

Honoris causa ceremony speech, TUD 4 December 2006

Herr Rector, Prof. Dr. Herman Kokenge

Herr Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Nagel, Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science

Herr Prof. Dr. Steffen Hölldobler, Head of the ICCL at TUD

Herr Ricardo Victória, 1st Secretary to the Portuguese embassy

Herr Prof. Dr. Fernando Santana, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and  
Technology at UNL

Herr Prof. Dr. Robert Kowalski, invited speaker from Imperial College

Esteemed colleagues from Dresden and Lisbon

Beloved family members

Ladies and gentlemen

Good afternoon! Allow me to express my good wishes, and those of my institution, the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal.

It is my good fortune to be here with you today, on the occasion of my induction ceremony into the honourable degree of “doctor honoris causa” by the Technische Universität Dresden, of celebrated fame, a renowned stronghold of past and present distinguished researchers and scholars.

My heartfelt thanks for your public recognition of my academic life’s work, and, in particular, its achievements in connection with T.U. Dresden. This honorary degree came as a very joyful surprise from an esteemed pre-eminent institution.

My collaboration with TUD spans over 12 years now, whether via joint research, through educational consortia, or European and intercontinental networks, as your Rector has just now adroitly put it.

TUD and UNL's, and indeed European joint collaboration, are to be congratulated on this occasion. Both our teams' efforts have been conducive, over the years, especially by virtue of Prof. Hölldobler's exceptional organizing ability and human touch, to a mutual recognition on top of which has surfaced the present honorary degree. Beyond its individual character, it honours one and all, and I cannot but be deeply grateful to everyone concerned. And we are most joyful in advance for what our future collaboration holds in store.

It is true that "Logic is Everywhere", so it comes as no surprise to us that Dresden and Lisbon, though geographically distant, have become logically proximate, not to mention in friendship, mutual support, and even in shared running jokes. However, this is neither the time nor place to vent them. That will have to wait till tonight's dinner!

Back to rationality and logic takes me to the question: how have I gotten to here and now, scientifically that is? I suppose my upcoming talk will make clear that my point of departure has been philosophic all along. But also, and my CV goes to show, my pursuit of scientific knowledge has been subjected to a demanding rigor, scaffolded on the insistent demand for and the development of logic instruments. And in this respect I pay homage to Prof. Robert Kowalski here present.

Notwithstanding, my philosophical underpinnings and motivation impel me now to address the wider picture, in pursuit of the naturalization and mechanization of mind. All the more so, in sequel to my having taught a course on "Computation and the Cognitive Sciences", for some time now.

As a matter of fact, my *Weltanschauung* on the matter will be published in book form, this coming year in Portugal, whose title is "The Enlightened Machine", whether man or robot.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without my parents' head start, and their continual policy in favour of educating my

curiosity and of quenching my thirst for knowledge. This degree is in Your honour too.

This said, and without further ado, let me broach forthwith the subject of “The Cupola of Logic in the Unity of Sciences – towards an Evolutionary Epistemology.”

Luís Moniz Pereira