Study of German at the Universities of Wales (SDUC) and Porto. 1978: BA (Hons.) (Wales); 1983: Licenciatura (Porto); 1984: Master (Wales); 1985: Mestrado (Porto); 1990: PhD. (Porto); 2000: Agregação (Porto).

Teaching positions held at the University of Porto: 1981: Lector; 1984: Junior Assistant; 1985: Assistant; 1990: Assistant Professor; 2001: Associate Professor; 2005: Chair and Full Professor of German Studies.

Administrative positions held at the University of Porto: 1991-4: Vice-President of the Board of Directors; 2002-05 and 2006-present: President of the German Department; 2008-10: President of the Assembleia de Representantes. 2002-07: Director of the FCT Research Group Núcleo de Estudos Literários; since 2007: Vice President of the FCT Research Group CITCEM and coordinator of the sub-group on Multiculturalism and the International Debate. Since 2009: Coordinator of the Erasmus Mundus Master Course - GLITEMA (in cooperation with the Universities of Bremen and Palermo and funded until 2015 by the European Commission). Editor of the series 'Studies in Literature' (CITCEM/Martin Meidenbauer, Munich); member of the board of editors of Germanistik and Trends in Medieval Philology. Since 1999: Academic Expert of the European Commission.

Main focus of research: German literature of the Middle Ages (Das Nibelungenlied; Wolfram von Eschenbach; Minnesang). In addition, publications on Modern German Literature (19th and 20th centuries), French and Portuguese literature of the Middle Ages; the reception of medieval literature.