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*Obituary*

# Prof. Dr. José Pereira de Queiroz Neto - Leader in the study of the relationships between Pedology and Geomorphology in Brazil

## *Prof. Dr. José Pereira de Queiroz Neto - Líder no estudo das relações entre Pedologia e Geomorfologia no Brasil*

**Selma Simões de Castro [1], Rosely Pacheco Dias Ferreira [2], Carlos Roberto Espíndola [3], and Marcos Roberto Pinheiro [4]**

[1] Retired lecturer of the Geography Department / Faculty of Philosophy, Languages and Human Sciences of the University of São Paulo, Brazil. selmacastro@usp.br
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5401-5852

[2] Retired lecturer of the Geography Department / Faculty of Philosophy, Languages and Human Sciences of the University of São Paulo, Brazil. roselypacheco78@gmail.com
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0009-7388-2001

[3] Retired professor of the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and the Geosciences Institute of Unicamp, Campinas, Brazil. crobertoespindola@gmail.com
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0007-0025-2565

[4] Graduate Specialist of the Pedology Laboratory of the Geography Department of the Faculty of Philosophy, Languages and Human Sciences of the University of São Paulo, Brazil. m3279574@usp.br
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0864-2441

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José Pereira de Queiroz Neto (Figure 1), born October 15, 1929, died on May 26, 2024, aged almost 95, bringing to a close his long academic and scientific career that began in the 1950s. Dedicated to research and teaching in Soil Science/ Pedology, Queiroz Neto worked with unquestionable competence in the unravelling of issues related to the relationships between Geomorphology and Pedology, in the context of the relationships between soil and landscape on different scales.

For his career and pioneering approach in dealing with these themes, he became a national reference for researchers throughout Brazil. He has left a notable legacy of research and teaching, having led various programs and coordinated research groups, including collaborations with European institutions, especially French institutions. He established partnerships with the Associação Brasileira de Estudos do Quaternário/ABEQUA (The Brazilian Association of Quaternary Studies); with investigators of the caliber of H. Faure, H.C. Kohler, M.R. Mousinho, J.J. Bigarella, and L. Coltrinari; with the Instituto Agronômico de Campinas/IAC (Agronomical Institute of Campinas), especially with A.C. Moniz and J. Bertoldo de Oliveira; with the Instituto de Geociências/IGC (Institute of Geosciences) of USP, especially with A.J. Melfi and A. Carvalho; with the Centre de Géomorphologie de Caen (Caen Center of Geomorphology), France, notably with André Journaux and Joel Pellerin; and with the Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique Outre-Mer /ORSTOM (Overseas Scientific and Technical Research Office) (today the IRD – Institut de la Recherche pour le Development (Research institute for Development), especially with R. Boulet, A. Chauvel, and G. Pedro. Queiroz Neto could also count on Alain Ruellan, who he

partnered on many programs, such as that linked to the Fundação Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (Coordination for Higher Education Staff Development) and Comité Français d'Évaluation de la Coopération Universitaire et Scientifique avec le Brésil (French Committee for the Evaluation of University and Scientific Cooperation with Brazil) /CAPES x COFECUB, of the École Supérieure Agronomique de Rennes/ENSAR (Higher Institute for Agricultural Sciences of Rennes) and subsequently of Montpellier, which supported the collaboration programs.

