



ΕΘΕΣ. ΑΓΑΠΗΣ. ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗΣ

THEORIA

ISSN 0495-4548 – eISSN 2171-679X

## Guest editor's presentation<sup>&</sup>

*(Presentación del editor)*

David REY\*  
Universidad El Bosque

---

<sup>&</sup> Editing this special issue has been a rewarding experience. Every person involved was enthusiastic about the project. I wish to thank the authors of the papers for their excellent contributions and the anonymous reviewers for their efficiency and generosity. I also wish to thank Agustín Vicente, María José García Encinas, and Antonio Diéguez for their support, and my friend Alfonso Conde for his participation in the project during its early stages. María José contributed to the preparation of the issue during the whole editorial process, and for that I am especially grateful to her. My work on this issue was supported by the MEIC (Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Competitividad), Spanish Government, Excelencia programme project no. FFI2016-80636-P.

\* **Correspondence to:** David Rey. Departamento de Humanidades. Universidad El Bosque. Calle 132 # 7a-35 (Bogotá, Colombia) – [dareys@gmail.com](mailto:dareys@gmail.com) – <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6584-025X>

**How to cite:** Rey, David. (2020). «Guest editor's presentation»; *Theoria. An International Journal for Theory, History and Foundations of Science*, 35(1), 5-7. (<https://doi.org/10.1387/theoria.21351>).

Received: 30 December, 2019; Final version: 30 December, 2019.

ISSN 0495-4548 - eISSN 2171-679X / © 2020 UPV/EHU



This article is distributed under the terms of the  
*Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License*

I am glad to present to the readers of *Theoria: An International Journal for Theory, History, and the Foundations of Science* this special issue devoted to the intellectual legacy of the American philosopher Jerry Alan Fodor (1935-2017).

Jerry Fodor was born and raised in New York City. In 1956, he earned his bachelor's degree at Columbia University and four years later he received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Princeton University. He held teaching positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the City University of New York, and Rutgers University. Over the course of fifty-five years, he authored (or co-authored) thirteen books<sup>1</sup> and more than one hundred articles. Fodor's published work had a significant impact on cognitive psychology and the philosophy of mind. In his most influential writings, he defended substantive views about the nature and structure of the mind—views like the computational theory of mental processes and the modular theory of cognitive architecture—and criticized various theories and doctrines such as behaviorism, connectionism, inferential role semantics, semantic holism, and Darwinism.<sup>2</sup>

The present issue of *Theoria* puts together five papers written by seven distinguished scholars. These papers discuss some of Fodor's major contributions to the philosophy of mind, including his language of thought hypothesis, his theoretical arguments for that hypothesis, his approach to concept acquisition, and his defense of the autonomy of psychology. There are, of course, other Fodorian topics that are not examined in this special issue. It is my hope that the issue will give its readers a motivation to keep thinking about the ideas that Fodor insightfully explored in his books and papers.

## REFERENCES

- Fodor, J. A. (1968). *Psychological explanation: An introduction to the philosophy of psychology*. New York: Random House.
- Fodor, J. A. (1975). *The language of thought*. New York, NY.: Thomas Y. Crowell Company.
- Fodor, J. A. (1981). *Representations: Philosophical essays on the foundations of cognitive science*. Brighton, Sussex: The Harvester Press.
- Fodor, J. A. (1983) *The modularity of mind*. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press.
- Fodor, J. A. (1987). *Psychosemantics: The problem of meaning in the philosophy of mind*. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press.
- Fodor, J. A. (1990). *A theory of content and other essays*. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press.
- Fodor, J. A. (1994). *The elm and the expert: Mentalese and its semantics*. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press.
- Fodor, J. A. (1998a). *Concepts: Where cognitive science went wrong*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Fodor, J. A. (1998b). *In critical condition: Polemical essays on cognitive science and the philosophy of mind*. MIT Press. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press.

<sup>1</sup> I am excluding the books that collect previously published articles (Fodor, 1981, 1990, 1998b; Fodor and Lepore, 2002) and the books which Fodor co-edited (Fodor and Katz, 1964; Fodor and Lepore, 1994).

<sup>2</sup> For a list of Fodor's publications (up to the year 2000) and various interesting documents—including some obituaries and remembrances—see his personal website (<https://rucss.rutgers.edu/jerry>) at the Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science. To get a glimpse of the impact of Fodor's work in terms of number of citations, you can take a look at his Google Scholar profile (<https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=HeKBobAAAAAJ>).

- Fodor, J. A. (2000). *The mind doesn't work that way: The scope and limits of computational psychology*. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press.
- Fodor, J. A. (2003). *Hume variations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Fodor, J. A. (2008). *LOT 2: The language of thought revisited*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Fodor, J. A., Bever, T. G., & Garrett, M. F. (1974). *The psychology of language: An introduction to psycholinguistics and generative grammar*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Fodor, J. A., & Katz, J. J. (Eds.) (1964). *The structure of language: Readings in the philosophy of language*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ.: Prentice Hall.
- Fodor, J. A., & Lepore, E. (1992). *Holism: A shopper's guide*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Fodor, J. A., & Lepore, E. (Eds.) (1994). *Holism: A consumer update*. *Grazer Philosophische Studien* 46(1). Amsterdam: Rodopi.
- Fodor, J. A., & Lepore, E. (2002). *The compositionality papers*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Fodor, J. A., & Piattelli-Palmarini, M. (2010). *What Darwin got wrong*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Fodor, J. A., & Pylyshyn, Z. W. (2015). *Minds without meanings: An essay on the content of concepts*. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press.

**DAVID REY** is Professor at the Department of Humanities of Universidad El Bosque. He obtained his PhD at the University of Barcelona and has been member of the projects 'Semantic Content and Context Dependence' (FFI2009-13436), 'Semantic Content and Conversational Dynamics' (FFI2012-37658), and 'Foundations and Methods of Natural Language Semantics' (FFI2016-80636-P).

**ADDRESS:** Departamento de Humanidades. Universidad El Bosque. Calle 132 # 7a-35 (Bogotá, Colombia).  
Email address: dareys@gmail.com