

Proceedings of the

First Economy of Francesco (EoF)

Portugal Conference





FIRST EOF PORTUGAL CONFERENCE

Proceedings of the First Economy of Francesco (EoF) Portugal Conference
01st of July 2022 | Faculty of Economics, University of Coimbra, Coimbra - Portugal

Edited by Matheus Belucio & José Alberto Fuinhas

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Abstracts were read and selected by the Scientific Committee of the First Economy of Francesco (EoF) Portugal Conference. All manuscripts underwent a double-blind peer review process to be presented at the First EoF Portugal Conference.

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ISBN: 978-972-9344-10-7 | Support: Eletronic | Format: n.d.

Editor: Universidade de Coimbra. Faculdade de Economia. Av. Dias da Silva, 165,
3004-512, Coimbra, Portugal

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Book cover: Manoela Martins Nogueira

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INDEX

SUPPORTING DECISION-MAKERS USING AN ECO-EFFICIENCY MULTIMETHODOLOGY TOOL: A CASE OF BUILDING RETROFITS.....	14
THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION´ OF POPE FRANCIS.....	16
RUSSIAN DOLL OF SUSTAINABILITY: FACTOR ENDOWMENTS, DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL EQUALITY AND INCOME INEQUALITY IN THE POST-COMMUNIST CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES	18
LABOR, MATERNITY AND UNDERGRADUATE LIFE: PROFILE OF FEMALE STUDENTS AT A PRIVATE INSTITUTION FROM BRAZIL.....	22
THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 CRISIS ON RELIGIOUS TOURISM OF FATIMA	24
LAW AND ECONOMICS: NECESSARY COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS	26
EVALUATION OF THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROCESS LINKED TO INDUSTRY 4.0: A STUDY IN BRAZILIAN COMPANIES.....	29
INCOME INEQUALITY AND ECONOMIC FREEDOM REVISITED: ARE FREEDOM AND EQUALITY CONFLICTING VALUES? EVIDENCE FROM THE 21 ST CENTURY ...	32
THE EFFECT OF POLITICAL CONNECTIONS ON EARNINGS MANAGEMENT: EVIDENCE FROM ECB-SUPERVISED BANKS.....	36
AUTOMATION AND CARE IN THE 21 ST CENTURY.....	38
FOR “A POOR CHURCH FOR THE POOR”: THE INFLUENCE OF POPE FRANCIS IN ACTIONS TO FIGHT POVERTY	40
SOCIAL EXPENDITURE COMPOSITION AND INEQUALITY: A DYNAMIC PANEL THRESHOLD ANALYSIS FOR OECD COUNTRIES	42
ON THE INTERDEPENDENCIES BETWEEN MORTGAGE, CREDIT CARD, AND AUTO LOANS DELINQUENCY RATES: EVIDENCE FROM THE US STATES PLUS THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	43
THE IMPACT OF FOOD ENVIRONMENT POLICIES IN PORTUGAL – A CRITICAL REVIEW	44
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENTREPRENEURIAL RESILIENCE, SERVANT LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY ORIENTATION	47
THE ECONOMY OF FRANCISCO AND CLARA: EDUARDO BRASILEIRO'S ETHICS OF CARE STRENGTHENING ECO-COMMUNITY AUTONOMY NETWORKS	49
ON THE IMPACTS OF SOCIETY SATISFACTION ON SMES CAPITAL STRUCTURE ..	52
SOCIAL CAPITAL AND CHILD PROTECTION INSTITUTIONS IN BRAZIL	55
SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE WORLD OF LABOUR AIDED BY FREE AND OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE (FLOSS): BRAZILIAN EXPERIENCES.....	57

SYMMETRIC AND ASYMMETRIC EFFECTS OF ECO-INNOVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN ITALY: EVIDENCE FROM ARDL AND NON-LINEAR ARDL APPROACHES.....	59
ECB QUANTITATIVE EASING POLICIES IN THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WITH HIGHER PUBLIC DEBT	62
ECO-EFFICIENCY IN THE INSURANCE SECTOR IN THE EUROPEAN UNION	64
CARE AND WORK IN COLOMBIA.....	66
DIGITAL MATURITY ASSESSMENT (INDUSTRY 4.0): STUDY IN NORTHEASTERN BRAZILIAN COMPANIES USING THE CESAR INDEX.....	70

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PRESENTATION

EoF Portugal Conference

In a letter addressed especially to young people in May 2019, Pope Francis challenged everyone to participate in an event with the purpose of (re)thinking a different economy, "which makes people live and does not kill, includes and does not exclude, humanizes and does not dehumanize, takes care of creation and does not devastate it".

The figure chosen to inspire reflection was Saint Francis of Assisi, the saint who stripped himself of all forms of self-centeredness to put his life at the service of the poorest, the saint of care for the weak and integral ecology.

This is how Economy of Francesco (EoF) was born - a worldwide movement led by the younger generations but which wants to reach everyone, with the objective of promoting a more organic economy, which integrates and expands the active concern for the environment but also for the relationships and bonds that unite us all.