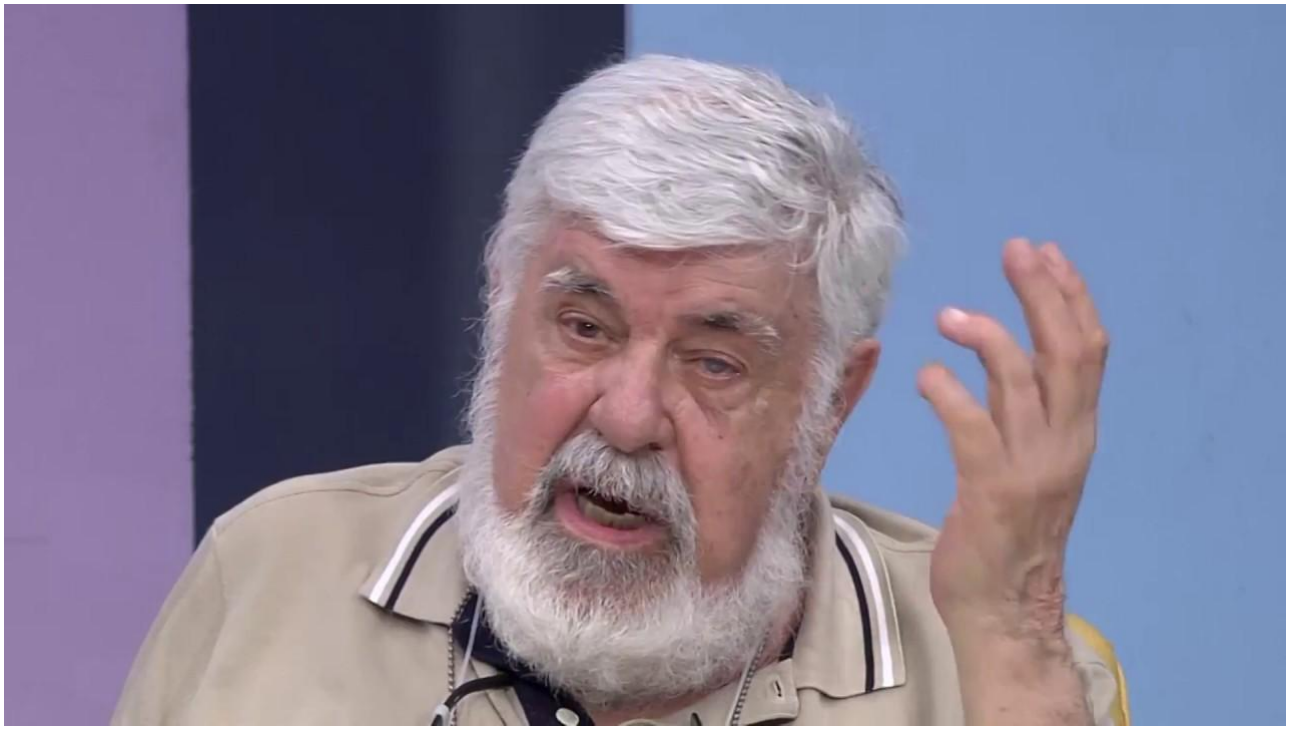

**Figure 1.** Dr. José Pereira de Queiroz Neto. Photo: IPTV-USP (2017).

Regarding his teaching, Queiroz Neto stands out for having taught numerous Masters and Doctors on the Graduate Program in Physical Geography of the Geography Department of the Faculdade de Filosofia, Letras e Ciências Humanas da Universidade de São Paulo (DG/FFLCH/USP) (Faculty of Philosophy, Languages and Human Sciences of the University of São Paulo) since the end of the 1970s. Many of his advisees already were or became lecturers at prestigious public institutions in Brazil's higher education system. They became multipliers of their learning in respect to the associations between soils and landforms, especially on the slopes of small basins, in addition to the impacts of poor land use reflected in erosion mechanisms and compaction, among others.

Queiroz Neto graduated in Agronomy from the Escola Superior de Agricultura Luiz de Queiroz (Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture)/Esalq/USP in 1952, and in Agricultural Chemistry from the Université de Rennes I (Rennes University 1) (France) in 1956, which is connected to ORSTOM, now the IRD. He developed various specializations while in France: from 1956 to 1958 in Tropical Pedology, at ORSTOM; in 1961-1962 on the Study of the Natural Environments of Latin America, at Université Paris 1 (Paris University 1), Pantheon-Sorbonne, where he developed the research *Étude du milieu naturel de la vallée du Paraíba du Sud* or Study of the natural environment of the Paraiba do Sul valley, under the orientation of Pierre Monbeig and Francis Ruellan; and in 1955 - 1956 he studied Geology and Pedology and Plant Physiology at the Université de Rennes I, where he also graduated in Agricultural Chemistry. In 1969-1970, after defending his doctorate thesis in 1969 at ESALQ/USP, in Piracicaba (SP), he did his Post-Doctorate in France at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (The French National Centre for Scientific Research) (CNRS). His comprehensive formation guaranteed a broad vision on soils, as characterized by his professional profile during his long and fruitful career.

