

# Jorge Dias de Deus and the University of the Algarve

In Memoriam, March 6th, 2021



*presented at the CENTRA conference “The many aspects of Jorge Dias de Deus”, by Robertus Potting, UAlg*

*University of the Algarve  
Gambelas Campus*





*It was with great sadness that the high-energy/gravity group at Physics Department at the University of the Algarve we took note of the passing of Jorge Dias de Deus. He was of course a dedicated member of the faculty of Instituto Superior Técnico during his whole career. However, what the younger members of CENTRA may not know is that he took a special interest as well in the University of the Algarve, and helped us in various ways, in particular during the decade of the 1990's. I am therefore grateful to José Lemos for the invitation to speak about this aspect of his life and career at this event.*

# 1. Support of the theoretical high energy/gravity group at UAlg and the foundation of CENTRA

In the beginning of the 90's, when I came to the University of the Algarve, we had a (very) small group in theoretical high energy physics, gravity, string theory, ..... The Physics Department had just been founded. We were happy to make contact with an enthusiastic group of people at Técnico, both in the beginning of their career (José Mourão, José Sande Lemos, Paulo Sá, ...) as well as senior people, in particular Alfredo Barbosa Henriques and JDD. We very often attended the weekly seminars at IST, using the (slow!) train from the Algarve to Lisbon which then stopped at the south shore of the Tagus river, from where we had to take a ferry to Lisbon. In particular, the support of JDD was very important for our group at UAlg. The members of the Algarve group at the time (Cenalo Vaz, Paulo Sá, myself, as well as José Mourão, who was at UAlg for some years at that time) were invited to become founding members of CENTRA back in 1994.

## 2. Support of the Engenharia Física Tecnológica course at UAlg

In 1994 a study program in Technological Physics Engineering which was modelled after the same program in IST. It was very important we got the support from JDD in order that this proposal was accepted by the University. It allowed us to build and expand the Physics Department in the years after that.

### 3. Rôle of Jorge Dias de Deus in founding the Centro de Ciência Viva do Algarve

The Centro de Ciência Viva ("Centre for Living Science", CCV) is an initiative that started 25 years ago as an initiative of the late José Mariano Gago (Professor of Experimental Higher Energy Physics of IST, who was then Secretary of Science and Technology) as a government program dedicated to the promotion of education and scientific culture.

In 1998 it became an association of scientific institutions, adopted the name Ciência Viva - National Agency for Scientific and Technological Culture and started an expansion that transformed it into what it is today: an organization implanted on a national scale, with a network of 21 Centers of Science spread throughout the territory, which promotes science and scientific culture. It involves hundreds of thousands of researchers and citizens, students and teachers, young people and adults. They have been very successful in sparking the interest into science among the the population, in particular the young segment.

## TUDO O QUE VEM À NOSSA REDE É CIÊNCIA



What is maybe not generally known is the active rôle that Jorge Dias de Deus played in promoting the founding of the first CCV in 1998, in Faro in the Algarve. It is housed in a historic building just outside de old city walls next to the Ria de Formosa. From the beginning it was set up in collaboration with the University of the Algarve, which has provided the direction ever since. This center became the blueprint for the other centers that were founded in Portugal since that time.



*Centro de Ciência Viva in Faro*



The involvement of Jorge Dias de Deus in the CCVA is a vivid testament to the importance he attributed to the promotion of science and scientific culture among the general public. Other contributions he made in this regard include, of course, his various books directed to the general public promoting science culture (see contribution by Ilídio Lopes).

## 4. The conference series "New Worlds in Astroparticle Physics"

Together with Mário Pimenta and Peter Sonderegger, JDD was the main organizer of the famous conference series "New Worlds in Astroparticle Physics". The idea was that it would bridge topics in particle physics and astrophysics. Of course this was one of the scientific passions of JDD, as he was formed as a particle theorist and got later interest in issues related to astrophysics and cosmology.

The series was held bi-annually 7 times, starting in 1996, always on the premises of the Gambelas Campus of the University of the Algarve (except for the last one, in São Tomé and Príncipe), and always for three days in the beginning of September (with one exception, in 2005). Main speakers were typically housed in the favorite hotel of Mário, Peter and Jorge at the Praia de Faro, de "Estalagem" (= hotel Aeromar).

The format of the conferences was approx. 5 morning- or afternoon sessions around a theme that was introduced by a one-hour talk by a main invited speaker. These included Daniel Vignaud, John Bahcall, Francis Halzen, Barry Barish, Michael Turner, George Smoot, Gabriele Veneziano, Samuel Ting, .....

*Hotel “Estalagem Aeromar”  
at the Praia de Faro*





*New Worlds in Astroparticle Physics, edition 1998 (JDD in 4th row, 4th from the right)*



*New Worlds in Astroparticle Physics, edition 2005 (JDD in third row, 5th from right)*



*New Worlds in Astroparticle Physics, edition 2007 (JDD in the second row at the right)*