



## Introductory Note

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## Introductory note

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The Petrus Hispanus Lectures are delivered every other academic year at the University of Lisbon by a leading figure in current research about the nature of mind, cognition and language. Presently the Petrus Hispanus Lectures are organized by the Philosophy Centre of the University of Lisbon and the journal *Disputatio*. We thus pay tribute to the seminal work done in those areas by Peter of Spain, the great Portuguese medieval logician and philosopher.

The first Petrus Hispanus Lectures were given in 1998 by Hilary Putnam, from Harvard University, and were organized by the Portuguese Philosophy Society and *Disputatio*. They were published as issue 5 of *Disputatio* in November 1998. The second Petrus Hispanus Lectures were delivered in 2000 by Richard Jeffrey, from Princeton University, and were organized by the Portuguese Philosophy Society.

Organized by the Philosophy Centre and *Disputatio*, the 2003 Petrus Hispanus Lectures were delivered on 22 and 23 May by Ned Block, Professor of Philosophy and Psychology at New York University and a towering figure in the philosophies of mind, cognition and consciousness. The titles of Ned Block's lectures were 'The Mind-Body Problem from a Neuroscientific Point of View' and 'Other Minds and Vagueness' (respectively).

Ned Block (Ph.D., Harvard) went to New York University in 1996 from MIT where he was Chair of the Philosophy Program. He works in philosophy of mind, metaphysics and foundations of cognitive science. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow, a Senior Fellow of the Center for the Study of Language and Information, a Sloan Foundation Fellow, a faculty member at two NEH Institutes and two NEH Seminars and the

recipient of grants from the American Council of Learned Societies and the National Science Foundation. He is a past president of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, a past Chair of the MIT Press Cognitive Science Board of Syndics, and is currently President-elect of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness. *The Philosopher's Annual* selected his papers in 1983, 1990, 1996 and 2003. He is co-editor of *The Nature of Consciousness: Philosophical Debates* (MIT Press, 1997). Two volumes of his collected papers are forthcoming from MIT Press.

The present issue of *Disputatio* is entirely devoted to the 2003 Petrus Hispanus Lectures. It contains the paper 'The Harder Problem of Consciousness' that Ned Block used as a basis for his Lisbon lectures.

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