In his professional activity, he initially worked at the Companhia Melhoramentos do Norte do Paraná/CMNP (The North Paraná Improvements Company) as an agronomist, and then, in 1958, he moved to the Instituto Agronômico de Campinas/IAC (Agronomical Institute of Campinas), as a soil researcher, where he remained until 1967. However, his most relevant activity came when he followed his path as a lecturer on undergraduate and

graduate courses in Geography at the Geography Department (DG) of the FFLCH/USP, where, beginning in 1967, he was Collaborating Professor (1967-1969), Assistant PhD Professor (1969-1975), Associate Professor (1975-1978), Adjunct Professor (1978-1983), and Full Professor (1983-1995). He became Emeritus Professor of the FFLCH-USP in 2003. As an Associate Professor he presented his notable and frequently cited thesis *Pedogênese no Planalto Atlântico: contribuição à interpretação paleogeográfica dos solos da Mantiqueira Norte Ocidental*, (*Pedogenesis on the Atlantic Plateau: contribution to the paleogeographic interpretation of the soils of Northwest Mantiqueira)*.

A remarkable characteristic of his trajectory is that from early on, he went in search of investigators in Geomorphology as an outlet for his concerns regarding the soil-landscape relationship. Initially, he got together with geographer Antônio Christofoletti, of the Universidade Estadual de São Paulo/UNESP (São Paulo State University), in Rio Claro (SP). Together they chose a geomorphologically complex area of São Paulo, the mountainous region of Serra de Santana. It is a kind of intermediate level between the Cuesta arenítico-basáltica (*Sandstone-Basalt Cuesta*) and the Depressão Periférica Paulista (São Paulo Peripheral Depression), which are large geomorphological provinces in the state of São Paulo. This research resulted in his revered doctorate thesis (Queiroz Neto, 1969), defended at ESALQ/USP, advised by Professor Guido Ranzani, with the title *Interpretação dos solos da Serra de Santana para fins de classificação* (*Interpretation of the soils of Serra de Santana for classification purposes*), which continues to be constantly consulted until today.

With this experience, he became more than able to develop himself and to help others develop more and more in these themes, as proven by the honorable title of Emeritus Professor, with which he was bestowed in 2003 by the DG/FFLCH/USP. He joined this department in 1967 and retired in 1995, although he remained active on the graduate course in Physical Geography until recently, even with limitations to his health. These limitations did not stop him from going into a trench or from participating, as coordinator, in the customarily long *Nostradamos* meetings with advisees and ex-colleagues on the premises of LABOPED (Pedology Laboratory), which he created in 1967.

Queiroz Neto was also an active member of the Sociedade Brasileira para o Progresso da Ciência (SBPC) (Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science), from 1988 to 1992, in the role of São Paulo Regional Secretary, chairing the 44th Annual Meeting in 1992. In addition, he was invited to be Visiting Professor by the Université de Caen (Caen University), France, and the Instituto de Edafología del Madrid (Madrid Institute of Soil Science) of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Superior Counsel of Scientific Investigations) (CSIC), Spain. There, he passed on his experiences gained in research applying the *Análise Estrutural da Cobertura Pedológica* or Structural Analysis of the Pedological Coverage, an approach he adopted for the study of pedogenesis v morphogenesis in the 1980s.

At the above mentioned LABOPED, his leadership stands out in robust research and teaching programs funded by the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) (CNPq) and the Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (Research Support Foundation of the State of São Paulo) (FAPESP), in addition to the bilateral agreements between France and Brazil, such as that of CNPq and CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique - The French National Centre for Scientific Research) and CAPES-COFECUB, also mentioned above. It is worth discussing these programs further, as follows.

