INTRODUCTION TO A SPECIAL ISSUE ON PSYCHOLOGY:
SCENES OF TOMORROW

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The present special issue was prepared after the conference organised for José Morais’ retirement, 19-20 September 2008, at the Royal Academy in Brussels, with the help of the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique-FNRS, Belgium, of the Calouste Gulbenkian Fund, Portugal, and of the various teams of SCOLA, Université Libre de Bruxelles (U.L.B.). The point of this editorial is not to trace back the career of José Morais, as this has been done in a moving and funny way through all his friends and colleagues’ talks. For this I want to thank them all warmly (in order of appearance on the “Scene”): Véronique Halloin, at that time Vice-Recteur pour la recherche et le développement of U.L.B., António Sampaio da Nóvoa, Rector of Lisbon University, Cécile van de Leemput, at that time Dean of the Faculté des Sciences Psychologiques et de l’Éducation of U.L.B., Jacques Mehler, SISSA, Trieste, Jesus Alegria, U.L.B., Philippe Mousty, U.L.B., Jacqueline Leybaert, U.L.B., Jonathan Grainger, Université d’Aix-Marseille, Uli Frauenfelder, Université de Genève, Michel Fayol, Université de Clermont-Ferrand, Olivier Klein, U.L.B., Assaad Azzi, U.L.B., Beatrice de Gelder, Tilburg University, Serge Brédart, Université de Liège, Elisabetta Ladavas, University of Bologna, Patrick Fery, U.L.B., Philippe Peigneux, U.L.B., Xavier Seron, Université Catholique de Louvain, Alex Lefèbre, U.L.B., Nathalie Vercruysses, U.L.B., Nathalie Pattyn, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Manuel Paiva, U.L.B., Daniel Holender, U.L.B., Guy Karnas, U.L.B., Tim Shallice, University College London and SISSA, Trieste, Régine Kolinsky, U.L.B., Stanislas Dehaene, Collège de France and INSERM, Paris, Alain Content, U.L.B., Isabelle Peretz, BRAMS, Université de Montréal, Mireille Besson, CNRS, Marseille, Axel Cleeremans, U.L.B., and Géry d’Ydewalle, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. Not to talk about all those who, like Juan Segui, and, above all, José’s Mentor, Paul Bertelson, could not participate to the conference but were present in our minds...

The present issue only presents some of these contributions, but this restricted sample illustrates quite well the huge variety of José’s interests along his fructuous career: from political commitment in our society to political considerations in science (Tim Shallice’s and Olivier Klein’s papers), from rationalism to emotions (Nathalie Pattyn’s paper), from psycholinguistics (Jacques Mehler’s paper and Katia Lecocq and collaborators’ paper) to music (Isabelle Peretz’ paper) and faces (Beatrice de Gelder and
Paul Bertelson’s paper). José Morais has always been an enthusiast and stimulating researcher, and we all hope that he will let us benefit for a long time to come from his inspired and inspiring collaboration, although we know that he also walks along other roads that take him through the landscape of more literary scenes.