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Special Issue

In Honour of J. Frederico Marques

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Editorial

The persistence of memory: Essays in honour of J. Frederico Marques

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Editor

How we remember and how we cope with memory losses were some of the questions that J. Frederico Marques addressed in his research. Indeed, retention of the past is a precious commodity. Having suffered the too early loss of such an esteemed colleague, we set ourselves the task of preserving, as best we can, the memory of Frederico's life and work, both for those who have had the privilege of knowing him and for those who have been deprived of this experience by his early departure. Therefore, together with the Sociedade Portuguesa de Psicologia (Portuguese Psychological Society), we have organized this special issue of the *Revista Portuguesa de Psicologia* dedicated to the memory of José Frederico Marques, Full Professor at the Faculdade de Psicologia da Universidade de Lisboa. Over his fertile career, Frederico has been at the forefront of international semantic memory research and has been one of the most influential figures in cognitive psychology in Portugal. To celebrate Frederico's life and work, we invited some of those who have been influenced by his writings, teachings, and friendship to present their personal testimony or their latest work in research areas in which Frederico was also involved.

This special issue is organized into two sections. Opening this tribute are eight personal contributions that span the multiple facets of Frederico's work in academia, and together constitute a wonderful testimony of Frederico as a friend and colleague. São Luís Castro evokes Frederico's remarkable dedication to experimental psychology, recognized in his designation as Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, along with his foundational and continuous role at the Associação Portuguesa de Psicologia Experimental (Portuguese Association for Experimental Psychology). Ana Sebastião recalls the decisive role of Frederico in the complex process of creating and coordinating the Master and the PhD Programs of Cognitive Science and the Mind-Brain Doctoral College, three dynamic and innovative programs at the Universidade de Lisboa. Testifying on Frederico's brilliant career in semantic memory research, Paulo Ventura points out the many qualities of Frederico as a colleague and collaborator. Maria Eduarda Duarte offers the view not only of the "tireless worker" and "demanding teacher" many of us have met, but also of the "critical but friendly" student at the beginning of his career. Along his research activities, the teaching and learning of Psychology was one the greatest interests of Frederico as testified by Peter Reddy. By combining research and teaching skills,

Frederico's vision of what the Faculdade de Psicologia should be had a tremendous impact on our institution, both in terms of the structure of the teaching activities and in the organization of the research center, as acknowledged by Luísa Barros. Leonel Garcia-Marques reflects on Frederico's "uncommon and precious ability" to change his ideas when facing good arguments, in a "truly democratic and scientific" approach to life. We close this section with a touching letter from José Morais to Frederico, remembering his talent for cooking delicious meals and tasty conversations.

The second section of this special issue comprises eight excellent research articles covering a variety of topics in semantic memory research. These constitute the most important areas of Frederico's research projects, combining diverse methodologies and populations, in fruitful national and international collaborations. Opening this section are three theoretical/review articles. Lambon-Ralph reviews the main theories and approaches to the study of concepts and their features and develops the notion of a transmodal representation in conceptualization. This is a timely question in the cognitive neuroscience of semantic memory and a topic to which Frederico dedicated his latest projects. The paper by Mares and Pavão Martins provides a review of how neuropsychological cases, notably of semantic dementia and aphasia patients, help us understand the hierarchical organization of semantic memory. Based on much of Frederico's work, the authors highlight the role of feature sharedness in semantic organization, offering an explanation for the pattern of dissociations observed. Amaral and Almeida review a body of studies on congenitally deaf humans and how the auditory cortex can be co-opted to process visual input. These studies have important implications for neuroplasticity and the interplay of information from different modalities, questions that also interested Frederico. Next, there are three experimental papers. In one of Frederico's latest works, Marques, Charnallet, Ambrosi and Moreaud investigated the pattern of deterioration of concrete and abstract concepts in semantic dementia. They found evidence that abstract concepts are particularly degraded in semantic dementia patients (relative to matched controls) and, moreover, that language-based associations were more impaired in these patients than sensorimotor-based associations. Following Frederico's significant work on concept typicality, the paper by Alves and Raposo highlights the role of this semantic dimension in both semantic and episodic memory. The authors show that while it is easier to categorize typical than atypical items, there is better episodic recognition of atypical items, suggesting that atypical semantic features are highly diagnostic during episodic recognition. Santi, Raposo and Marques used typicality to explore categorization at the superordinate and domain levels and to inspect the internal organization of the domain level. The results reveal that categorization at the domain level is largely independent from categorization at a superordinate level and occurs along the animate/inanimate dimension (rather than the living/nonliving dimension). The final part of this section consists of two papers on semantic norms and validation procedures in the Portuguese population. The paper by Catricalà, Ginex, Dominici and Cappa provides features for a large number of concepts, drawn from the living and nonliving domains, and derives several critical dimensions, which may be instrumental for prospective studies on semantic organization. Finally, Reis, Bramão, Araújo and Faísca validate scoring procedures of semantic fluency tasks for the Portuguese population. Through a time analysis, they focus on clustering and switching, two critical aspects in the processing of semantically related words.

All of the scientific papers in this issue profited from the thoughtful comments of expert reviewers. We thank Alexandre Castro Caldas, Eugénia Fernandes, Joana Carmo, Ludmila Nunes, Mara Alves, Paulo Ventura, Pedro Albuquerque and Rita Jerónimo for their valuable suggestions.

This special issue represents an overview of Frederico's diverse interests and commitments to academia, from research to teaching to institutional work. These articles are part of his legacy. Hopefully, they will inspire and shape new research to come.