Initially, in the 1970s, Queiroz Neto led the program funded by CNPQ-CNRS and FAPESP, in partnership with André Journaux and Joel Pellerin, of the Centre de Géomorphologie (Geomorphology Center) of Caen. In the 1980s and 90s, he led successive CAPES-COFECUB programs (now in partnership with Alain Ruellan of the École Supérieure Agronomique de Rennes (Higher Institute for Agricultural Sciences of Rennes)/ENSAR, and subsequently of the École Supérieure Agronomique de Montpellier (Higher Institute for Agricultural Sciences of Montpellier), which is now the Institut Agro de Montpellier (Montpellier Agro Institute)/SupAgro) and of ORSTOM (now the IRD).

On the first program, he led teams in the field that carried out surveys and mapping of the superficial formations of various areas. On the second, he applied the *Structural Analysis of the Pedological Coverage* on a theoretical course in the classroom and in practice in the field, which was also developed in teams in various areas. It should be noted that Queiroz Neto selected these areas based on relevant scientific issues of the time, but always in respect to the morphogenesis-pedogenesis relationship, with or without land use or management problems, so that they could be resolved.

On the second program, the courses were offered annually in connection with the Graduate Program in Physical Geography of the DG/FFLCH/USP, there having officially been around ten, totaling more than 600 students enrolled from various parts of Brazil. These courses lasted around a month, being a week of theoretical course given by Alain Ruellan at DG, two weeks for the survey of topo sequences in the field in groups coordinated by Queiroz Neto and monitors selected from his team, and a final week to finalize the group reports. These courses taught Master's and Doctorate students and professionals that wished to learn about the survey of soil topo sequences in *continuum*, cutting the upslope and downslope contours, as recommended in the *Structural Analysis of the Pedological Coverage*, as later expressed in Portuguese by Boulet (1992).

Graduate conferences were also developed at LABOPED, when, in the 1980s, this activity and the group incorporated the denominative *Nostradamos* (a wordplay on *Nós tradamos*, meaning *we make boreholes*). This name was suggested by one of the students, and the group continues to meet, providing a space for debates and discussions on research. The research group was always itinerant, before and after this denomination, and previously carried out meetings every month or two in locations in the state of São Paulo such as Santa Isabel (Vale do Parateí), Marília, Botucatu, Bauru, Sorocaba, Paulínia, and Ilha Solteira, as well as Cruz das Almas/BA, and later in the city of São Paulo, at LABOPED itself, for discussions on the surveyed data (Figures 2 to 5). Such projects enabled the theoretical and practical training of various students, in addition to lecturers and researchers, many of them having adopted one of these areas to continue their research as subjects of their doctorates. Today, these doctors are spread around the country, and most of us, as signatories of this text, were part of this dynamic.

**Figure 2.** Field work in Marília, SP – break time. On the left: Selma Castro, Silvia Nicola, and Heloisa Filizola; behind: Paulo Nakashima, Gil S. de Toledo, and Joel Pellerin; sitting: various and Queiroz at the back on the left. Photo: R.P. Dias Ferreira (1980).

**Figure 3.** Field work in Vale do Parateí; Queiroz bending over, Paulo Nakashima and Joel Pellerin behind; Omar Fernandes Barros and Gil Sodero de Toledo further back; Cristina H. Augustin, Nora S. Silva, and Herman Kux on the right. Photo: R.P. Dias Ferreira (1981).

**Figure 4.** Field event in Marília (SP). From left to right: René Boulet, Alain Ruellan, Queiroz Neto, Joel Pellerin, and Selma Castro, and Omar Fernandes Barros crouching. Photo: R.P. Dias Ferreira (1985).

