

The First International Conference on

SCIENCE MATTERS: A UNIFIED PERSPECTIVE

MAY 28-30, 2007

Ericeira, Portugal

"Everything in Nature is a part of science."

All earnest and honest human quests for knowledge are efforts to understand nature, which includes all human and nonhuman systems, the objects of study in science. Thus, broadly speaking, all these quests are science matters. The methods and tools used may be different; for example, the literary people use mainly their bodily sensors and their brain as the information processor, while natural scientists may use, in addition, measuring instruments and computers. Yet, all these activities could be viewed in a unified perspective—they are scientific developments at varying stages of maturity and have a lot to learn from each other. In this conference, we invite experts from different disciplines worldwide to share their experience and outlooks, and hopefully plan the future together.

Many of the topics included in this conference are under the name of science and culture, science and art, science and society, etc. We do not think these descriptions are useful. For example, by saying "science and culture," it implies that science and culture are two different things, which could be opposing each other. Instead, we view them as different aspects of the same thing—the effort to understand nature, and a new word "science matters" is called for.

Invited Speakers

Leonor Bêltran (Portugal, *The nature of dance*)
Paulo Borges (Portugal, *Buddhism, meditation & science of mind*)
Maria Burguete (Portugal, *History & philosophy of contemporary chemistry*)
Paul Caro (France, *Culture through science: A new world of images and stories*)
Clara Pinto Correia (Portugal, *Biology: Manipulation of scientific information*)
Alfredo Dinis (Portugal, *Has neuroscience any theological consequences?*)
Isabel Empis (Portugal, *Psychology of life quality*)
Gilbert Fayl (Belgium, *Policy fallacy: Stop talking, do it*)
Bernardo Herold (Portugal, *Science & society*)
Brigitte Hoppe (Germany, *The role of physiognomy in science and art*)
Lui Lam (USA, *Histophysics: Integrating history with physics*)
Daguang Li (China, *Science communication in China*)
Bing Liu (China, *Philosophy of science and Chinese sciences*)
Dun Liu (China, *History of science in globalizing time*)
Edgar Morin (France, *Did a scientific revolution begin?*)
João Arriscado Nunes (Portugal, *Unified science or ecologies of practices?*)
Maurizio Salvi (Italy, *Science & ethics*)
Nigel Sanitt (UK, *The tripod of science: Communication, philosophy and education*)
Michael Shermer (USA, *The science of good and evil*)

Advisors

Paul Caro (France)
Gilbert Fayl (Belgium)
Brigitte Hoppe (Germany)
João Arriscado Nunes (Portugal)
Maurizio Salvi (Italy)
Michael Shermer (USA)
Edward Wilson (USA)

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Further information www.ces.uc.pt/science_matters_meeting