



Editions

Anabela Antunes is Publishing Director at UCP Press

**Books – in whatever form – preserve the past,
respond to the present and prepare us
for the future**

Publishing has always been a service to the community of authors and readers. In the case of academic publishing, its target is the community of those who produce knowledge through research, those who teach and those who learn.

UCP Press assumes its position of recognised prestige in the academic and business environment with the mission of expanding the objectives of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa: to produce international-level science aimed at the common good and to prepare generations for the future through excellence in teaching.

Our catalogue includes academic publications which disseminate innovative and rigorous research, carried out, mostly but not exclusively, within the scope of UCP's scientific activity. Five major thematic areas aggregate our publications: Arts and Humanities; Social Sciences; Medicine and Health; Law; and Theology.

UCP Press engages with the community by publishing the scientific output produced by and for Universidade Católica Portuguesa in Portugal and by and for a global scientific community. A large part of our books and journals are published in Portuguese, aiming at readers in Portugal and in the Portuguese-speaking countries, maintaining Portuguese alive as a scientific language, a language of producing and disseminating knowledge. By publishing an increasing number of books in English, we simultaneously prepare a platform for a global dissemination beyond national language barriers.

As has been widely discussed, publishing practices are undergoing a period of enormous transformation. The digitisation of library collections, in line with the objectives of Open Science, and the emergence of digital libraries and scientific repositories, only serve to reinforce the Enlightenment idea that “knowledge is a social right.” On the other hand, open access and the wider reach of this knowledge will require new editorial roles such as information mediation, combating misinformation, promoting accessibility and the preservation of memory.

A couple of years ago, we therefore decided to invest in new forms of publication, namely in e-books and, more recently, in open books. E-books in general provide an excellent opportunity to disseminate knowledge with smaller costs, mainly in their material production and their physical distribution. E-books allow us to be present in international markets beyond borders.

Open books add to this advantage the benefits of a free dissemination of knowledge. We are proud to offer more than 120 books for free on our platform <https://openbooks.ucp.pt/> (where you can also find the present book). This platform aims to reinforce UCP Press’s commitment to the goals of Open Science, thus contributing to an equal diffusion and exchange of knowledge. The books available are in accordance with International best practices, such as the use of Creative Commons License, the attribution of DOI (Digital Object Identifier) and the association of the ORCID of the coordinators and authors. In the meantime, many of our titles are referenced in the Directory of Open Access Books, DOAB.

However, printed books currently still account for 75% of our publications. In recent years, UCP Press has consolidated its position in the market, publishing over 100 titles annually, with more than 30,000 copies printed.

In combining the positive impact of reading a physical book – both in cognitive terms and in the way it strengthens a sense of community – with the global outreach offered by digital platforms, we support the value of knowledge production. Books – in whatever form – preserve the past, respond to the present and prepare us for the future.