

## **ART AND SCIENCE IN THE PARK**

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“Art and Science in the Park” is a project that takes science to the general public that goes to public parks in the city of São Paulo. This is achieved by exposing several groups of interactive experiments on different topics of physics and biology, which encourage the participation of the visitors. Some of the proposed experiments relate vision and hearing physiology to concepts of physics by visual art and sounds produced by musical instruments and ordinary objects, such as metal hangers and glasses. Geometry and abstraction are evoked by “tangram” and topological puzzles. Light and optical phenomena as reflections, polarization and interference are also explored using telescopes, microscopes, different types of mirrors, polarizer and films. A TV set attached to a bicycle demonstrates the conversion of chemical energy to mechanical energy and this to electrical energy. Other experiments show additional concepts of physics and biology. All activities are mediated by monitors, who are undergraduate and postgraduate students of physics and biological sciences. The guiding principle of this project is that it is possible to make science, technology and art accessible to the general public, especially children and adolescents, in the informal environment of a park, via ludic experiments and connections to their daily life. Activities are also performed in some public primary and secondary schools. This project, idealised and executed by researchers of the Institute of Physics of the University of São Paulo, has the collaboration of researchers from the Institute of Biomedical Sciences of USP, support from CNPq and USP, and partnership of Cientec/USP, AAEC and the Prefecture of São Paulo