

## **Biografien der Protagonisten      Übersicht**

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**Biografien der Protagonisten** verfasst, bzw eingesandt von den Protagonisten selbst, mit Ausnahme der Angaben zu Francisco Varela und Heinz von Foerster.

## **Francisco J. Varela**

Die Hauptperson des Films ist der mit 54 Jahren verstorbene Chilene Francisco Varela, ein berühmter Neurobiologe und eine führende Figur auf dem Gebiet der Kognitionswissenschaft, der durch die Autopoiesis (zusammen mit H. Maturana) bekannt geworden ist; einer auf Autonomie gründenden Definition von Leben.

Ein Schwerpunkt von Varelas Arbeit war, eine Brücke zu schaffen zwischen den Erkenntnissen des Geistes in der Wissenschaft und den Erkenntnissen des Geistes in der Erfahrung.

Nach einer einfachen, wunderbaren Kindheit im nordchilenischen Dorf „Monte Grande“ und einem schnellen, erfolgreichen Studium in Harvard wird Francisco nach dem Putsch von Pinochet 1973 erstmals direkt mit dem Sterben konfrontiert. Freunde von ihm und sein Schwiegervater werden ermordet. Im Exil wird er zweimal mit dem eigenen Sterben konfrontiert. Einmal beim Warten auf ein Transplantat und einmal nach erfolgloser Krebsbehandlung.

Schon als Junge und bis zuletzt beschäftigte ihn immer die gleiche Frage: Wie ist es möglich, dass unser Körper und unser Geist zusammen eine Einheit leben?

Sein starkes humanistisches Engagement, die klare und realistische Denkweise, seine Warmherzigkeit und grosse Offenheit in der Beziehung zu anderen, seiner Frau, seinen Kindern, Freunden, Studenten und Kollegen, haben ihn zu einem aussergewöhnlichen Menschen und Förderer von Ideen gemacht. Er sagt: Die Ideen fliegen durch die Luft, man muss nur offen sein, sie einzufangen verstehen und sie entwickeln.

Francisco Varela ist am 28. Mai 2001 in Paris gestorben, zwei Wochen nach einem unerwartet starken Rückfall nach Abschluss seiner Chemotherapien. In den letzten Monaten vor seinem Tod konnte Franz Reichle mehrere intensive Gespräche mit Francisco Varela zu zentralen Themen führen und auf Video festhalten.

Ausführliche Angaben zum Werdegang von Francisco Varela siehe <http://www.ccr.jussieu.fr/varela/varela/index.html>

Ausführliche Angaben zu seinen Publikationen siehe auch <http://www.enolagaia.com/Varela.html>

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## **Amy Cohen Varela**

Amy Cohen Varela was born in the United States (Boston). After pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies in Comparative Literature (Brown and Columbia Universities), she completed a degree in Clinical Psychology at the University of Paris (Paris VII, Jussieu). She is currently pursuing work initiated with Francisco Varela at the interface between psychoanalysis and neurophenomenology. Amy and Francisco have a son, Gabriel, born in Paris in 1992. His principal interest is archeology.

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## **Evan Thompson**

<http://www.yorku.ca/evant>

Canada Research Chair, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy  
York University, Toronto.

Author of:

with Francisco J. Varela and Eleanor Rosch, THE EMBODIED MIND: COGNITIVE  
SCIENCE AND HUMAN EXPERIENCE. MIT Press, 1991.

COLOUR VISION: A STUDY IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF  
PERCEPTION. Routledge Press, 1995.

RADICAL EMBODIMENT: THE LIVED BODY IN BIOLOGY, HUMAN EXPERIENCE, AND THE  
SCIENCES OF MIND. Forthcoming.

