

**ROUTES INTO THE  
FUTURE**  
NEW MAPS FOR THE  
SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES



**18 > 21 June 2008**

\* International Colloquium

Teatro Académico Gil Vicente  
Auditorium of the Faculty of Law  
Auditorium of the University of Coimbra

## Inaugural Conference

**Boaventura de Sousa Santos | "Philosophy for Sale, Learned Ignorance and Pascal's Wager"**

June 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00 - 10:45

The 'epistemology of the South' which I have been proposing aims at recovering the knowledge and practices of social groups which, through the workings of capitalism and colonialism, were historically and sociologically placed in a position wherein they were the mere object or natural resource of dominant knowledge, viewed as the only valid form. The central concepts of the epistemology of the South are the sociology of absences, the sociology of emergence, the ecology of knowledge, and intercultural translation. In actual fact, this is not an epistemology, but rather a set of epistemologies. Unlike the epistemologies of the North, the epistemologies of the South seek to include the greatest number of experiences of the types of knowledge of the world. Thus, after undergoing reconfiguration, they embrace the North's experience of knowledge. Unsuspected bridges of intercommunication open up, namely across to Western traditions which were marginalised, discredited or forgotten by that which in the nineteenth century came to be the prevailing canon of modern science.

**Boaventura de Sousa Santos** is Professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Coimbra and Global Legal Scholar at the Universidade of Warwick, UK. Distinguished Legal Scholar at the Faculty of Law, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. Director of the Centro de Estudos Sociais and Director of the Centro de Documentação 25 de Abril at the University of Coimbra. Recent publications includes *A Gramática do Tempo: para uma nova cultura política* (Porto: Afrontamento, 2006); *Cognitive Justice in a Global World: Prudent Knowledge for a Decent Life* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2007).