

1. INTRODUCTION

Scimat (Science Matters), the new discipline initiated by Lui Lam in 2007/2008 [1, 2], treats all human-dependent matters as part of science.

Its motto: **"Everything in Nature is part of Science"**.

Scimat includes all the topics in the humanities, social science and medical science (especially those that have bearing on the first two, such as brain science, DNA,...).

Scimat results from two recognitions:

- Humans are a material system, made up of atoms.
- Science is the study of Nature which includes all material systems (without appealing to God or any supernatural) [3].

2. DEVELOPMENT

The Aristotle Tradition

The tradition of treating everything in the Universe—humans and non-human systems—from a unified perspective, starting with Aristotle and continued until the Renaissance—was broken with the rise of modern science in the last 400 years.

The Enlightenment (1688-1789)

Concerted efforts to revive this tradition happened from time to time and failed with one exception: the *Enlightenment* (1688-1789) with the aim to create a "science of man" succeeded in ushering in Social Science (Economics, by Adam Smith) but failed in turning the humanities into a science. **It is an effort interrupted**, due to insufficient understanding of the human system—an intrinsically probabilistic system—and the lack of a properly developed probabilistic theory.

3. THE SCIMAT PROGRAM

The Scimat program, started by Maria Burguete and Lui Lam in 2007, is the latest international effort to revive the Aristotle tradition of a unified knowledge.

It puts its emphasize on raising the scientific level of the humanities (by encouraging the collaboration between humanists and natural scientists) because decision making, a part of humanities, is what determines the welfare of our society.

Thus, the ultimate aim of the Scimat Program is for a better humanity.



The Scimat Program consists of six steps.

STEP 1: A Biennial International Scimat Conference Series was set up



Cochaired by Burguete & Lam for the first three, Burguete & Nigel Sanitt for the 4th, the 5th one in 2015

STEP 2: International Science Matters Committee (ISMC) was set up

- Manuel Bicho (Portugal)
- Peter Broks (UK)
- Maria Burguete (Portugal)
- João Caraça (Portugal)
- Paul Caro (France)
- Jean-Patrick Connerade (UK)
- Patrick Hogan (USA)
- Brigitte Hoppe (Germany)
- Lui Lam (USA), *Coordinator*
- Bing Liu (China)
- Dun Liu (China)
- John Onians (UK) ← Father of Neuroarthistory
- David Papineau (UK) ← President, British Society for Philosophy of Science (1993-1995)
- Nigel Sanitt (UK)
- Ivo Schneider (Germany)
- Michael Shermer (USA)
- Robin Warren (Australia)



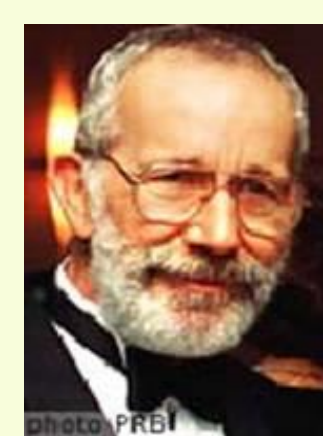
President, European Academy of Sciences Arts & Letters



