

**TÍTULO DA TESE EM INGLÊS:** The influence of political and electoral system and macroeconomic context in parliamentary elections participation in Portugal and Spain (2004-2011). A contribute to the study of democracy.

The political and electoral participation is one of the key elements to measure the quality of Democracy. It is also a way to measure the need of new political actions to promote a stronger involvement of citizens in the public domain. Considering the systems with parliament focus, it's possible to observe that legislative elections are crucial to determine the political scenario and allow the election of our national deputies.

Considering the different academic studies about the political participation, it is possible to observe a sustained and continuous growth in the level of turnout across multiple electoral acts. Our main goal is to discover some of the indicators that could explain this trend, but also to identify some elements that can contribute to assure a deeper involvement between citizens and political representants.

Thus, our object of study seeks to examine the influence of institutional factors and the macroeconomic environment on turnout in legislative elections held between 2004 and 2011. For this study we have included the elections in Portugal and Spain, considering that the comparative method allow us to have a broader analysis about turnout.

The purpose of this research reflects the need to study the functioning of democracy in the countries of Southern Europe, at a time when the economic crisis dictates the policies adopted and affects the decisions of politics and citizens.

**Keywords:** turnout; first and second order elections; electoral participation; political participation; vote; political system; electoral system; electoral rules; economy and democracy.