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Título da comunicação / Abstract title

‘Globalized’ foreign policies and the role of global governance: the cases of Portugal and Spain

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Resumo/Abstract:

Globalization is one of the most important social phenomena in the contemporary world, shaping all dimensions of societal life. However, both among globalization theory as well as foreign policy studies (and Foreign Policy Analysis, in particular), the impact of globalization on the state, the effects of political globalization and the transformations it brings to foreign policy have been understood as (not so relevant) contextual elements, described in a generic way or even completely excluded from those research fields and interests. Nevertheless, the particular characteristics in which foreign policy activities are developed render essential, rather than ignoring the state and its external action, to strengthen its study seeking to assess the scope, nature and impact of globalization on its international activity.

Following a brief overview on the interaction between globalization theory and foreign policy, as well as between foreign policy studies and globalization, we will apply the analysis model to the cases of Portugal and Spain, analysing these challenges on two different levels. Firstly, the impact of globalization in foreign policy: the higher relevance of multilateral or bilateral relations; the identification of certain problems (threats/risks) as global, and requiring a global response; and (growing?) influence/involvement of other actors in the decision in foreign policy at the national level. Secondly, the greater role played by global governance in foreign policy issues: to identify the (growing?) influence/involvement of other actors in the implementation of foreign policy, or decision in global governance structures; the influence of multiple levels of governance in foreign policy; an

increase in temporary coalitions, and greater adaptation to the international environment; and shaping global governance structures as a foreign policy goal. In this short introduction to the cases of Portugal and Spain, we are particularly interested in the characteristics and implications of some core prerogatives of our theoretical framework, as well as the limitations and possible solutions to the challenges that studying contemporary Portugal and Spanish foreign policies poses. Our claim is that foreign policy studies could be rendered more valuable and specific if they adapt to include globalization in its studies as a relevant variable, particularly if they do so in a systematic and comparative fashion.