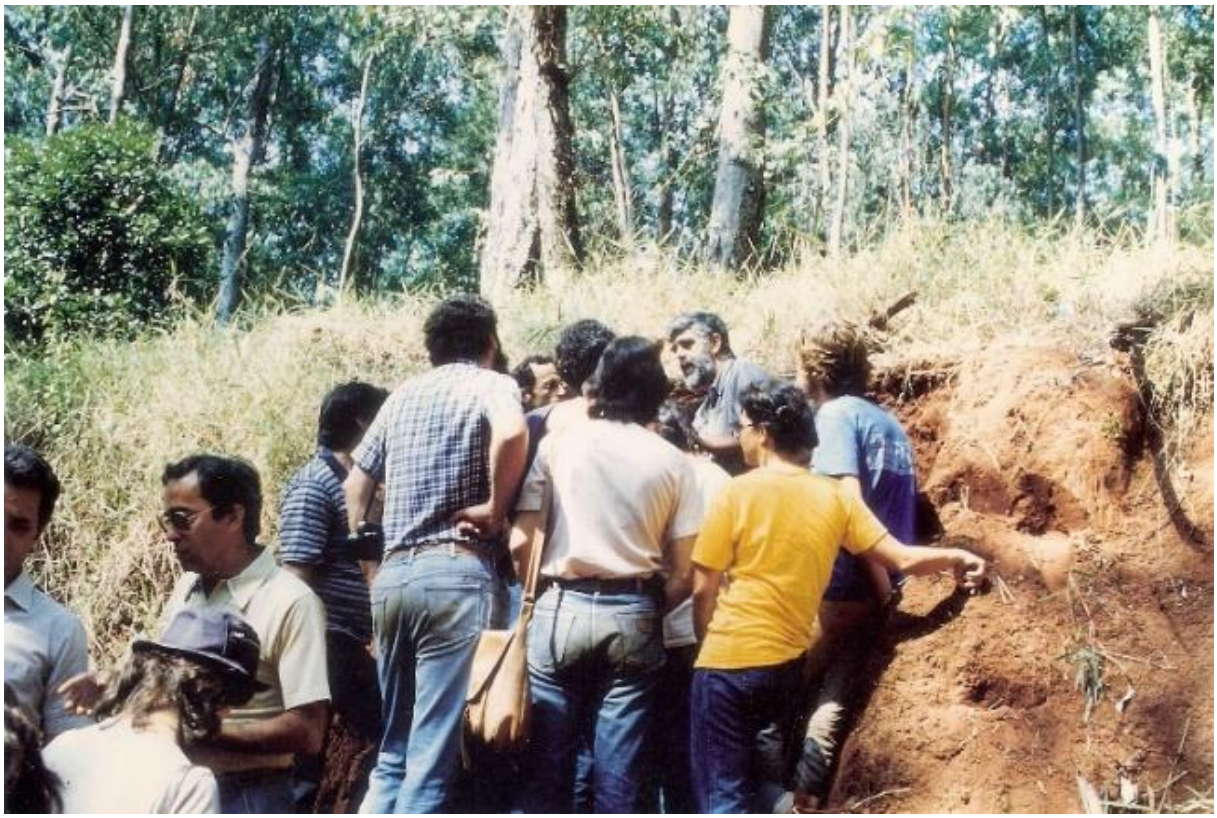

**Figure 5.** Field work in Botucatu, SP: Queiroz at the back describing the soil profile. Photo: R.P. Dias Ferreira (1983).

In describing a little more of his work and leadership in his most relevant research and teaching, these can be grouped into four large-scale programs since the 1970s, the themes of which (simplified here) were: that of geomorphological cartography with emphasis on superficial formations; that of morphogenesis versus pedogenesis with the assistance of the *Structural Analysis of the Pedological Coverage*; that of Geochemistry and Mineralogy of soils as indicators of pedogenesis in the context of the morphogenesis of lakes and inter-lake interfluves of the Pantanal (MS), with the same assistance as before; and that of the tectonic influence in the pedogeomorphological evolution of São Pedro (SP).