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## Heinz von Foerster

<http://www.univie.ac.at/heinz-von-foerster-archive/>

Albert Müller

### Heinz von Foerster (1911-2002)

»Das Leben ist eine wunderbare Angelegenheit« – es gibt kaum jemand, der einen solchen Satz mit solcher Überzeugungskraft sprechen konnte wie der nun Verstorbene. Er war ihm ebenso persönliches wie wissenschaftliches Programm. Hatte Elias Canetti mit aller Energie den Tod gehasst, hat Heinz von Foerster mit nicht geringerer Energie das – nicht bloß sein – Leben geliebt.

Heinz von Foerster wurde am 13. November 1911 in eine vielfältig künstlerisch und intellektuell begabte und interessierte Familie in Wien geboren. Er zeigte bereits als Kind und Jugendlicher außerordentliche Begabung für Naturwissenschaften und Mathematik; gleichwohl interessierte er sich mehr für Zauberei, Artistik oder seine Jazz-Band als für schulkonformes Verhalten. Nach der Matura studierte er Technische Physik an der Wiener Technischen Hochschule. Schon während der Schulzeit war auch Foersters Interesse an Philosophie und erkenntnistheoretischen Problemen erwacht. Foerster verließ die Technische Hochschule ohne formellen Abschluss, um in verschiedenen Firmen als Techniker zu arbeiten. 1944 reichte er eine Dissertation an der Universität Breslau ein, doch der »Mischling 2. Grades«, der keinen »Ariernachweis« erbringen konnte, wurde nicht promoviert. Nur mit viel Camouflage entkam Foerster den spezifischen Gefahren des NS-Regimes vergleichsweise unbehelligt.

Nachdem er nach Kriegsende gemeinsam mit seiner Frau Mai und den drei Söhnen nach Wien zurückgekehrt war, arbeitete er als Techniker und Rundfunk-Journalist. Foerster, Mitte der Dreißig, war zu diesem Zeitpunkt keineswegs das, was man damals (und heute) unter einem »Wissenschaftler« verstand. Und es war auch mehr intellektuelles Vergnügen, das Foerster veranlasste, unter den schwierigen Bedingungen der unmittelbaren Nachkriegszeit ein – sein erstes – wissenschaftliches Buch zu verfassen: *Das Gedächtnis. Eine quantenphysikalische Untersuchung*. Auf vierzig Seiten wurde für die Ebbinghauschen Messungen von Gedächtnisleistungen ein allgemeines Modell der Interpretation sowie eine Theorie der Architektur und Funktionsweise des Gedächtnisses insgesamt geboten. Durch eine Kette von Zufällen einerseits und durch bestehende persönliche Netzwerke andererseits konnte Foerster Ende 1948 eine USA-Reise antreten, während der ein Exemplar des Buches dem Neurophysiologen Warren S. McCulloch (1898-1968) bekannt wurde. McCulloch lud Foerster zu Vorträgen und wissenschaftlichen Konferenzen ein – darun-

ter zur berühmten Macy-Konferenz 1949 über Kybernetik, deren Konferenzakten Foerster später herausgeben sollte. Er stand damit gleichsam »über Nacht« im Zentrum der Entwicklung einer neuen Trans-Disziplin, zu deren Entwicklung er wesentlich beitrug. McCulloch vermittelte Foerster außerdem eine Professorenstelle an der *University of Illinois*, Urbana, wo dieser bis zu seiner Emeritierung 1976 blieb.

