

## 2<sup>nd</sup>. Internal Report on CFCUL

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In our previous Internal Report on the CFCUL (6 June 2008) we proposed several changes in order to convert the CFCUL from the Quality Research Center it was then, into a Center of excellence and a reference for Philosophy of Science in Europe.

### 1. Organization

The activity of the CFCUL in 2009 corresponds to a new period of transition. Throughout 2009 the CFCUL began a process of optimizing its research structure by reducing the number of research groups from 7 to 6. This new structure is more coherent than the former. However, we think that this process should be pursued, but we are aware of the need to proceed cautiously. The Centre cannot abruptly abandon its nurturing character, because it is the main and most solid institution where everyone interested in the Philosophy of Science in Portugal can find shelter, as we stressed in the items 2 and 3 of our first Internal Report.

### 2. Internationalization

The CFCUL has developed a significant effort in the process of internationalization through the collaboration with a large number of foreign institutions and research centers. Especially important has been the collaboration with Archives Henri Poincaré of the University of Nancy and with the Grupo de Lógica, Language e Información of the University of Seville.

### 3. Research

We advise the CFCUL to concentrate efforts in its more important research projects like the projects funding by the FCT. Each one of these projects should serve as a mean to gather the efforts of the as many members of the Center as possible. We have noted an effort of the CFCUL in that direction. The work done throughout has been mostly developed within four major projects:

- Poincaré. Philosopher of Science
- Image in Science and Art
- Philosophy of Quantum Physics
- Universal logics and Unity of Science

### 4. Organization of events

The Center shows a very relevant record of realization of events during 2009. Some of them must be highlighted because they do provide the opportunity of bringing to Portugal some scholars of high scientific level. This was the case of an "International Conference in Arabic Tradition", where Professors Roshdi Rashed (CNRS, Paris 7 - France), Ali Benmakhlouf (University of Nice - France), Ahmad Hasnawi (CNRS, Paris 7 - France) and Shahid Rahman (University of Lille 3 - France) were invited. Another important event was produced in the context of the RG on Philosophy of Life Sciences, the international conference on "Evolution today and tomorrow-- Darwin evaluated by contemporary evolutionary and philosophical theories", to which some of the leading figures in the field: Jan Sapp (University of York, Canada), James Steele (University College London, UK) and John Wilkins (University of Sydney, Australia) contributed.

## 5. Publications

According to the advice given in our previous report, in which we called attention to the need of not overdoing with publications, the CFCUL has produced a less extensive but more focused list of publications, in what concerns both books (two important books on Darwinian evolutionism) and articles (4 articles in B level journals).

## 6. Post-graduate studies

Another important issue of the CFCUL - which is very much in the line of national context - is its contribution to the training of a new generation of researchers in philosophy of science. As we said before, the CFCUL is the only and the first research institution exclusively dedicated to Philosophy of Science in Portugal. This dimension is of the highest significance, and the Center should in our opinion be evaluated in part on its record in this respect. The center has been able to attract 6 pos-docs and 15 Phd students, which is remarkable and is to be saluted as a major effort on the part of the supervisors of these young scholars.

## 7. Internet presence

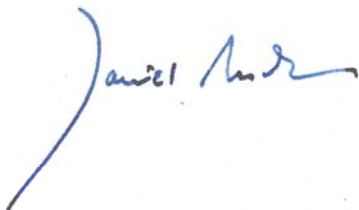
The Center maintains a well-designed, rich and attractive website, together with the companion websites dedicated to its major projects. In our internet-intensive age, this is a most important contribution to the information and guidance of aspiring and confirmed scholars in the field. It also contributes to the notoriety of Portuguese academic research on the international map. The Center should be commended for investing some of its time and resources on this task.

## *Conclusion.*

In our opinion, the Center has made impressive strides since our last visit, and is confirming its pivotal role in the national and European communities in philosophy of science, construed in a broad and interdisciplinary sense. It should undoubtedly benefit from continued and if possible increased support.

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CFCUL'S EXTERNAL CONSULTANT COMMITTEE



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