

Carlos Fiolhais

Born in Lisbon in 1956, Carlos Fiolhais graduated in Physics at the University of Coimbra in 1978 and obtained the Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics at the University J. W. Goethe, Frankfurt/Main, Germany, in 1982.

He is Full Professor at the Department of Physics of the University of Coimbra. He was invited professor in universities of Portugal, Brazil and United States.

He has published more than 30 books, including some popular science books ("The Fun of Physics" sold more than 20000 copies, had a Brazilian edition and has Italian and Spanish editions under way). He is author of about 100 scientific papers in international journals (one of them with more than 4500 citations) and more than 400 pedagogic and science outreach articles.

He was scientific editor of 5 books (Springer, World Scientific, etc.), translated 6 books and made scientific revisions of many others. He won several prizes.

His scientific interests are centered in Computational Physics (Condensed Matter), Science Teaching and History of Sciences. He was founder and Director of the Center for Computational Physics of the University of Coimbra, where he installed the biggest Portuguese computer for scientific research. He organized several meetings and schools, national and international. He coordinates several research projects and supervises several M.Sc. and Ph.D. students. He made many conferences promoting science and the scientific culture.

He is director of "Gazeta de Física", journal of the Portuguese Physical Society, and belongs to the editorial boards of "Europhysics News", bulletin of the Physics European Society, "Física na Escola" and "Revista Brasileira do Ensino da Física", published by the Brazilian Physical Society. He was director of the Computer Center of the University of Coimbra. He was the head of the Research Council of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Scientific Research of the University of Coimbra, evaluator of "Ciência Viva" agency, and member of the directive board of the International Forum of Portuguese Researchers. He is permanent colaborator of the newspapers "Público", "Sol" and "O Primeiro de Janeiro" and has been colaborator of many others. He was consultant of the popular science TV-show "Megaciência" (SIC).

He is now Director of the General Library of the University of Coimbra.