Nachdem die Macy-Konferenzen 1953 ausgelaufen waren, arbeitete Foerster weiter an Problemen der Bio-Kybernetik; 1957/58 gründete er das *Biological Computer Laboratory* (BCL) als Zentrum der Weiterentwicklung der Kybernetik, der Bionik, der Systemtheorie und verwandter Gebiete. An diesem Laboratorium arbeiteten unter anderem Gordon Pask (1928-1996), W. Ross Ashby (1903-1972), Gotthard Günther (1900-1984), später dann Humberto Maturana (geb. 1928) und Francisco Varela (1946-2001), um nur die bekanntesten Namen zu nennen. Ein erster, ganz großer Durchbruch gelang Foerster mit einem Beitrag zur Theorie der selbst-organisierenden Systeme. Foerster arbeitete in den 1960er Jahren unter anderem an einem Prototyp eines Parallelrechners (Numa-Rete), verschiedener Wahrnehmungsmaschinen, sowie in Bereichen, die später unter dem Namen *Artificial Intelligence* bekannt werden sollten. Es war symptomatisch für Foersters Arbeitsstil, immer wieder zu versuchen, einmal gewonnene Einsichten in einem bestimmten Bereich auf andere, neue Bereiche zu übertragen. Bald erhielten die Ziele des BCL einen deutlich epistemologischen Fokus. Ein – aus wissenschaftshistorischer Sicht – entscheidender Durchbruch gelang mit der Formulierung der *Second Order Cybernetics*, der Kybernetik Zweiter Ordnung, die die Beobachtenden Systeme (*Observing Systems*) gegenüber den Beobachteten Systemen (*Observed Systems*) in den Vordergrund rückte. Ein erstes und immer noch fundamentales Resümee entstand 1974 mit dem Band *Cybernetics of Cybernetics*.

Mit seiner Emeritierung wurde das BCL geschlossen – Foerster reagierte auf diese für ihn zweifellos traumatische Entscheidung seiner Universitätsbehörde damit, die schon entwickelten Sichtweisen seines Instituts in umfangreichen Vortragsreisen immer wieder neu darzustellen, sie dabei immer auch wesentlich zu erweitern und zugleich zu kondensieren. Foerster entwickelte sich in einem Alter, in dem andere ihre Karriere beenden, zu einem weltweit angesehenen Theoretiker quer zu den traditionellen Disziplinen, dessen Konzepte zum Konstruktivismus, zur Beobachtung der Beobachtung, nicht zuletzt zur »Kybernetik« rezente Diskussionen in ganz verschiedenen Feldern entscheidend mitbestimmen. Im deutschsprachigen Raum erlebte Foerster mit seinen Büchern *Sicht und Einsicht* und *Wissen und Gewissen* eine zwar späte aber umso eindrucksvollere Rezeption. (Bibliographische Hinweise finden sich unter [www.univie.ac.at/heinz-von-foerster-archive](http://www.univie.ac.at/heinz-von-foerster-archive).)

Ich selbst begegnete Foerster als 84-Jährigem, aus der Begegnung wurde rasch Kooperation und Freundschaft. Am 2. Oktober 2002 starb Heinz von Foerster in seinem Haus in Pescadero nach langer und schwerer Krankheit. Wir werden nicht vergessen, was wir ihm wissenschaftlich und intellektuell zu verdanken haben. Wir werden ihn nicht vergessen.

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## Jean-Pierre Dupuy

Professor of Social and Political Philosophy, École Polytechnique, Paris. Director of research at the C.N.R.S. (Philosophy). Former Director of C.R.E.A. (Centre de Recherche en Épistémologie Appliquée), the philosophical research group of the École Polytechnique, which he founded in 1982. Director of GRISÉ (Groupe de Recherche et d'Intervention sur la Science et l'Éthique), École Polytechnique.

Full Professor (1/3rd time), Stanford University [French and Political Science]. C. S. L. I. (Center for the Study of Language and Information) Researcher, Stanford University. Science-Technology-Society Program Affiliate, Stanford University.

Member of Académie Française des Technologies, Paris; of Conseil Général des Mines; Paris; and of COMEPRA (Comité d'Éthique et de Précaution) of INRA, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Paris.

Latest books:

*The Mechanization of the Mind – On the Origins of Cognitive Science*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2000.

*Self-Deception and Paradoxes of Rationality*, C.S.L.I. Publications, Stanford University, 1998.

In French:

*La Panique*, Paris, Les empêcheurs de penser en rond, 2003.

*Pour un catastrophisme éclairé*, Paris, Seuil, 2002.

