Luc Steels, Ph.D., is a scientist working in the field of artificial intelligence since the early nineteen-seventies. 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. 40 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 was to explore the potential of computers for the creation, distribution, and access to music. He is currently a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studied (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. Recently he turned his attention to the ethical issues of AI with the creation of the EU funded 'European Observatory for AI Ethics' in Venice. 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 a prolific speaker both in technical workshops and conferences and in public fora, such as the College de France (Paris) the Serpentine Gallery (London) or the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin). He is an elected member of the Flemish Academy of Sciences of Belgium and the European Academy. In 2018 he held the prestigious Franqui Chair at the University of Leuven (KUL).

Luc Steels has been active in the arts since his student days in Antwerp in the early seventies, where he founded the KK centrum of the UIA 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 and of the Studio for Electronic Music in Antwerp. Later on he collaborated with several visual artists such as Carsten Höller, Anne-Mie van Kerckhoven, Sissel Tolaas, and Olafur Eliasson for exhibitions in the Capc Musée in Bordeaux, the Musee 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 for which Steels wrote the music, again with a libretto by Oscar Vilarroya. As a work in progress, Fausto was already performed at "La Gaité Lyrique" (Paris) in 2016, the Monnaie Opera house (foyer) Brussels in 2017 and the And& MindGate Festival Leuven in 2018. The February 2019 performance at the Monnaie Opera house is the first full-scale premiere of the complete opera.