

Acknowledgements

This special issue of *Natureza Humana* magazine is a tribute to Zeljko Loparic over his 80 years of life, 50 of which spent in Brazil. It is a tribute to his personal and intellectual vitality, to his permanent inventiveness and initiative, to his dedication to grounded knowledge and research, to his ever-renewed confidence in the value of debating ideas and in the institutions which promote them. It is only natural that on this occasion, this special issue of the Magazine which he created in 1999 should be dedicated to him.

I would therefore like to begin by offering my very special thanks to all of the participants who responded to my invitation promptly and who, in an open, friendly and generous way, have contributed their articles from the different areas in which the debate with Loparic has happened or is happening.

This edition would not have been possible without the firm editorial coordination of Marcos Lisboa, whom I thank for having grasped the project so decisively from the beginning and having directed it until it was realised in full.

I would also like to recall, with joy and enormous gratitude, that I have drawn on the invaluable help, both friendly and expert, of Caroline Vasconcelos Ribeiro and Eder Soares Santos, who, in addition to their direct contributions to the Festschrift, were invaluable in examining the details and rules of normalisation, as well as having offered to present this issue.

I thank Flávia Pagliusi and Meire C. Gomes for their dedicated and thorough review work and Mariana Barros Pereira, who, at the last minute's request, designed the cover with her talent and attention. One last but no less deserved thanks goes to Neca Leite, who has acted as my secretary from the start of the project, in her usual highly competent way.