptive approach involves a certain theoretical apparatus that works on representations and their narratives and requires consistent and in-depth fieldwork. This option has an added difficulty, which is the translation into Portuguese of the languages used by the women. As CES already has research projects in Mozambique and Angola, these could, if interesting, appropriate and possible, serve as a starting point for this work. If the option focuses mainly on the study of women leaders in these countries, the conditions under which they emerged

and exercised power, the theoretical apparatus will be different and will require an in-depth and complex documentary study for which the archives of the Centro 25 de Abril will be fundamental, in addition to the study of the biographies of these women and the contexts in which these leaders emerged and exercised their power. In any case, it is necessary to delimit the research in space and time, taking as possible horizons the dates of political independence (for Angola and Mozambique, 30 years, and East Timor, 5 years) or the post-war periods (considering the end of the war without distinguishing between the war of liberation/colonial war and the civil war), which also varies in the three cases.

4- Finally, Professor Boaventura emphasised that a doctoral thesis is a piece of work that requires the construction of a profound, adequate and consistent theoretical framework; a contextualisation presented in a study that frames and then allows the entry of new data provided by the researcher; the discussion of all analytical and empirical elements; and the construction of new knowledge about the object of study.

It was required that a first research protocol be drafted as soon as possible.

Teresa Cunha

Affective Tone in Communication

Over the years, TC has used language laden with affection and emotional tone in emails and communications, demonstrating a close and natural bond.
(Evidence 2: Email dated 6 October 2009, where he refers to personal gifts and uses intimate expressions).

Date: tue, 6 oct 2009 18:08:45 +0100

Subject: Request for meeting

From: Teresa Amal <[REDACTED]>

For: Boaventura de Sousa Santos <[REDACTED]> Boaventura de Sousa Santos <[REDACTED]>, Paula Meneses <[REDACTED]>

Dear Boaventura,

Dear Paula,

I hope you are well.

First, a brief personal note.

Professor, I hope you liked the kam-batik fabric I bought on the street of mosques in Dili, where the Indonesian Muslim community is concentrated.

Salenda, as this other hand-woven fabric is called, is a traditional fabric from East Timor, in this case from Oecussi. It is known for its colours, but also for its motifs: crocodiles. Salendas are given as gifts to visitors or friends and should be worn over the shoulders. I hope you liked it too.

As for the Timorese silver bracelet, it is one of the bracelets worn by women during dances and ceremonies in the sacred houses of a lulik. In fact, both women and men

adorn their arms with bracelets, usually made of local silver. All are decorated by hand. I hope you liked them.

Now that I have reread my field diaries, annotated and analysed them, I have produced a series of documents to begin mapping the material, but also to evaluate what I have.

The indexes of the thesis I produced throughout the study, in order;

The interview scripts;

The working hypotheses and their evolution throughout the study;

A framework for comparisons;

A summary matrix of all the interviews conducted;

The questions and topics for analysis that stand out;

Finally, the proposals that emerged from my contacts with people.

Paula advised me to work together sometime so that I could start writing with solidity and clarity. It's extraordinary advice, and I'm very grateful to her.

In the meantime, I have a few questions about the writing of the thesis that I would like to leave you with:

- How much importance should I give to self-reflexivity in the thesis as a whole?*
- What place could or should my stories, which are field notes and observations written in a more poetic language, occupy?*
- Given the need to theorise as you go along and the idea that those who write books about books have no place in critical sociology in this century, what do you think is a reasonable balance between the state of the art, methodology and empirical study?*
- Knowing that I am going to present a dissertation at a conservative university coming from a Critical School, what degree of freedom should I employ in the use of language: closed and sober, or essayistic but sober, or ... ?*

Dear professors, I know I give you a lot of work and leave you thousands of pages to read.

I hope that at some point it will be worth it. When can we meet?

Warm regards,

Teresa

Constant Recognition and Gratitude towards BSS

TC repeatedly expresses gratitude and praise for BSS's support in her academic career, including recommendations and scholarships. (*Evidence 3: Email dated 15 July 2010, in which she thanks him for his comments on her thesis and states that she learned a great deal from him*)

Date: Thu, 15 Jul 2010 08:20:57 +0100

Subject: COMMENT Meeting for comments, reprimands, and other observations on the first draft of the thesis.

From: Teresa Amal <[REDACTED]>

For: Boaventura de Sousa Santos <[REDACTED]>

Dear Professor

I was moved that you made this effort amid the whirlwind that is CES and everything else you have on your plate.

First of all, thank you very much and thank you from the bottom of my heart for your wise comments and the encouragement I find in them.

I will start working immediately to refine the text, to make it even more beautiful and fluid to read. I used your text on abyssal thinking a lot in the fourth chapter, when I sociologically analyse the Portuguese colonial cycle in the Indian Ocean. I read all the feminist authors from the South that I use with extra attention because I had to turn many of my own assumptions upside down.

I recognise that they are not very well known, let alone dominant, but they are of enormous theoretical and analytical richness, and weaving my knowledge with theirs was one of the ways in which I practised "learning from the South". But I'm going to take a closer look at this plot.

What you call my charming style is one of the biggest risks I decided to take because I find in it the vitality that is often neglected in academic sociological writing and a very serious struggle against the waste of experiences, subjectivities and texts. All my experimentalism and everything I have done so far is steeped in the profound teachings I received from you. I have no doubt about the merit of this dissertation.

Please accept a heartfelt hug.

Yours sincerely,

T

Reiterated desire for integration into CES and proximity to BSS

TC repeatedly expresses her desire to formally belong to CES and continue working with BSS, even requesting to be supervised by him during her postdoctoral studies.

(Evidence 5: Email dated 23 June 2011, formally requesting supervision for a new postdoctoral fellowship).

Date: Thu, 23 Jun 2011 11:32:01 +0100

Subject: Approval of postdoctoral project by the CES CC

From: Teresa Amal <[REDACTED]>

To: Boaventura de Sousa Santos <[REDACTED]>

Dear Professor Boaventura

I hope you are well, wherever you are.

Firstly, I would like to reiterate my congratulations on this well-deserved award. I am very pleased to ask you to accompany me as a supervisor in my application for a postdoctoral

fellowship at the FCT, as my proposal has been approved and accepted by the CES scientific council. _ (. . .)

Contradictions with the Subsequent Victimisation Account

TC's recent statements, in which she alleges harassment or misconduct on the part of BSS, contrast with 13 years of warm, collaborative and voluntary correspondence. (Exhibit 6: Email dated 5 July 2010, in which she refers to BSS as 'Dad' and asks for a personal meeting).

In reality, what I really want is to hear you comment on my work, because I miss your voice, your analysis of what I have studied and written, more and more every day, because those will be the words and ideas that are truly relevant and necessary for me to move forward.

I ask you, Papa (as they say in Mozambique), to let me know when you think you can talk to me about my thesis. I need to hear from you, I need to ease my anxiety, I need to manage these months before I have to resume my full-time teaching duties at the beginning of September.

Don't be angry, Papa!

Cheers, hakuak no laran domin

Yours

T

Absence of Formal Complaint or Breakup Until Years Later

TC did not make any formal complaints or allegations during the years covered, nor did she distance herself from BSS or CES, but rather insisted on her integration and professional association.

The body of evidence, carefully transcribed and dated, demonstrates a voluntary, long-lasting and close academic and emotional relationship, with no documentary evidence of coercion, harassment or victimisation. The document calls into question the credibility of the accusations subsequently made by TC, suggesting a malicious reinterpretation of facts that, at the time, were assessed positively.
