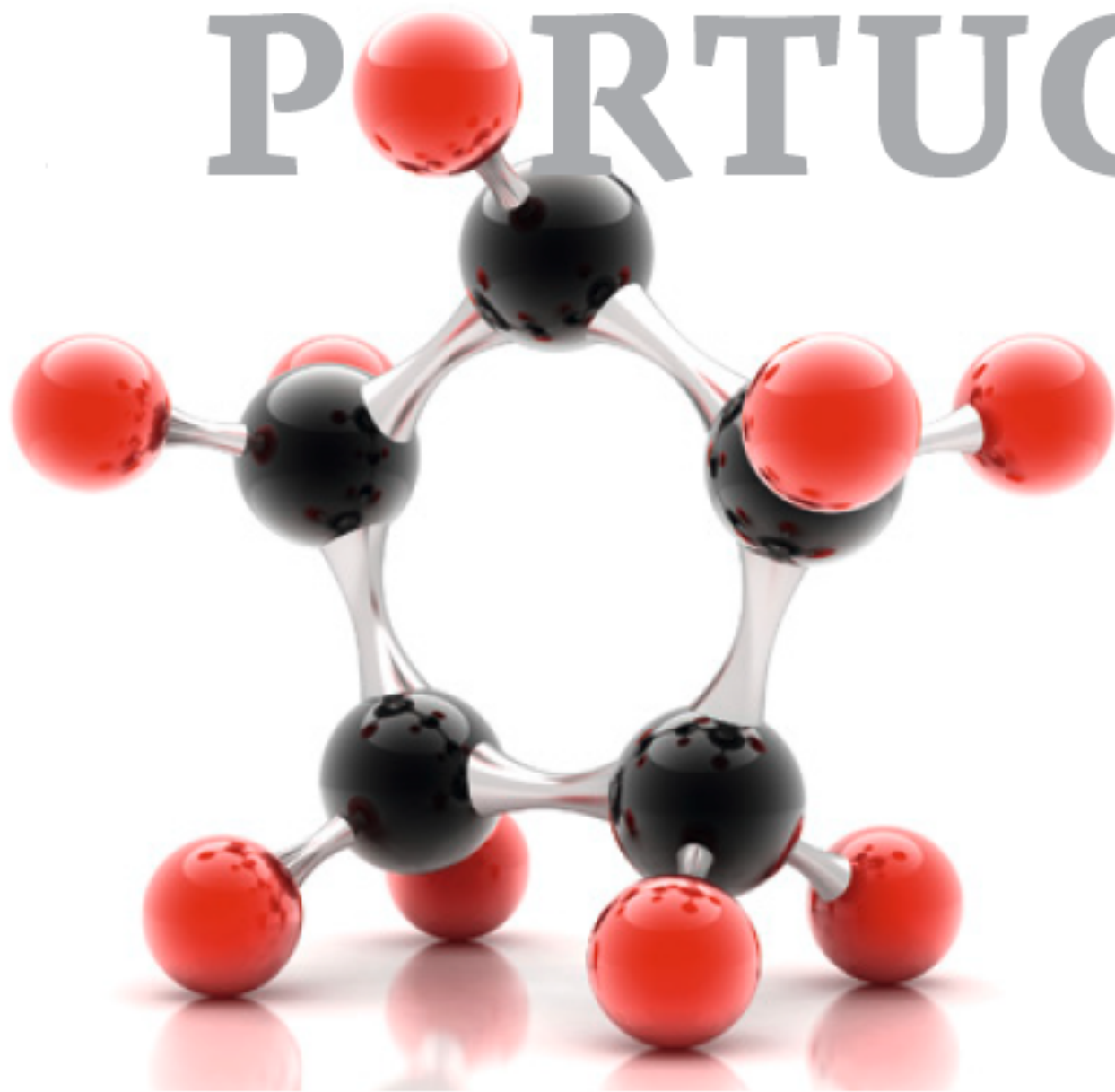
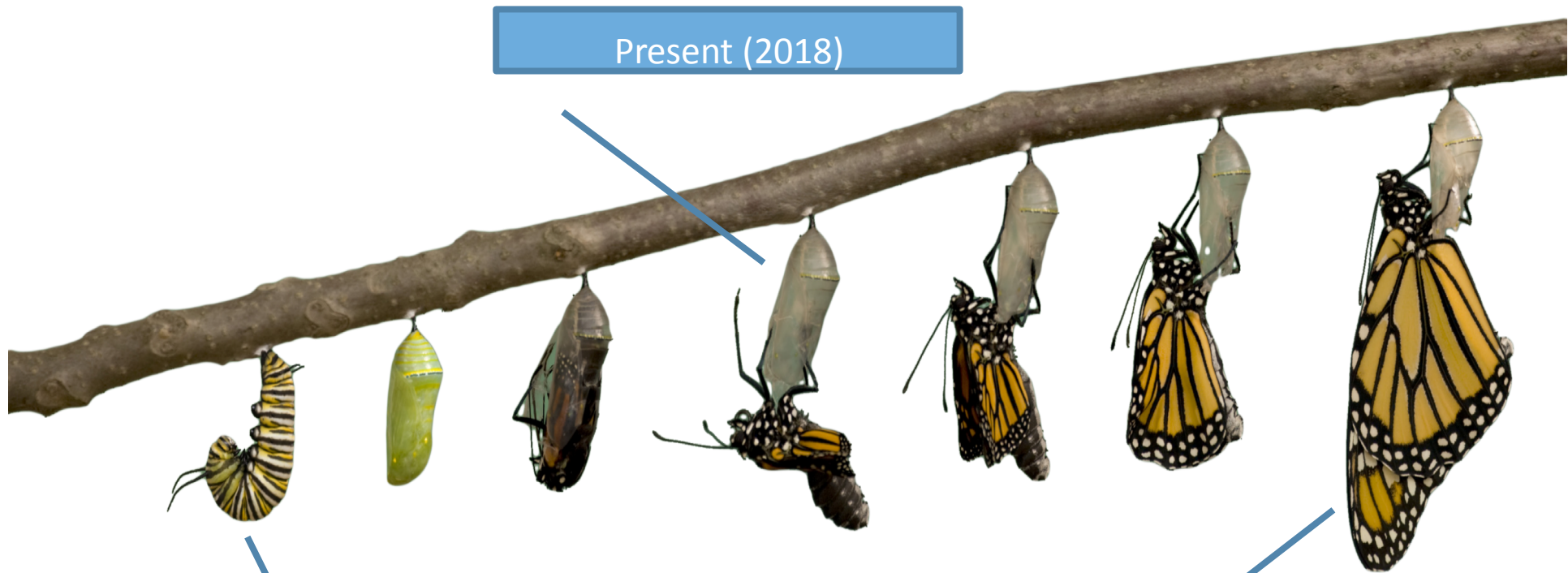