Author, *Cognitive Science, Literature and the Arts*



Columnist, *Scientific American*, Editor, *Skeptical Magazine*

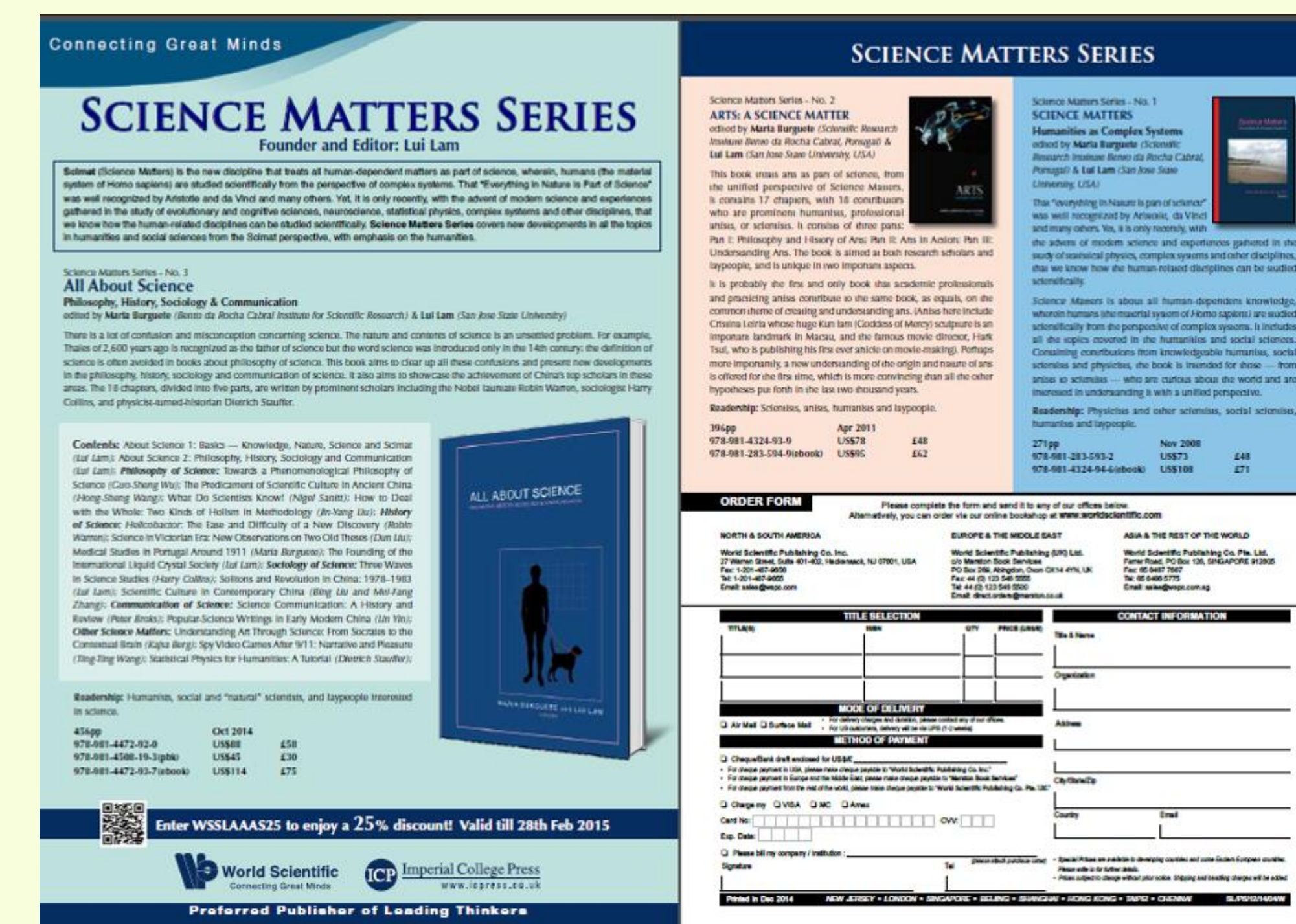


Nobel Laureate (2005)

ISMC was established in 2007 to promote the scimat idea and push the International Scimat Program.

STEP 3: The Science Matters Book Series was set up

Publisher: World Scientific Founder and Editor: Lui Lam
Three books are published (2008, 2011, 2014)



