

Mathematics for the people

Nuno Crato
Communicator
of the Year

Finalist



Nuno Crato is a regular contributor of articles to newspapers, magazines, radio and TV programmes. Through these channels he brings a regular scientific perspective on a wide variety of current news and events to a vast audience. He is also the author of best-selling popular science books and takes a leading role in bringing the fascination of mathematics to the general public.



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Professor Nuno Crato's main research areas at the Technical University of Lisbon are in stochastic modelling and the statistical description of random events and their behaviour in time. He has made significant contributions in these fields in areas such as volatility persistence in financial markets and his applied stochastic models have found application in diverse end-uses from computer science to fishery forecasting. He has served as President of the International Symposium on Forecasting in 2000 and as the President of the Portuguese Mathematical Society since 2004.

In parallel, he has developed a wide variety of activities that help to popularise science. Since 1996, he has written a weekly column for Portugal's most popular newspaper (*Expresso*). For this, and other popular writing projects, he has been awarded prizes at both national (*Visionarium*) and international levels.

The European Mathematics Society's Raising Public Awareness Prize was awarded to him in 2003 for a three-part article that is typical of the 'Crato approach'. Primarily, it is easy to read but it is also informative and scientifically sound. The article described mathematical cryptography in the context of credit cards and, specifically, the growth of internet shopping. It addressed a topic of major public interest and dealt with it with humour, intelligence and a distinct journalistic style. Crato's writings have appeared in many diverse publications from in-flight magazines to historical journals. In total, he has written over 500 popular science pieces.

Da Vinci code

In addition, he is author of many books on scientific issues. These are, like his articles, always topical. For example, his book on solar eclipses was published just prior to the 1999 Solar Eclipse, and his very successful co-authored book on science in the Da Vinci Code novel 'A Espiral Dourada' (The Golden Spiral) coincided with the international release of the film of the book.

He has also contributed regularly to radio and television. He developed a radio programme in collaboration with journalists in which he comments succinctly on scientific news and issues called '3 Minutos de Ciência' (Three Minutes of Science), on Radio Europa. He designed and appeared in a television short programme 'Ciência na Cidade' (Science in the City) in which he stressed scientific issues relating to many popular places, monuments and artefacts. He is one of the 'resident scientists' in the '4xCiência' television series and contributed to 'ABCiência' and other programmes.

As President of the Portuguese Mathematical Society, Crato has fostered dozens of events for children and students. These include Mathematics Saturday Afternoons, competitions and a Mathematics Fair which runs as a 'drop-in' type event during the summer and includes many hands-on activities from trigonometry to probability in addition to music and other cultural activities.

INFO

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Category

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Contact

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