

DD and the joy of Doing



DD

and

JD

I am a Mathematician who started working on the mathematical physics of Fundamental Interactions
So I have this obsession with symmetry and I thought I'd better speak about

JDD

and

JDD

Jorge
Dias
de
Deus

and

Joy of
Doing
and let
Do

* Back to 1979 in post revolution Portugal imagine a 16 year old going for the 2nd time to IST (the first time was in 1974...)

* The 2nd time I managed to enter IST and Salão Nobre to listen to a passionate DD telling us how from the velocities of far away stars and galaxies all going away from us Earth with modulus of velocity independent of the direction and growing with distance we could tell the Universe was expanding and that adding to that the homogeneous and isotropic Einstein equations we could derive with the help of simple calculus the mind blowing inequality

$$T \lesssim 15 \times 10^9 \text{ years!!}$$

* I was then few months away from joining Ana in Moscow and was still hesitating whether to choose Maths or Physics with the following boundary conditions.

* I liked more high school maths than physics: for a mathematically oriented kid with \odot experimental intuition high school physics can be a pain.

* The only thing that was keeping me from jumping into maths was my high school teacher of physics João Joia da Silva, liceu D. Dinis

* Just found out this morning that in 1979 he was member of Consoelho de Redação of "Gazeta de Física" 1979, 40\$00

Joy of doing

in

Shaping my CAREER I

* So after seeing this IST professor explaining full of joy one beautiful instance of the "intersection of fundamental physics with maths" I decided I should study physics.

* I can say that DD joy and talent of explaining physics shaped my CAREER.

* So I spent 8 years in Moscow (7 years in MSU) doing both undergraduate and graduate studies.

* Returned to Portugal in 1988 and met again DD and was in his close neighborhood until 2001 when moved from the Physics to the Mathematics Department.

* First 88-91 we (the pre Centra group) were in IFM a fantastic space where IST and FCUL particle physicists, relativists and condensed matter physicists and also FCUL mathematicians were

* In those years this was the first generation of Post '74 Mathematicians and Physicists (including DD) and 2nd and 3rd (us and students)

* The first generation was a scientifically very strong one which was crucial for the development of Physics and Maths in the country

* So was DD special in that generation?

* Yes, definitely, and one important reason for that was precisely his permanent state of joy.

* If you come to him with a bureaucratic problem he would always find a way of saying something to relax you and then would either

Do or let Do

* And you would leave his office either knowing that DD will do this

OR
We should do this and DD will back us if anything
* This is what happened when we had meetings with him to hire colleagues to the PRE CENTRA group

* Also there are many examples of this related with LEFT / MEFT which I believe it is fair to say that LEFT is very much a DD creation

* One day most of the students of the first group that had LEFT from the first year asked for a meeting with DD and told him very angrily that some curricular changes were needed or they would all move to Faculdade de Ciências.

* DD laughed, told them that this was not the way to start a meeting and then made sure that the students demands were met.

* In IFM we had weekly relativity seminars from 1989. And although gravity was not his topic he would always make sure that we were not disturbed in this other form of DD's letting do and doing.



Centro's 100th Seminar Cake in 1993

* At times there were problems in IFM, tensions between groups but we were a bunch of youngsters that could organize whatever activities we wanted, because in case of adversities we would have a superpower laughing the problems away.

Joy of letting do

* In my University of Algarve's experience (1994-96) I felt (though he never told me that) that he never liked the idea

Joy of doing

in

Shaping my career II

* I was very young (~31) and naive and things did not go particularly well. At one point in 1996 DD forced me back to IST. I had my wife and son in Algarve, so I was not happy about that but now I know that this was the right thing to do. Not for IST (too big for an individual to make the difference) but for me. So for the second time in my career he corrected my path in a decisive way. Thank you DD! 🙏

Joy of

Doing and let

Do

Jorge

Dias de

Deus

will always be part of the history of CENTRA and of Physics in IST and in Portugal

Thank You 🍷🍷