

**The Many Aspects of Jorge Dias de Deus
A Tribute from CENTRA
Instituto Superior Técnico
Lisbon**

DD, CENTRA, and the multidisciplinary

José P. S. Lemos

**Centro de Astrofísica e Gravitação CENTRA
Departamento de Física
Instituto Superior Técnico IST
Universidade de Lisboa**

Saturday, March 6, 2021

Outline

- 1 *The clusterer of people*
- 2 *The generator of ideas*
- 3 *CENTRA and the multidisciplinary man*

1. The clusterer of people

- JDD was born on May 2, 1941. When I arrived at IST to give my first lecture course on electromagnetism and quantum mechanics in 1992 DD was 51 years old. He was in his prime.
- He had acquaintances, he had connections, he had power. He was not president of the Physics Department, he would be, he was not the president of IST, he would be. CENTRA did not exist yet, it would soon.



- If you entered into his office, it was here at IST in another building, he was usually with several people around him. Everybody would cluster around him to know what do. The atmosphere was always good, excellent humor everywhere, everybody was in high spirits.
- I was young, 35 years old, being a researcher in Rio with a PhD from Cambridge, and interested in coming to IST. I wanted to impress, of course. I wanted to be in the cluster.

2. The generator of ideas

- DD liked ideas, he liked to have ideas and he liked the others to have ideas, well, ideas he thought were good ideas.
- Whatever the idea he had and thought was good for someone, he would propose it, but he would not force. He would not call you if he knew you were not interested.
- In physics he was proud of his idea of geometric scaling in 1973 while doing a postdoc in Copenhagen after being in Imperial College.
- He wrote many books for the public understanding of science. One book of 1998 was:



In 2002 we had the idea of writing a book together that was a follow up of this book. It would be called Time Machines. We started to write it up, unfortunately never finished. I still have the draft.

3. CENTRA and the multidisciplinary man

- His scientific area by profession was elementary particle physics.
- On the other hand, he loved cosmology. I am sure if he could jump back into the past and run forward again he would do cosmology, some form of cosmology, probably in the interface between theory and observation like what he did in particle physics.
- I think he was not so keen to black holes perhaps because to him it was too far fetched. Nevertheless, when Hulse and Taylor got the Nobel prize for the discovery of the binary pulsar, a discovery that opened up new possibilities for the study of gravitation and gravitational waves in 1993, two weeks later I gave a seminar to the group that one year after would become CENTRA and he loved it.



3. CENTRA and the multidisciplinary man

- He created CENTRA and was its first president, he was president of Physics Department, he was president of IST, kickstarted the Engineering Physics Course at IST, and also the Aerospace course and the Biomedical course, engendered scientific artistic stamps for Macau, and wrote many books for the public understanding of science.**
- Ana Mourão and myself were for many years his right and left hands, respectively, in the running of CENTRA. Many times we had different opinions, we had arguments, but somehow in the end a consensus found by him would prevail. Of course we liked him a lot.**



- This was our great multidisciplinary DD that due to his illness we have been missing for quite some time, and now we miss for good. But surely we will not forget him.**