

CURRICULUM VITÆ

PAULO DE JESUS · Born in Torres Novas in 1964

A cartography of being, through days, shadows, and light

“What is life? How to live it? How to embrace the cycle of life?”

What matters most: family · friends · art.”

I. THE CROSSING OF PLACES & KNOWLEDGE (1964 — PRESENT)

Where I come from; how landscapes and learning shaped who I am.

Born in 1964 in Torres Novas, Portugal, my journey unfolds across seven foundational stations: 1. Torres Novas (birth) · 2. Soalheira · 3. Lisbon · 4. Riachos · 5. Geneva · 6. Chavannes-Renens · 7. Montreux.

- **First foundations** : The wooden desks of the primary schools of Restelo (Lisbon), Soalheira, and Riachos; the cathode-ray tube screen of the Télé Escola of yesteryear, followed by the workshop discipline of the Escola Industrial of Torres Novas.
- **The Swiss anchorage** : Leaving for Switzerland, training at the Cours Industriels of Geneva, then the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL). Between the Almonda and the Rhône, a bridging identity uniting Atlantic radiance with Swiss clarity and restraint.

II. THE WORKSHOP OF CRAFT, SYSTEMS & SCIENCE

The building structure, the Academy, and the service of science.

Rather than a conventional path, I chose agility and the field:

- **1987 — 1998 · Zschokke** : Eleven years of hands-on learning on major construction sites, from civil engineering works in Switzerland to the equatorial frontier of Kourou in French Guiana, where human structures rise between the primary rainforest and the spaceport.
- **1998 — 2021 · EPFL** : Twenty-three years serving the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. From the Special Mathematics Course (CMS) to the Central IT Service (SIC), and later as head of IT for the Department of Architecture (and ENAC).
- **2021 — 2026 · ExcellGene (Monthey, Noville)** : Chief Information Officer (CIO). Directing the digital ecosystem of a pioneering company (Maria & Florian Wurm, founders) in cellular biotechnology. Uniting technical rigor, data integrity, and a humane responsiveness to research teams. All alongside colleagues of the highest professional and personal standing.

III. THE DARKROOM & THE GAZE

Capturing the fleeting, inhabiting the chiaroscuro.

Photography: a way of questioning time, embracing impermanence, and gathering the textures of light.

- **Instruments of silence** : The Leica cameras for the swift sharpness of the eye, the medium-format Hasselblad for meditative depth, the Yashica for the unadorned honesty of the frame and its vintage soul.
- **Media of the image** : The silver grain of analog film, the solar alchemy of cyanotype, the unvarnished immediacy of Polaroid, and the contemporary precision of the digital sensor.
- **Shared traces** : “Sur le Fil” (photographic book created with Caroline Christiansen, 2015); the “escuro” exhibition at the ELA Gallery at EPFL alongside Carla de Jesus, my sister (2020 / 2022); and my visual journals on tsulacus.com and escuro.ch.

IV. INVISIBLE COMPANIONS OF THE MIND

What I have read or what I am reading.

To understand the landscape of my mind, one must open the books in my library and explore the museums I have visited:

- **Voices of the homeland** : Fernando Pessoa for metaphysical disquiet and fruitful saudade; José Saramago for lucid rebellion and compassionate humanism; Eça de Queiroz for a sharp, tender gaze upon the human comedy; Miguel Sousa Tavares (No teu deserto) for the unvarnished truth of solitude; António Lobo Antunes for the wrenching of memory and the wounded song of the Portuguese soul, and so many others.
- **Lucidity and the passage of time** : Spinoza (Ethics) for joy conceived as the supreme sovereignty of the mind; Roland Barthes (Camera Lucida) for the punctum that strikes true; Annie Ernaux (The Years) for intimate memory woven into collective history; Carl Sagan (Cosmos) for the sublime humility of our stardust; Umberto Eco (The Name of the Rose), Haruki Murakami (Kafka on the Shore), and Desmond Morris (The Naked Ape) for the enigma of signs, dreamscapes, and the truths of our animal nature.
- **Sanctuaries visited** : The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and Serralves in Portugal, the Museu Nacional Soares dos Reis in Porto, the Louvre in Paris, MoMA in New York, the Prado in Madrid, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Fondation Beyeler in Basel, Photo Élysée and MCBA in Lausanne, Fondation de l'Hermitage, Fotomuseum Winterthur, the Pully Museum of Art, Kunsthaus Zurich, Musée Jenisch in Vevey, Musée d'Art et d'Histoire (MAH) in Geneva, Fondation Pierre Gianadda in Martigny...

V. THE SOUNDTRACK OF A LIFE, THE BODY IN MOTION & HORIZONS

Rhythms, vertigo, stride, and worldly paths.

- **Music as breath** : Jazz (the art of improvisation and the freedom of dialogue), Classical music (sacred elevation and architectural purity), Portuguese music (Fado, Portuguese guitar, the raw cry of a soul faithful to its roots), and Rock & Pop (untamed vital energy).
- **Running & endurance** : The steady metronome of breath against the earth, a meditation in motion open to the wind: the legendary Sierre-Zinal race (at the foot of the five 4000m peaks), several completed marathons, cross-country, mountain running, and track laps where tension dissolves in effort.
- **Trekking & high mountains** : Contemplative ascents, the silence of peaks, the art of bivouacking, and long-distance walking.
- **Traversed horizons** : From Japan to the Azores, Canada, New York, Madeira, Porto Santo, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Bosnia, Germany, Austria, France, Turkey... Not to collect borders, but to let the elsewhere broaden the heart.

VI. THE CONSTELLATION OF THE HEART & THE CYCLE OF LIFE

Loves, trials, bereavements, and unwavering loyalties.

An existence is not a calm and quiet river:

- **Lineage and transmission** : Ancestral roots (Henriqueta & Antonio, Romão & Lurdes, Meral & Ihsan); my children (Hugo, Diogo); our shared home with Selin, my wife; the family circle of sisters, brothers, and loved ones (Guida & Pedro Folques, Aninhas & João Pereira, Lina, Carla...).
- **The circle of the faithful (Friends)** : Maria João, Florian, Alexandre Maniés, Paulo Belo, Manuela Paulos, João Panhol, Barbara Morais, Antonio & Appoline Raposo, Richard, Vanessa, Sérgio, Pauline, Vlad... This steadfast clan with whom to share bread, wine, laughter, silences, and genuine words.
- **Bereavements & the passing cycle** : The departure of Antonio de Jesus, the loss of Ihsan Gecim. Absences that hollow the chest and teach us to embrace the living with greater tenderness.
- **The trial etched in DNA** : Living with Lynch syndrome. Regarding the fragility of the flesh not as a paralyzing shadow, but as a daily reminder of the world's beauty and an invitation to clear-eyed gratitude.

VII. WHAT I CARRY WITHIN

In response to the opening questions.

Confronting the three cardinal questions — “What is life? How to live it? How to embrace the cycle of life?” —, I offer no dogma, but an attitude of the soul:

- **1. The craftsman's measure :** Untangling complexity without pretense, striving to order chaos with method, and honoring humanity in work.
- **2. The watchful eye :** Knowing that in the deepest darkness (escuro), light always breaks through, if only one has the patience to wait and to look.
- **3. The heart's fidelity :** Keeping promises, cherishing loved ones, honoring the memory of those who have departed, and offering friends frank, straightforward words.
- **4. Embracing the cycle :** Surrendering to the rhythm of seasons, loving without seeking to possess, and greeting each morning with wonder.

“Living on the edge of the wire, with eyes wide open.”

PAULO DE JESUS