In Portugal, we took on this mission from day one; thus, the EoF Portugal network was born! We are a network of people, professionals, researchers, entrepreneurs, and students, who move through this new paradigm, seek to challenge, promote reflection, and question what needs to be transformed in the established economy in favor of an economy more centered on love and in caring for what surrounds us.

The First Economy of Francesco Portugal Conference is another of EoF Portugal's initiatives that seek to bring young and senior participants together in an academic environment that is plural and open to interaction and discussion. There are 12 research areas covered: Management and Gift; Finance and Humanity; Work and Care; Agriculture and Justice; Energy and Poverty; Business and Peace; Women for Economy; CO2 of Inequalities; Vocation and Profit; Business in transition; Life and Lifestyle; and Policies for Happiness. However, other works are welcome for the free theme, thus reinforcing the invitation to people from all areas.

Given one of our pillars of including and not excluding, the EoF Portugal Conference will not charge fees to authors and/or participants. All abstracts will be peer-reviewed, and those accepted will be published in the event proceedings.

To learn more about the Portuguese initiative:
<https://eonomiadefrancisco.org/index.php/sobre-nos>

To learn more about the international Economy of Francesco initiative:
<https://francescoeconomy.org/>

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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENTREPRENEURIAL RESILIENCE, SERVANT LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY ORIENTATION

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ABSTRACT

Objective:

The purpose of this research is to deeply investigate the relationship between entrepreneurial resilience, servant leadership and sustainability orientation. Recently, Batool et al. (2022) investigate the relationship between servant leadership and organisational sustainability, underlying the mediation role of creativity and employees' psychological resilience. But nothing is said about the role of entrepreneurial resilience. In particular, nothing is said about the relationship between the resilience of the entrepreneur and the leadership style in small- and medium-sized enterprises (Hutchinson et al., 2021), and the interdependences between resilience, leadership and sustainability orientation. Since the strong association between leadership and resilience (Förster and Duchek, 2017) and the (underdeveloped) link between entrepreneurial resilience and sustainability orientation (Khizar et al., 2022; Schutte and Mberi, 2020), in this research we want to well-defined the relationship between entrepreneurial resilience, leadership style and sustainability orientation, considering this last factor in its three pillars (i.e., social, environmental and economic sustainability). Our research questions are the followings:

RQ1: Does the entrepreneurial resilience affect the leadership style in small firms?

RQ2: If and how the previous relationship affects the sustainability orientation?

Methodology:

We want to collect data from small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), since the close relationship between the characteristic of the owners of these companies and the concept of servant leadership (van Dierendonck, 2011), the crucial role of entrepreneurial resilience in fostering organisational resilience in this type of firms (Branicki et al., 2018) and the fact that they are the backbone of our socio-economic system (Alberti et al., 2018), a prominent role in contributing to a sustainable society.

In order to test our research questions, we will implement an explanatory sequential mixed method (Creswell and Creswell, 2018, p. 222), “a two-phase data collection project in which the researcher collects quantitative data in the first phase, analyses the results, and then uses the results to plan (or build on to) the second, qualitative phase”.

Originality:

Theoretically speaking, our research could stimulate a fruitful research stream in leadership and entrepreneurship studies, combining resilience and sustainability.

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In introducing entrepreneurial resilience as a new antecedent for servant leadership, our research suggests that both personal and professional (negative) experiences and their successive elaboration can lead to a specific leadership style, influencing the orientation in implementing actions for the community in terms of sustainability. This research can contribute to rethink the idea of business and the idea of a future, more fraternal economy.

Results:

We expect to shed some light on the relationship between the previous mentioned concepts. In the first phase of the research we expect to classify (in a matrix) the entrepreneurs according to their value of resilience and leadership style. In the second stage, we expect to underly the differences of the characteristics of the entrepreneurs in terms of sustainability orientation.

Practical implications:

Our research can contribute to explore the best leadership style in stimulating a “fraternal” and sustainable success. Thanks to this research, an entrepreneur can be more aware toward her/his past experiences, her/his actions and how she/he can contribute to the flourishing of the community. The personal human development should become the bridge for the community development.

Research limitations:

The main limitation of our research could be represented by the measurement of our variables, since the literatures related to this concepts lack of scholarly (total) agreement on their operationalisation and measurement (Branicki et al., 2018; Khizar et al., 2022; van Dierendonck, 2011).

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Keywords: entrepreneurial resilience; servant leadership; sustainability orientation; small- and medium-sized enterprises.

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The authors are grateful for the collaboration and support of the Faculty of Economics, University of Coimbra; CeBER - Centre for Business and Economics Research; Atlântico Business School; Cáritas Portuguesa; Associação Senhores Bichinhos; Associação Just a Change; Pax et Bonum Traduções; and Economy of Francesco (EoF). Our sincere gratitude to Professor Américo Mendes; Brother Rodrigo Péret, OFM; Renato Santiago; and all committees members.

July 2022 | Coimbra - Portugal

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