A personagem jornalística revisitada / The Character in Journalism Revisited* by Dr. Mário Mesquita
Professor of Media Studies and Administrator of the Luso-American Foundation

Prince Henry Society Reading Room at the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives (Library Building)
Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 5:00 PM
Light refreshments available before the talk. Free and open to the public. Parking lot 13.

Abstract. The concept of character, traditionally discussed with reference to the literary analysis of fictional texts, may also serve as a useful analytic tool in the context of non-fictional writing, such as the narratives of history or journalism. The relevance of introducing the notion of character into critical analyses of journalistic texts is intensified in the present by the growing personalization both of political and social life and of media discourses. This talk relies on contributions from the field of literary theory and media studies to map out the conditions and the implications of the construction of characters in journalistic practice.

Dr. Mário Mesquita teaches Journalism and Media Studies at the Escola Superior de Comunicação Social and at the Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias. He is a member of the Executive Council of the Luso-American Foundation (FLAD) in Lisbon. He completed graduate studies in journalism and media at the Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium. He was the executive editor of two daily papers, Diário de Notícias (1978-86) and Diário de Lisboa (1989-90), vice-president of the Press Council, and the ombudsman of Diário de Notícias (1996-97). Following the Portuguese democratic Revolution, he was elected Member of the National Constituent Assembly (1975) and Member of Parliament (1976-78). He is the author of several books and articles on journalism and media, namely the influential O quarto equívoco. O poder dos media na sociedade contemporânea (2003). He received journalism prizes from the Portuguese Press Club (1986); from Casa da Imprensa, for his professional career (1987); and from Clube dos Jornalistas, for his achievement as news ombudsman (1998).

*This lecture will be in Portuguese. Dr. Mesquita will also take questions in English and in Spanish. Copies of his chapter/article on the character in journalism will be available in advance in the Department of Portuguese (LARTS 398G). To obtain a copy, please contact secretary Tracy McCree. Tel. 508-910-6586. E-mail: tmccree@umassd.edu

At 6:00 PM PhD candidate Fernando Beleza, Consul Graça Fonseca, and Chair Dário Borim Jr. will proceed with the opening of the Camões Institute / UMD Second Portuguese and Lusophone Spring Film Series featuring Solveig Nordlund’s The Death of Carlos Gardel (2011) based on the homonymous novel by António Lobo Antunes. CVPA Room 153. Free pizza and beverages available before the film.