

# Evora's fourth international symposium on Philosophy of Science:

## 'The principles of physics in epistemological perspective'

Évora: 27 April 2012 | Sala/Room: 131, Colégio do Espírito Santo (Antiga/Old Universidade)

**Speakers/Oradores:** Olivier Darrigol (CNRS), Jesper Lützen (Københavns Universitet), Augusto Fitas (CEHFCi-UE), Isabel Serra (CFCUL - FCUL), Ricardo Coelho (CFCUL-FCUL), João Príncipe (CEHFCi-UE), Maria de Paz (CFCUL).

**Scientific coordination:** João Príncipe

## Schedule/Programa

9.30h – **Welcome session**

10.00h – **Opening morning conference: Olivier Darrigol (CNRS):**

“Mechanical laws and principles: contingent or necessary truths?”

11.00h – Discussion

11.15h – coffee break

**Sessão I – Chairman – João Príncipe (CEHFCi-UE)**

11.15h – **Augusto Fitas (CEHFCi-UE):** “Le principe de la moindre action chez Euler”.

11.45h – **Isabel Serra (CFCUL-FCUL):** “Two philosophical views of the history of physics: Mach and Poincaré”.

12.15h – **Maria de Paz (CFCUL):** “Hypotheses and Facts in Poincaré: Construction or translation?”

12.45h – Discussion

13.00h – Lunch

15.00h – **Opening afternoon conference – Jesper Lützen (Københavns Universitet):**

“Mechanistic images in geometric form: Heinrich Hertz’s principles of mechanics”.

16.00h – Discussion

**Sessão II – Chairman – Augusto Fitas (CEHFCi-UE)**

16.15h – **Ricardo Coelho (CFCUL-FCUL):** “Conceptual problems in the foundations of mechanics”.

16.45h – **João Paulo Príncipe (CEHFCi-UE):** “Les principes et les ‘rapports vrais’ chez Poincaré”.

17.15h – Final discussion

*Circa 1900, Poincaré, describing the evolution of physics, noted that the Newtonian way of building theories was being superseded by a new style, the one of Helmholtz and Maxwell; he named this new phase the physics of principles.*

*We will concentrate our attention on the structure and progress in XIX century physical theories, by considering the epistemological thoughts of Mach, Hertz and Poincaré.*

*The presence of leading international scholars will be a very special occasion in which historians of science and philosophers of science will interact for maximizing the epistemological comprehension of general aspects of physics evolution.*

Organização e apoios institucionais



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