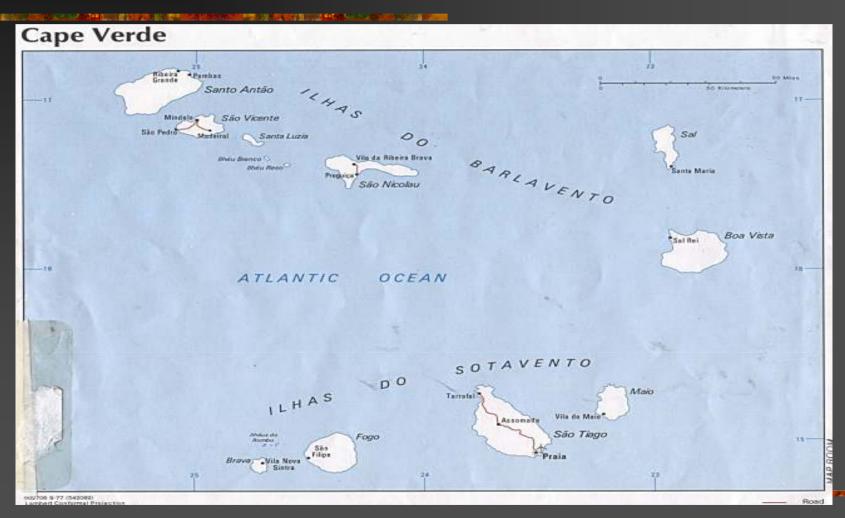
Cape Verdean migrants: who is using the Internet as a political lever?

Sónia Melo

A bit of geography



The Cape Verdean Islands



The Black Atlantic



Diaspora?

All diasporic journeys are composite. They emerge of heterogeneous and contested spaces in the construction of a common 'we'. Diasporic groups are not necessarily homogeneous or bounded by a single identity. Within themselves different regimes of power operate (class, gender, race, sexuality, religion, original regional location or identity, etc.)

Transnational and diasporic spaces

- In order not to essentialize the identity and politics of diasporic groups, it is perhaps better to think of diaspora as a category of practice (Brubaker, 2005) used to make claims, to articulate projects, to formulate expectations, to mobilize energies and appeal to loyalties. Also because not all members of a putative diaspora adopt a diasporic stance.
- The Internet has facilitated the cultural and communication flows among transnational/diasporic subjects. Moreover, it has enabled the creation of transnational social spaces (Karim, 2003)

New media replaces 'old media'?

- People's mobility from and to the islands has long relied on boat connections and, more recently, on air connections.
- The role of barrels, packages, letters and phone calls have long been crucial to the maintenance of links between Cape Verdeans.
- The Internet and the sort of communication technologies it offers (chat, sites, email, etc) is not replacing old forms but complementing them.

Production and circulation

- The Cape Verdean diaspora in the U.S. has been one of the most active in producing Internet sites.
- Cape Verdeans based in Cape Verde have also been using the Internet to connect with Cape Verdeans living outside the country.
- In Portugal, most of the sites produced by and for Cape Verdeans are put together by students recently arrived to the country from Cape Verde.









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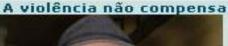
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 As vezes, nós os pais, superestimamos de tal maneira os nossos que em vez de os ajudarmos acabamos por prejudicá-los. Também, outras vezes, nós subestimamos os nossos e com palavras...[leia mais]

Pepé typifies a



Caboverdian-American experience Each time that I see Pedro Xavier, better known as 'Pepe' to his friends, in the bustling lobby of the Central Falls Bank of America branch he manages...

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On October 14, 2001, nine young men made a commitment to be of service to their community.



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O Mayor Jim Harrington cortou as fitas da cerimónia que assinala a reabertura do restaurante Sodade em Brockton, na presença de elementos da sua equipa de trabalho, e outras entidades representativas da...[leia mais]



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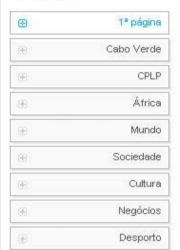




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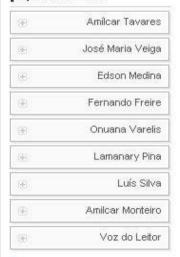
MpD: Agostinho Lopes despede-se da liderança com críticas ao governo e recados internos



Agostinho Lopes despediu-se, sexta-feira, da liderança do MpD com críticas ao governo, ao poder judicial e à comunicação social e com apelos à reorganização interna, depois de assumir a sua responsabilidade pelos maus resultados eleitorais das legislativas.

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Brasil: Destroços do avião que despenhou localizado no Mato Grosso



O avião da Gol desaparecido desde a tarde de sexta-feira foi localizado pelos aviões da Força Aérea Brasileira a 200 quilômetros do município de Peixoto de Azevedo, no Mato Grosso, região de difícil acesso, no Alto Xingu. Os destroços estão perto de uma fazenda chamada Jarinã.

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Cabo Verde

- Jorge Santos propõe reorganização do MpD na VIII Convenção Nacional
- Ministério da Justiça amplia Cadeia Civil de São Martinho
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A new diasporic sociality?

■ The sites want to create a community of affinity or, in Law's (2003) terms, an 'imagined community of action' based on the grounds that people share a common ancestry, place of birth or family ties back in Cape Verde. Moreover they also share the experience of migration. The networks of people dispersed across space are now thought as 'added value'.

The sites display different language politics.

Different groups, different politics?

- The Cape Verdean diaspora in the US uses the Internet not only to empower their group within US society but also to create a diasporic and networked sociality among CV over the Internet.
- Their counterparts in Portugal seem to be particularly interested in building alliances with other ethnic groups originating from other former Portuguese colonies.