



CICLO

**CONFERÊNCIAS 20|21**

ISPA - INSTITUTO UNIVERSITÁRIO

# COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY IN THE FACE OF NEW TOTAL INSTITUTIONS: THE CASE OF MIGRANT DETENTION



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During the last few decades, migration-related detention has become a measure, embedded in a complex set of immigration and border control policies, increasingly used by states to govern transborder human mobility. In this context, migration-related detention centres have become new total institutions used to confine 'unwanted' non-nationals and achieve immigration-related aims, such as deportation. This measure, and border control more broadly, is strongly affecting the lives of migrants, their families and communities at large.

Within the quite limited body of empirical research produced on migration-related detention, the majority of contributions in the medical and psychological fields have been dedicated to assessing the clinical consequences of detention, detailing the long-term psychological distress that it causes on those subject to it (detainees). Notwithstanding the importance of this research, there is currently a need to adopt an ecological perspective from which to study these sites as well as the experiences of those within them as context-dependent and influenced by power inequalities.

Drawing upon advances in community psychology, I will illustrate an ecological framework for the study of migration-related detention contexts and their multi-level effects on all people populating them. This framework focuses on justice as a key dimension of analysis. Taking the largest Italian detention centre as a case study, I will also present a concrete example of application of this same framework in a research aimed at examining the life and lived experiences of both migrants detained and practitioners working in this setting. I will conclude my talk by discussing broader implications of my findings and future avenues for research, policy and action.

**10 DEZEMBRO 2020**

17H00 | LIVESTREAM VIMEO/FACEBOOK/LINKEDIN

HOST  
**JOSÉ  
ORNELAS**

**ENTRADA LIVRE**



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