UNIVERSIDADE
CATÓLICA
PORTUGUESA

COURSES CATALOGUE

COMMUNITY, COMMUNITIES
Lisboa, Portugal | 25–29 May

SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION

ACADEMIC LEAD: *PETER HANENBERG*

Professor Peter Hanenberg serves as Vice-Rector for Research and Doctoral Education, Director of the Católica Doctoral School (CADOS) and Associate Professor at Católica's Faculty of Human Sciences. His research focuses on European literature and culture, the idea of Europe and its representation, and the intersection of cognitive sciences and cultural studies.

CHECK THE PROFILE HERE

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Society in the 21st century is undergoing a fast and profound societal transformation, accomplished (and often driven) by environmental and digital transformation. To understand the societal dimension of this transformation, it is necessary to look at a complex set of conditions and structures which characterize today's society. Demographic change, geopolitical reconfiguration and economic uncertainty go hand in hand with new forms of extended experience: in the diversity of cultures as much as in the claims of protected communities, in a seemingly unlimited notion of space (through global markets and easy traveling) as much as in the apocalyptical fears of what has been called the last generation. The present course sheds light on this societal transformation of" Community- Communities" by focusing both on the analysis of the underlying challenges and on tentative proposals for their solution. The course is conceived as a training of knowledge entrepreneurs – the overall objective of the Transform4Europe alliance. By promoting an entrepreneurial mindset, the course prepares personal and collective action.

2. TARGET GROUP

The course is open to students and staff members of partner universities within the Transform4Europe Alliance.

3. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

The course combines different teaching and learning formats, including expert-led lectures **"Setting the Scene"**, interactive seminars and hands-on workshops. Workshop outcomes, including those developed within the digital and environmental transformation courses, will be shared in the **"Assembly of Experience"**, followed by a final online session dedicated to the presentation and discussion of individual reflections.

4. WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:
- Understand the complexity of digital transformation in contemporary societies.
- Identify and critically discuss key challenges linked to digital transformation.
- Explore new approaches to addressing digital and societal change.
- Engage actively within the Transform4Europe academic community.

5. COURSE FORMAT AND TIMELINE

Blended format:
- **Face-to-face component:** Integrated within T4EU Week 2026 (Lisbon).
- **Virtual component:** May 2026 (once the date is confirmed, you will be contacted with further details and the meeting invitation).

6. ASSESSMENT/COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

To successfully complete the course and receive the **3 ECTS**, participants must:
- Attend at least **80% of the face-to-face activities**.
- Submit an **individual pitch**, presented during the online component of the course.

Assessment is expressed on an **"approved/not approved"** basis.

7. MINIMUM ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

Not applicable beyond the assessment requirements stated above.

8.MANDATORY READING

- Beck, Ulrich. 2013. World at Risk. Polity.
- *Community – Communities*. 2026. Lisbon: UCP press (forthcoming).
- Diamond, Jared. 2005. Collapse: *How Societies Choose to Fail or Survive*. Penguin.
- Han, Byung-Chul. 2015. *The burnout society*. Stanford University Press.
- Rosa, Hartmut. 2019. Resonance: *A Sociology of Our Relationship to the World. Polity*.

UNIVERSIDADE CATOLICA PORTUGUESA TRANSFORM 4EUROPE Co-funded by the European Union T4EUWEEK

ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSFORMATION

ACADEMIC LEAD: *JOÃO MARQUES CORTEZ*

Professor João Marques Cortez is Director of the Research and Innovation Office at Católica. Researcher and science-and-technology management professional at Católica with a PhD in Applied Biotechnology, working at the interface of research, innovation and institutional development. He has extensive international experience in European and academic projects, with a strong focus on knowledge transfer, research policy and scientific entrepreneurship.

CHECK THE PROFILE HERE

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Society in the 21st century is undergoing a fast and profound environmental transformation, accomplished (and often driven) by societal and digital transformation, among others. To understand the environmental dimension of this transformation, it is necessary to look at a complex set of conditions and structures which characterize today's society. Environmental transformation is essential for shaping both our present and future as a society, as it ensures the long-term health of the ecosystems we depend on, supports sustainable economic development, and protects communities from escalating climate risks, as well as health impacts. Achieving this transformation must go beyond technological solutions; it demands a collective commitment to learning, adapting, and developing the skills needed to rethink how we produce, consume, and interact. The foundation for meaningful change must arise from fostering environmental literacy, encouraging critical thinking, and empowering individuals with the knowledge to innovate responsibly, thus becoming the driving force to respond to environmental challenges as well as to proactively build a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future.

The present course sheds light on this environmental transformation of" Community- Communities" by focusing both on the analysis of the underlying challenges and on tentative proposals for their solution. The course is conceived as a training of knowledge entrepreneurs – the overall objective of the Transform4Europe alliance. By promoting an entrepreneurial mindset, the course prepares personal and collective action.

2. TARGET GROUP
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3. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS
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4. WHAT YOU WILL LEARN
By the end of the course, participants will be able to:
- Understand the complexity of digital transformation in contemporary societies.
- Identify and critically discuss key challenges linked to digital transformation.
- Explore new approaches to addressing digital and societal change.
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5. COURSE FORMAT AND TIMELINE
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8.MANDATORY READING
- Beck, Ulrich. 2013. *World at Risk*. Polity.
- *Community – Communities*. 2026. Lisbon: UCP press (forthcoming).
- Edmondson, B. (Ed.). (2023). *Sustainability Transformations, Social Transitions and Environmental Accountabilities*.
- Chambers et al. (2022). *Co-productive agility and collaborative pathways to sustainability transformations*.
- UNCTAD Digital Economy Report (2024): *Digitalization and Environmental Sustainability*.
- Hayat, Zhang & Husnain (2025) *Toward a Sustainable Digital Future: A Comprehensive Study on Digital Transformation and Environmental Sustainability*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Francisco Mendes-Palma (T4EU@UCP Institutional Coordinator)
+351 917 286 818 | fpalma@ucp.pt

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T4EUWEEK

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

ACADEMIC LEAD: *LUÍS BARRETO XAVIER*

Professor Luís Barreto Xavier is an Invited Professor at the Faculty of Law of Universidade Católica Portuguesa. Researcher and teacher in areas including Digital Law and Artificial Intelligence Law. Professor Luís Barreto Xavier has held leadership roles in international legal education and serves as President of the Knowledge Institute and consultant at Abreu Advogados.

CHECK THE PROFILE HERE

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Society in the 21st century is experiencing a profound digital transformation closely linked to environmental and social change, driven mainly by the internet and artificial intelligence. While these technologies create new opportunities for economic growth and human development, they also pose risks such as threats to democracy, labor disruption, cybercrime, privacy loss, and social exclusion. This course examines these challenges within the "Community – Communities" framework, encouraging a digital mindset and collective action as part of the Transform4Europe initiative.

The present course sheds light on this digital transformation of" Community- Communities" by focusing both on the analysis of the underlying challenges and on tentative proposals for their solution. The course is conceived as a training of knowledge entrepreneurs – the overall objective of the Transform4Europe alliance. By promoting an entrepreneurial mindset, the course prepares personal and collective action.

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- *Community – Communities* (2026). Lisbon: UCP Press (forthcoming).
- Floridi, Luciano (2014). *The Fourth Revolution: How the Infosphere is Reshaping Human Reality*. Oxford University Press.
- Zuboff, Shoshana (2019). *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*. Profile Books.
- Susskind, Richard (2025). *How to Think About AI: A Guide for the Perplexed*. Oxford University Press.