*Avions-nous oublié le mal? Penser la politique après le 11 septembre*, Paris, Bayard, 2002.

Current research program:

The paradoxes of rationality, or the classical philosophical problem of the antinomies of Reason at the age of rational choice theory, analytic philosophy, and cognitive science. The ethics of nuclear deterrence and preemptive war. The philosophy of risk and uncertainty. The philosophical underpinnings and the future societal and ethical impacts of the convergence of nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology, and cognitive science.

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## **Anne Harrington**

Anne Harrington is Loeb Harvard College Professor for the History of Science at Harvard University; and currently also Visiting Professor in the History of Medicine at the London School of Economics. For six years (through 2002), she was Co-Director of the Harvard University Mind, Brain, and Behavior Initiative, that aimed to bring together the tools and insights of the neurosciences with understandings from the humanities and social sciences. She also was a member of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Mind-Body Interactions, where she focused particularly on the placebo effect, and currently serves on the Board of the organization Mind and Life (co-founded by Francisco Varela), that facilitates dialogue between the sciences and relevant aspects of Buddhism. In this latter capacity, she helped to edit two of the publications to emerge from the Mind and Life dialogues, including the proceedings from a larger public conference with the Dalai Lama held at MIT in the fall of 2003. She is also the author of several books: *Medicine, Mind and the Double Brain* (1987) *Reenchanted Science* (1997); and *Stories under the Skin* (in final preparation), of numerous articles and of three further edited collections.

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## **Hans Ulrich Obrist**

Hans Ulrich Obrist was born in May 1968 in Zurich, Switzerland, and currently lives and works in Paris. In 1993, he founded the Museum Robert Walser and began to run the Migrateurs program at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris where he now serves as a curator for contemporary art. He is editor in chief of the hybrid artist pages *Point d'Ironie*, published by agnès b and begun in collaboration with her in 1997. He has been a frequent curator for the museum in progress, Vienna and lecturer at Facolta delle Arti, IUAV in Venice. From 1991 to the present he has curated or co-curated numerous exhibitions including: *The Kitchen Show* in Schwalbenstrasse, St. Gallen, 1991; *Christian Boltanski in the Monastery Library*, St. Gallen, 1991; *Gerhard Richter*, Nietzsche Haus, Sils Maria, 1992; *Hôtel Carlton Palace*, Paris, 1993; *The Broken Mirror* (with K. Koenig) Vienna Festival, 1993; *Manifesta I*, Rotterdam, 1996 (with R. Martinez, V. Misiano, K. Néray and A. Renton); *Life/Live* Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris and Centro Belem, Lisbon, 1996 (with L. Bossé); *Do it* (more than 30 versions from 1994 to present); *Cities on the Move* (with H. Hanru), Secession Vienna and CAPC Bordeaux, 1997, and Hayward Gallery, London/ Kiasma, Helsinki/ Bangkok, 1999; 1st Berlin Biennial, 1998 (with

K. Biesenbach and N. Spector); Le Jardin, La Ville, La Mémoire (with L.Bossé and C.Christov-Bakargiev) Villa Medici, Rome, 1998-2000; Laboratorium (with B.Vandelinden) Antwerp Open, 1999; Sogni/Dreams (with F. Bonami) Fondazione Rebaudengo, 1999; Retrace your steps: Remember tomorrow, Sir John Soane Museum, London 1999-2000; Rumor City, Fri Art, Fribourg and Mutations, Arc en Reve, Bordeaux, 2000; Mutations: Evenement culturel sur la ville contemporaine (with R. Koolhaas, S. Kwinter, S.Boeri) Arc en Reve, Bordeaux, 2000-2001 and TN Probe, Tokyo 2001; Traversés (with L. Bossé), ARC, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 2001; Bridge the Gap? (with A. Miyake), CCA Kitakyushu; The Air is Blue (Barragan House, Mexico City 2002/2003); Utopia Station (with M. Nesbit and R. Tiravanija), 50th Venice Biennale, 2003 and Haus der Kunst, Munich 2004; Yang Fudong and Jim Lambie, The Moore Space, Miami, 2003; co-curator of the Dakar Biennial, 2004. For ARC/ Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, he has in recent years co-curated the monographic exhibitions of Olafur Eliasson, Philippe Parreno, Steve Mc Queen, Jonas Mekas, and Yoko Ono at (all with L.Bossé and A. Scherf), as well as Camera (with V. Rehberg); Déplacements (with L. Bossé); the group show Ailleurs, Ici, ARC/Couvent de Cordeliers, 2004 (with L. Bossé); and Anri Sala: Entre Chien et Loup (with L. Bossé and Julia Garimorth), ARC/ Couvent de Cordeliers and the Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, 2004.

