

## Radio, Fado, and National Identity: Discourses and Propaganda in the Making of Portugal's 'National Song' (1935–1950)

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This presentation examines how debates about Fado on Portuguese National Radio (Emissora Nacional) reflected competing views on its legitimacy as Portugal's national song, and how these debates contributed to the construction of national identity (Anderson, 1983; Edensor, 1999; McCann, 2004). Central to these discussions was the perception that Fado – rooted in multicultural influences and often associated with urban marginalization and the working class (Nery, 2004) – was incompatible with the Estado Novo's ideology of moral discipline and nationalist culture (Corte-Real, 2002). In 1936, Luiz Moita delivered a series of eight radio lectures titled "Fado: Song of the Defeated", arguing against recognizing Fado as the national song. Despite such critiques, National Radio continued to broadcast numerous Fado recordings daily, reflecting the genre's popularity among listeners. During the 1940s, Fado gained gradual acceptance within the regime and secured a regular presence in NR programming through influential artists such as Maria Teresa de Noronha and Amália Rodrigues. To understand how Fado was progressively reimagined as a national symbol, this study explores its discursive framing and strategic use on National Radio within the broader context of the Portuguese authoritarian regime.