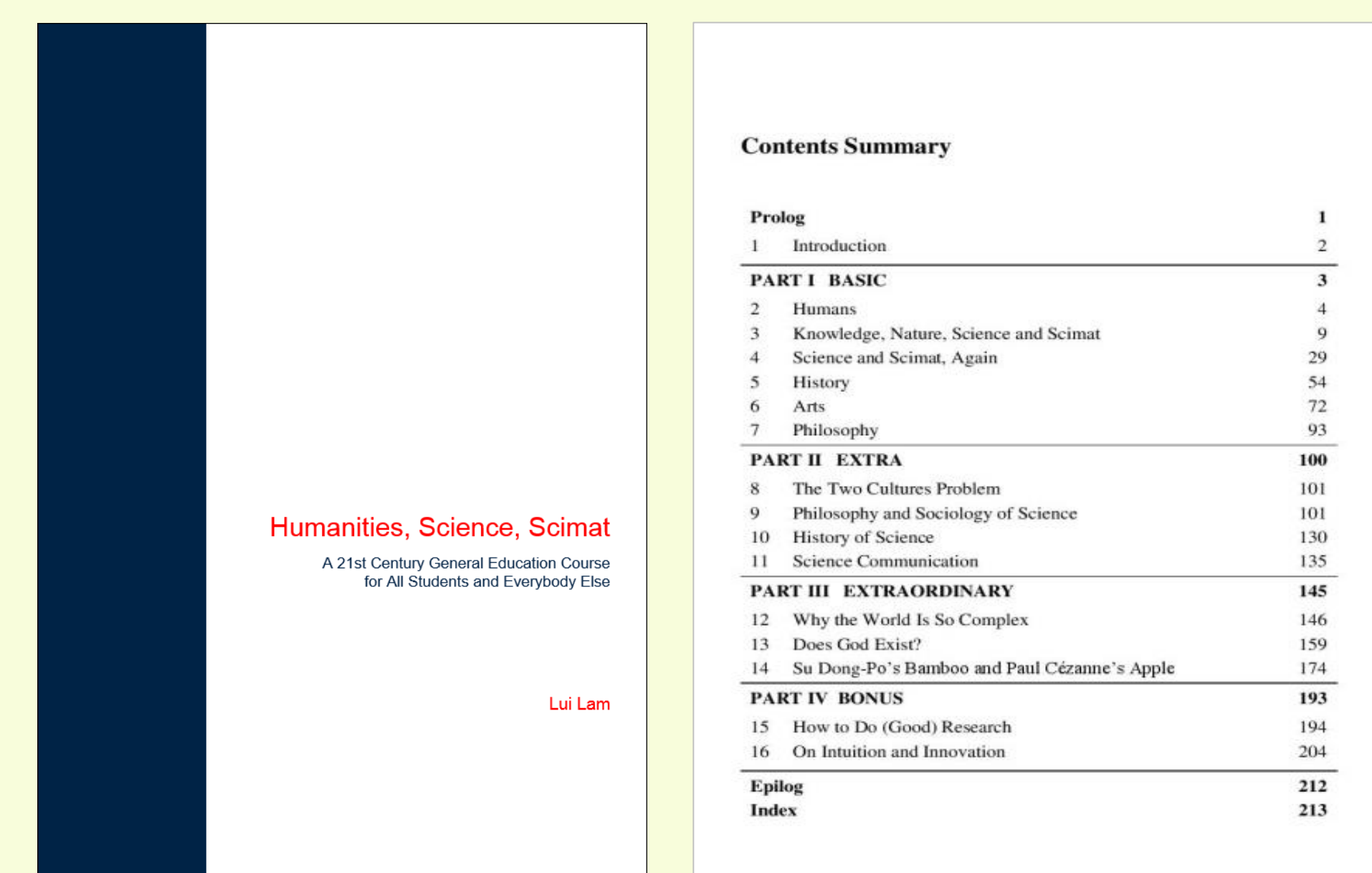
STEP 4: Scimat Centers being established

It is in the process of establishing a number of scimat centers around the world. In Portugal, such an effort is headed by Maria Burguete and so far there is a good possibility of raising the first Scimat Center at ISEP (High Institute of Engineering of Porto).



The Center is:

- To do fundraising to support the Center financially.
- To organize international workshops/conferences and summer/winter schools.
- To give out an Award every two years, for an individual who contributes significantly in the advancement of scimat.
- To host short-term visiting scholars who will give short courses.
- To propagate a new, ultimate general-education course on "humanities + science" for undergrads of all majors.



STEP 5: International Scimat Society to be set up

STEP 6: International Scimat Journal to be set up

4. CONCLUSION

Scimat Motivation

What we are witnessing here is the initial stage in the birth of a new paradigm called **Scimat** (Science Matters).

It provides a unified perspective for all the disciplines in the humanities, social science and "natural science".

It is a rally point to raise the scientific level of the humanities and thus enabling a more peaceful world.

It provides the basic rationale for general education and a route to make it successful.

It is the most interesting and important discipline in the 21st century.

Scimat Significance

In particular, scimat aims to raise the scientific level of the **humanities** which (*not* the "natural" science) cover the arts and the science of humans' crucial decisions that determine the wellbeing of the human race. Thus, the ultimate aim of scimat is not just for a unified knowledge, but for a better humanity.

5. REFERENCES

[1] Lam, L. [2008] "Science Matters: A unified perspective," in *Science Matters: Humanities as Complex Systems*, eds. Burguete, M. & Lam, L. (World Scientific, Singapore). See also: www.sjsu.edu/people/lui.lam/scimat

[2] Lam, L. [2008] "Science Matters: The newest and biggest transdiscipline," in *China Interdisciplinary Science*, Vol. 2, ed. Liu, Z.-L. (Science Press, Beijing).

[3] Lam, L. [2014] "About science 1: Knowledge, Nature, science and scimat", in *All About Science: Philosophy, History, Sociology & Communication*, eds. Burguete, M. & Lam, L. (World Scientific, Singapore).