Accompanying his curatorial projects, he has edited the writings of Gerhard Richter, Louise Bourgeois, Gilbert and George, Maria Lassnig and Leon Golub and is the editor of a series of artist books published by Walther Koenig including books by John Baldessari, Mathew Barney, Christian Boltanski, Peter Fischli/ David Weiss, Douglas Gordon, Philippe Parreno, and Anri Sala. He has also edited a book about Philip Johnson (in collaboration with Rem Koolhaas), as well as an anthology of interviews, writings, and recollections about Cedric Price in Re:Cp published by Birkhaeuser. The first volume of his ongoing interview project was recently collected in Hans Ulrich Obrist Interviews (Milan: Edizioni Charta, 2003).

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### **Joan Halifax**

<http://www.upaya.org/roshi/roshi.html>

Joan Halifax Roshi is a Buddhist teacher, Zen priest, anthropologist, and author. She is Founder, Abbot, and Head Teacher of Upaya Zen Center, a Buddhist monastery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She has worked in the area of death and dying for over thirty years and is Director



of the Project on Being with Dying. She is Founder and Director of the Upaya Prison Project that develops programs on meditation for prisoners. For the past twenty-five years, she has been active in environmental work. She studied for a decade with Zen Teacher Seung Sahn and was a teacher in the Kwan Um Zen School. She received the Lamp Transmission from Thich Nhat Hanh, and was given Inka by Roshi Bernie Glassman. A Founding Teacher of the Zen Peacemaker Order, her work and practice for more than three decades has focussed on engaged Buddhism.

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### **William Irwin Thompson**

<http://www.williamirwinthompson.org/>

William Irwin Thompson was born in Chicago in 1938, but moved to Southern California in 1945, where he grew up to graduate from Los Angeles High School in 1957 and Pomona College in 1962. He received a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship to study at Cornell in 1962 and a Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship to do his doctoral research in Dublin in 1964. He received his doctorate from Cornell in 1966 and published his first book, *The Imagination of an Insurrection: Dublin, Easter 1916* in 1967. Thompson has taught at Cornell, MIT, and York University in Toronto. His interdisciplinary interests are indicated in that he studied anthropology, philosophy, and literature at Pomona, and literature and cultural history at Cornell. He has served as visiting professor of religion at Syracuse University (1973), visiting professor of Celtic Studies at St. Michael's College, the University of Toronto (1984), and visiting professor of political science at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (1985). Thompson became nationally known for his best-selling book, *At the Edge of History*, which was nominated for the National Book Award in 1972. He received the Oslo International Poetry Festival Award in 1986 for his science fiction fantasy novel, *Islands Out of Time* and his poetry book, *Blue Jade from the Morning Star*. As a cultural historian, he is most widely known for his book, *The Time Falling Bodies Take to Light: Mythology, Sexuality, and the Origins of Culture*. As a philosopher of science, he is known for his three books, *Imaginary Landscape: Making Worlds of Myth and Science*, *Gaia, A Way of Knowing*, and *Gaia Two: Emergence, the New Science of Becoming*. (See "[The Gaian Politics of William Irwin Thompson](#)" in Earth Light Magazine.) His most recent book of cultural history was *Coming into Being: Artifacts and Texts in the Evolution of Consciousness* (1996 & 1998), and in 1997 he published *Worlds Interpenetrating and Apart: Collected Poems, 1959-1996*. In the new century, Thompson has continued with his studies in the evolution of consciousness by

