



# Biodiv

## Annual Meeting 2023

*“Reinventing Science, for yourself and others”*

Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

### *Reinventing myself in science: a love story*

**Marta D. Santos**

Communication & Image Unit of Ciências ULisboa



*“This is the essence of science. You ask an impertinent question and you’re on your way to a pertinent answer”. TXF*

Each journey in science is unique. Some of you might have known you wanted to pursue a given scientific field from an early age, others might have kept your options open until close to entering university.

A PhD rightfully requires from us a lot of effort, dedication, focus and pursuit of more and more niche questions. It is a marathon, with its ups and downs. During this long process, it is crucial that you keep a wide and fresh look on science as a whole – how ‘your’ science, a tiny branch in a tree, relates with the rest of the forest.

By sharing some of the experience I have been acquiring in my ‘s-shaped’ path in science, and what I’ve been learning about bringing together science and society, I hope to arise in you the will to ask yourself some impertinent questions about your research and how to make it even more relevant to society – and to yourself.



# Biodiv

## Annual Meeting 2023

*“Reinventing Science, for yourself and others”*

Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

***Can the internet reconnect societies with nature?***

**Richard J. Ladle**

Principal Researcher at CIBIO/BIOPOLIS



The ongoing global biodiversity crisis not only involves biological extinctions, but also the loss of experience and the gradual fading of cultural knowledge and collective memory. Citizens from around the world, but especially in developed societies, are becoming less likely to have direct contact with nature in their everyday lives. This can have serious consequences, affecting health and well-being and potentially causing negative emotions, attitudes, and behaviour with regard to the environment. This ‘extinction of experience’ has gone hand in hand with dramatic increases in the amount of time people spend online and the dramatic increase in the penetrance and power of mobile technology. The online (virtual) world offers both threats and opportunities to human interactions with nature. On one hand, leisure time spent on the internet may be one of the main reasons that individuals are spending less and less time in nature. On the other hand, new technologies have the potential to enhance nature-related activities, create new ones and offer a rich source of data for conservation scientists and policy makers. One thing is for certain, the information revolution has irrevocably changed human interactions with nature with uncertain consequences for human societies and their relationship with the natural world.