# P

PORTUGAL



**SCIENCE COMMUNICATION**



Present (2018)

Positional days

Future: SC and SJ as emancipated fields

# Context

## Notorious growth in the last 20 years:

- Creation of science communication and outreach offices both in labs and in HEIs (89,9% claim an increase in SC activities);
- More visible action from scientific societies;
- Consolidation and expansion of science museums and science centres (40 museums);
- There's a clearer notion of what is science communication and a bigger awareness on its relevance.;
- *Top down* and unidirectional approach in science communication and outreach.

## However ... in the past 5 years...

- Decrease of science communication and outreach activities;
- Interruption of longer term strategies and a reduction of activities both in public funded institutions and private companies;
- Lack of well-trained science journalists; Very good training in scientific illustration.
- Impoverishment of specialized journalism (shortage of space in news, resources and infrastructures);
- Increasing interest in SC activities from scientists as they see it as a way of social legitimation of science;

- Increasing competition for scarce resources has led to an atomization of SC projects and lack of sustainability of the efforts undertaken.
  
- Interesting emerging projects (*bottom-down*): e.g. PubhD Porto; STOL; Pint of Science



- Increasing role of SC offices in political events (e.g.: march for science, manifestos, etc).



# Science journalism: the mistress and the dessert

- Science journalist  $\neq$  Science advocate
- Science Journalist  $\neq$  Science seller
- Low, but consolidated, coverage of some subjects. (e.g.: health related topics).
- Researchers and press releases are the privileged sources but there's a complete omission regarding the type of research and evidences.
- Shortage of the range of topics covered.



# What's to be done

- An history of science journalism and science communication in Portugal;
- The emancipation of science journalism;
- The emancipation of science outreach and public engagement activities from the idea that is science is always a fun thing and a play;
- A map of science museums and centres;
- A significant improvement in science journalism training and science communication (with a distinction between both).
- It still lacks a strong Government policy and will on the promotion of a scientific culture.



# In a nutshell...

- **Challenges & Opportunities**

- More emphasis in science journalism and science writing and not only on science communicators and science communication offices;
- Clearer distinction, but complementarity, between science communication, science outreach and public engagement activities;
- Increasing competition for scarce resources has led to an atomization of SC projects despite the fact that scientific infrastructures are more mature in terms of SC activities.
- Creativity, resilience and persistence from SC professionals.

*vulnera in quaestionibus*



**Any European common pattern out of all this  
process of change?**

# Filipa M. Ribeiro

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