publishing four articles in *The Journal of Consciousness Studies*. His latest book, *Self and Society: Studies in the Evolution of Culture* has been published by Imprint Academic of England: <http://www.imprint.co.uk/> In 1972, Thompson founded the Lindisfarne Association as an alternative way for the humanities to develop in a scientific and technical civilization. Lindisfarne became an association of scientists, artists, scholars, and contemplatives devoted to the study and realization of a new planetary culture. Lindisfarne began its activities in Southampton, New York in 1973, moved to Manhattan in 1976, and, finally, to Crestone, Colorado in 1979 where today the Lindisfarne Fellows House and the Lindisfarne Chapel are located in association with the Crestone Mountain Zen Center. In 1995, Thompson designed an evolution of consciousness curriculum for the Ross School in East Hampton, New York, and continues to serve as a Founding Mentor and Guest Lecturer to the senior class (See [www.ross.org](http://www.ross.org)). In 1997, Thompson retired from the presidency of the Lindisfarne Association; although he no longer travels around the country giving public lectures, he continues to give lectures to the seniors at the Ross School, as well as the occasional talk or poetry reading in New York or Massachusetts. Thompson now lives in scholarly retirement in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and, for reasons of health, can no longer respond to correspondence or receive and read unsolicited manuscripts.

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### **Antoine Lutz**

<http://tezpur.keck.waisman.wisc.edu/~lutz/index.html>

Antoine Lutz is a post-doctoral fellow at the Keck laboratory, University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research interests focus on the relationship between brain integrative mechanisms, such as neural synchrony, and high-order cognitive and emotional activities, including consciousness. He currently do research with Dr. Richard Davidson on the neuro-functional and neuro-dynamical characterization of meditative states of long-time Buddhist practitioners. Engineer in Telecommunication and Computer Science (INT), he also received a BA in Philosophy at the Sorbonne University, Paris. He worked during his doctoral research in cognitive neuroscience with Dr. Francisco Varela at Paris University on the use of first-person methods to study the relationship between large-scale brain dynamics and subjective experience (neurophenomenology approach).

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## **Christian Valdez**

Name: Christian Valdes Pascal

Date of birth: 2/07/1947

1970-1975: Studies of Cinematography and Photography  
at the State Institute of Cinematography in Moscow (VGIK)

1980-1989: Cameraman of the finnish TV in Moscow.

1989-1991: Cameraman of the finnish Tv in France.

1991-2004: Cameraman of the spanish TV in France.

My work as a cameraman always goes together with my  
activity as a photographer. I've had various  
exhibitions in Chile, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden,  
France, Portugal, Spain, etc.

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## **Raúl Varela Rodríguez**

Born in La Serena – Chile on November 30, 1914

Married to Corina García Tapia. Two sons: Andrés and Francisco; one daughter: Corina.

Degree: Civil Engineer, graduated from the University of Chile on December 1937.

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1937      | Port Construction Engineer in Talcahuano, Chile.  |
| 1941      | Begins his contracting activities building the Immaculate Conception School in Talcahuano.  |
| 1943      | Starts his construction entrepreneur activity with the Architectural Department of the Public Works Ministry: The Housing Corporation Social Prevision Institute; and other private constructions in Concepción and Talcahuano.                   |
| 1948-1995 | Begins contracting activities for Public Works in Santiago and other important cities of Chile, from La Serena to Osorno. This activity has continued as a Public Works Contractor and through his different Construction Companies, having built |

a great number of public and private buildings. In 1995 he left the Construction Company in the hands of his descendants.

