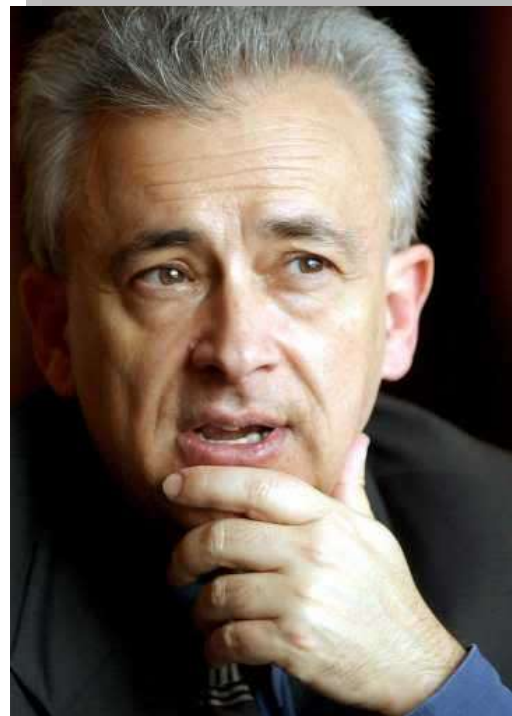




Portuguese Scientists



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Introduction

In this work we are going to write about two of the greatest Portuguese scientists:

- **António Xavier**
- **António Damasio**

and

The choice was hard but we have chosen these scientists because they are our main inspirations in the scientific area.

We hope that you enjoy reading their biographies!

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António de Vasconcelos Xavier



António Vasconcelos Xavier was born on 31 of August 1943 and died on 7 May 2006. He was considered the pioneer of Bio-inorganic chemistry worldwide. His work focused on the areas of Biochemistry, Protein Chemistry and Enzymology.

Xavier was a man who had a very important role in the Portuguese biotechnology. He participated in the European Molecular Biology Organization and Laboratory and also founded the Institute of Chemical and Biological Technology.

His work was important for the international development of Bioinorganic Chemistry and also other subjects such as Biochemistry and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance.

The nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy methodology was his election, despite being a very expensive technique and dependent on technological advances. The contribution of Xavier Antonio to the development of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance methodology in Portugal has recently been recognized with the institution of the António Xavier Award by one of the largest manufacturers of spectrometers: CERMAX - Center for Magnetic Resonance António Xavier.

António de Vasconcelos Xavier

Relevant Distinctions:

- “Gulbenkian Fellowship” Medal, in 1970-1973.
- “Chevalier de l’Ordre des Palmes Academiques French Award”, in 1980.
- “Officier de l’ Ordre des Palmes Academiques French Award”, in 1988.
- “Ordem de Sant'Iago da Espada Portuguesa Commend”, in 1997, assigned by former President Jorge Sampaio.
- “Estímulo à Excelência pelo Ministério da Ciência” Award, em 2004.

Posthumous awards:

- *EUROBIC (European Biological Chemistry) Medal*, assigned by his professor Prof. Robert J.P. Williams - international distinction in the field of bioinorganic chemistry.
- “Honra da Sociedade Espanhola de Bioquímica e Biologia Molecular” Medal.

Works beside scientific labor

António Xavier published nearly 250 scientific papers, mostly in the field of Bio-inorganics and Biochemistry. Here are the references to some of those papers:

- Coutinho, I.B.,e Xavier, A.V., (1994) Tetraheme cytochromes., *Methods Enzymol.*, 243:119-40.
- Xavier, A.V., *et al.*, (1978) Identification of the haem ligands of cytochrome b562 by X-ray and NMR methods., *Nature*, 21;275(5677):245-7.

António Damásio



Antonio Damásio Rosa was born on 25 February 1944. He is a Portuguese neuroscientist, who has developed the study of the brain and human emotions and he is currently a professor of Neuroscience at the University of Southern California. Damásio graduated from the Medical School at University of Lisbon in 1969. From 1980 to 2005 he was a Professor at the University of Iowa.

After his PhD he published his first book "*Descartes' Error - Emotion, Reason and the Human Brain*" in 2001, nominated as one of the 10 books of the year by *The New York Times*.

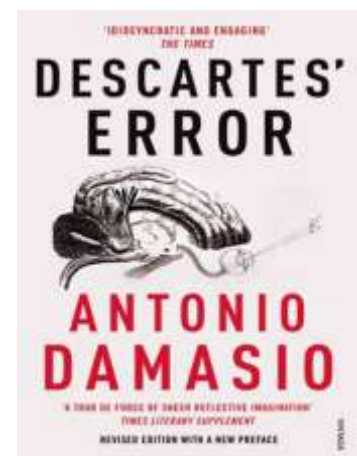
As an investigator of the brain areas, he observed hundreds of patients with brain damage, which allowed him to conclude that these patients had frequent changes of social behavior and inability to establish and comply with social rules.

This book allows people to understand what the main function of the brain is.

Damásio refers his readers to several studies and documents to show that emotions are not the luxury they seem. He demonstrates the real path between emotions and rationality.

Besides *Descartes' Error*, António Damásio has published other books about scientific thinking.

Damásio's ideas and work have inspired many experiments in Europe and in the USA. They have also had great influence in contemporary science and philosophy.



António Damásio - Honors and Awards

2009, Richard Wollheim Prize, London;

2005, Prince of Asturias Award for Scientific and Technical Research;

2004, Signoret Prize in Cognitive Neuroscience (shared with Hanna Damasio);

2003, Nonino Prize;

2002, Named "Highly Cited Researcher" in Neuroscience by the Institute for Scientific Information;

2000, The Reenpää Prize, Finland;

1997, Prix Plasticité Neuronale, Ipsen Foundation;

1995, Golden Brain Award (Berkeley);

1995, Order of Santiago da Espada (Grand Oficial), Portugal;

1992, Pessoa Prize (shared with Hanna Damasio)

2010, is awarded with "Honda Award", worth 80 thousand Euros.



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