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Editorial for the special issue

What is new in Perception-Action and Memory-Attention

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On 27th and 28th September 2013, we held the “Attention, Perception and Memory” Symposium at the University of São Paulo campus in Ribeirão Preto which aimed to bring together studies and research relevant to these fields. With this in mind, specialists from Brazil and other countries were invited to participate in the symposium, allowing us to share not only ideas, but also results and suggestions for sufficiently sound and relevant future projects to update this area and fulfil the recommendations made by the country's research funding agencies regarding the internationalisation of Brazilian research in this area. Another objective of the symposium was to pay homage to the late Professor Nilton P. Ribeiro-Filho from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, a brilliant professor, dear colleague and friend, and one of the greatest enthusiasts of research in Perception and Psychophysics who shared with us over 40 years of experience in teaching and research in this area. It is important to mention that on receiving the news that the symposium would be dedicated to the memory of Professor Nilton, a number of participants promptly acknowledged the importance of such a tribute. On receiving the news about the symposium, Dr. J. Landeira-Fernandez, editor in chief of the Journal of Psychology and Neuroscience, immediately contacted me and suggested inviting the presenters to create a special edition of the journal dedicated to the memory of Professor Nilton, with whom he also shared several years of work and research. Pleased to receive the request and after receiving the call for papers, the invitees returned almost two dozen manuscripts, of which nineteen were accepted for publication after peer review. Grouped into two subareas – Perception-Action and Memory-

Attention – readers will observe that the works cover a wide range of topics, from small and large scale Spatial Perception and False Memory, to Human Locomotion, Postural Control, Working Memory, Pain Measurement, Alzheimer's Disease and Visual Attention. Revisiting William James, the father of American pragmatism, who affirmed that man is not granted with all truth and wisdom, since both are dependent upon the vantage point from which one views the world, the articles that make up this special edition exhibit the same perspicacity, presenting an outline of the broad range of current knowledge in the respective fields. It is important to highlight that the abundance of studies undertaken within these areas has led to the creation of specialised journals concentrating on specific themes. We are therefore grateful to all authors who promptly accepted the invite to participate in the symposium, and also devoted part of their precious time to writing the articles published here. Special thanks go to Professor Landeira-Fernandez, whose hawk-eyed vision and acute intelligence ensured that the presentation of these studies went beyond a simple symposium programme and whose perseverance towards the compilation of this volume culminated in its fruition. We hope that this edition serves as a relevant source of research and knowledge for undergraduate and postgraduate students and specialists in the area, as well as all those interested in the basic psychological processes brought together in this volume. It is also hoped that this special edition contributes towards the insertion of studies carried out in this area by Brazilians in the international research arena, thus meeting one of the institutional goals of our academy.