

## BIOGRAPHIES LUC STEELS AND OSCAR VILARROYA

**Luc Steels (music)**, Ph.D. He is a scientist working in the field of artificial intelligence. He studied languages and literature at the University of Antwerp and then computer science and artificial intelligence at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US). In 1983 he founded the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at the Free University of Brussels (VUB) and became full professor in computer science. More than 30 Ph.d's graduated under his direction in many areas of artificial intelligence, from knowledge systems to robotics and language processing. In 1996, he founded the Sony Computer Science laboratory in Paris, a fundamental research lab where one of the primary goals is to explore the potential of computers for the creation, distribution, and access to music. He is currently a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies (ICREA) in Barcelona, embedded in the Institute for Evolutionary Biology (CSIC-UPF). His main research target during the past decade has been the development of models for the origins and evolution of language using robotic experiments and computational simulations. Steels has published hundreds of papers in journals and conferences as well as 15 books on a wide range of topics in artificial intelligence. He is an elected member of the Flemish Academy of Sciences of Belgium and the European Academy.

Luc Steels has been active in the arts since his student days in Antwerp in the early seventies, where he founded and animated the theatre collective "Dr. Buttocks Players Pool" which was dedicated to performance art. In the same period he was a member of the avant-garde music ensemble Mishalle-Geladi-Steels, which explored electronic music and computer music coupled to performance art. More recently he has collaborated with several visual artists such as Carsten Höller, Anne-Mie van Kerckhoven and Olafur Eliasson for exhibitions in the Capc Musée in Bordeaux, the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris, the Kölner and Aachener Kunstverein and other venues. With the French theatre director Jean-Francois Peyret he wrote a play about the Russian mathematician Sonja Kowaleskaya, performed at the Avignon Theatre Festival and the Theatre National de Chaillot in Paris in 2005. His first opera (with a libretto by Oscar Vilarroya) premiered at the Palau de la Musica in Barcelona in 2011, followed by performances in "La Maison Rouge" (Paris), Théâtre Molière (Brussels), Iers College (Leuven), the Sony Conference Hall (Tokyo) and the UPMC concert hall (Paris). Fausto is the second opera, again with libretto by Oscar Vilarroya, for which Steels wrote the music.

Website: <http://ai.vub.ac.be/members/steels>

**Oscar Vilarroya (Libretto)**, MD, PhD. He is director of the Neuroimaging of Mental Health Disorders group at the IMIM, Barcelona, Spain. The group has the aim of applying neuroimaging techniques to the study of normal and abnormal cognitive functions. Additionally, Oscar Vilarroya is Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), and director of the "social brain" Chair at the same university. Oscar Vilarroya has been involved in scientific popularization activities in press, radio and television, some of which have been published as scientific popularization books, such as *Sorbets de Ciència* or *Paraula de robot*. He is also author of fiction works, such as the novel *Joc net* or the play *De botxins i gots d'aigua*. He has also been the scientific advisor and co-script writer for some artistic projects, such as Harmonia Carmona's documentary *Bajo la piel del conflicto*, or Cesc Gelabert's choreography *Orion*. He also collaborated as librettist on the opera Casparo with music by Luc Steels.