1963-1969 Professor of Construction 5<sup>th</sup> year at the engineering School of the Catholic University of Chile

#### INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

1944-1945 President of the Rotary Club in Talcahuano  
1955-1956 President of the Rotary Club of Providencia in Santiago  
1948 Founder associate of the Chamber of Construction of Chile  
1953 Director of the Chamber of Construction of Chile. He was a director for the Chamber almost continuously during its first 15 years  
1961 Founder and first President of the Medical Service of the Chamber of Construction of Chile.  
1967-1968 First Vice-president of the Chamber of Construction of Chile and interim President during 6 months.  
1971-1972 President of the Chamber of Construction of Chile  
1982-1984 President of the Coordinating Committee of Social Action of the Chamber of Construction of Chile  
1984-1993 Founder and first President of Isapre Consalud (Health Services and Insurance) of the Chamber of Construction of Chile.  
1993-1998 President of Tabancura Clinic of Consalud (Chamber of Construction of Chile)  
1951-2004 Active member of various Chamber of Construction Committees, Advisor to the Directory and member of various Special Commissions. National Council Member since its creation up to now.  
1964-1970 Director of Zig-Zag Editorial Co.  
1968-1971 General Council member of the Engineers Association of Chile  
1975-1995 First Vice-president of FUSA – Financing Company – since its creation until it was sold  
1994-1997 President of the Council for the Elderly of the “Hogar de Cristo” Foundation  
1996-2004 Member of the Arbitration and Mediation Center of the Commerce Chamber of Chile.

#### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1990 “Julio Donoso” award from the Institute of Engineers of Chile, for his work on

- 1991            improving human relations in the process of production.
- 1992            The "Gold Medal" of the Chamber of Construction of Chile, award that has only been granted to 5 members in 46 years existence of the Chamber

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### **Alejandra Vega**

Alejandra Vega-Varela was born in Santiago, Chile in 1967. She spent her childhood years in Santiago, Costa Rica, the United States and Paris. She completed her bachelor's degree in history at the University of Paris (Paris VII, Jussieu) with a specialization in the colonial period in Chile (16th-18th centuries). Specific themes of this work include indigenous populations, migration, the culture of the elite, cartographical representations and religious art. She is presently a doctoral student at the Universidad Católica de Chile, where she is researching iconographical and textual representations of the Andes Cordillera between the 16th and 18th centuries.

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### **Leonor Varela**

<http://www.leonorvarela.com/>

Leonor Varela first came to the attention of American audiences when she starred in the title role of the epic mini-series "CLEOPATRA" produced by Robert Halmi Sr., which aired to critical acclaim on ABC during May 1999 sweeps. The mini-series garnered the network's highest movie-of-the-week rating in young adults that season. As the ambitious Queen of Egypt, Cleopatra used her wit and sensual allure to bend the fortunes of men and countries to her unwavering will. Dally Variety called Varela "a true find, inhabiting the role with a smoldering gusto borne of defiant confidence."

Varela recently completed shooting the female lead opposite Jean Reno and Gerard Depardieu in the tentatively titled comedy "TAIS-TOI/LES TOURTERAUX." In this film, directed by Francis Veber and produced by Gaumont, Varela plays the double role of "Sandra" and "Katia." "Sandra" is a rich and compromising woman who gets killed early in the film and "Katia" is an

illegal Albanian immigrant whom Jean Reno tries to help because she reminds him of the woman he loved. The film is scheduled to be released in October 2003.

Varela will next be seen starring as a free spirited and liberal Spanish surgeon in the French film PAS SI GRAVE directed by Bernard Rapp. Pathé is releasing the film in March 2003 in Paris.

Varela was last seen starring opposite Wesley Snipes in the New Line film BLADE II directed by Guillermo Del Toro. She portrayed "Nyssa", the strong, darkly exotic daughter of Blade's sworn enemy who comes to meet Blade to formalize a truce.

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