In the 1970s, the first theme of Superficial Formations stands out as it resulted in the publication of a series of geomorphological charts by the Instituto de Geografia (Institute of Geography) of USP, in 1978 (Queiroz Neto; Journaux, 1978), namely: those of Santa Isabel, Marília, and São Pedro in the state of São Paulo and that of Belo Horizonte in Minas Gerais in partnership with the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Federal University of Minas Gerais). These charts were completed at the Instituto de Geografia (Institute of Geography) (IGEOUSP) and DG/FFLCH/USP, in 1978, as part of the French-Brazilian partnership on Superficial Formations (Queiroz Neto; Journaux, 1978) led by Queiroz Neto and Prof. André Journaux of the Centre de Géomorphologie (Geomorphology Center) of the Université de Caen (Caen University) (France). He also published an article on superficial formations (Queiroz Neto, 2001), in which he clarifies this approach, and various articles on the Structural Analysis (Queiroz Neto, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2010 e 2011).

The usual geomorphological legends of the time were used on the charts of the first program, inspired by the legends of Tricart (1965) and enriched with specific genetic representations of the superficial formations correlating to the landforms (Queiroz Neto, 2001; Queiroz Neto; Journaux, 1978). The respective descriptive memorials, published by IGEOUSP, defended pioneering conceptions on the geomorphopedological evolution of these areas during the Cenozoic, especially in the Quaternary. Recently, due to their recognized pioneering theory and methodology, these charts were republished in a special number of the Revista do Instituto Geológico do estado de São Paulo (Journal of the Geological Institute of the state of São Paulo), volume 41, number 1, organized by Ferreira and Pinheiro (2020).

In an article by Perez Filho (2017), published in the Journal of DG/USP, the author reproduces his words from the XVII Simpósio Brasileiro de Geografia Física Aplicada (Brazilian Symposium of Applied Physical Geography)/I Congresso Nacional de Geografia Física (National Congress of Physical Geography), 2017, at UNICAMP, in Campinas/SP, paying homage to Queiroz Neto for his body of work. The author not only relates the main lines of research that marked Queiroz Neto's trajectory, as also outlined above, but he also highlights certain principles that marked his activity. Among these, was the necessity at the time for a more correct definition regarding the autochthony and allochthony of superficial formations and soils, and the necessity to evaluate the biogeodynamic processes in the development of landforms, a theme which can be said to still be current. Also highlighted was Queiroz Neto's idea in regard to soil profiles bringing information on geomorphic surfaces of different ages, an idea that he returns to later (Queiroz Neto, 2000).

In this same spirit, as had been the case for over 20 years, Queiroz Neto stated that soil and landforms are the product of solidarity in evolution (Queiroz Neto, 2000), or of *coevolution* in the words of various authors in international literature, especially in the line of soil – landscape relationships (*Soil Landscape or Soilscape*). Inspired by Boulet et al. (1984), he argued that during this evolution, pedological transformation systems develop along slopes. These systems can be vertical, from rock to soil, in broad interfluves with gentle slopes, as seen in the landforms of large hills; and more importantly, lateral, from one soil type to another, moving from upstream to downstream, as in narrower interfluves where slopes are steeper and generally concave or mixed (convex-concave), typical of medium-sized hills. While vertical transformation systems indicate stable geomorphic surfaces in pedogeomorphological equilibrium, lateral systems suggest pedohydrogeomorphological imbalances, particularly from the Quaternary period. Being unstable, these imbalances may have been caused by tectonic, paleoclimatic, anthropogenic, or mixed factors that interfered with the evolution of landforms and their associated soils.

There are standout articles by Queiroz Neto on these themes (2002, 2003, 2010, and 2011), in which he discusses the studied areas and the resulting pedogeomorphological contributions, emphasizing the understanding of the pedogenesis-morphogenesis solidarity. As part of these activities in this line of thinking, Queiroz Neto also organized an international event with Joel Pellerin at Caen University in France, in 1991, called *Table ronde: Organisation et dynamique interne de la couverture pédologique et son importance pour la compréhension de la morfogênese* (Round Table: The organization and internal dynamic of the pedological coverage and its importance for the comprehension of the morphogenesis), in collaboration with the Association des Géographes Français (Association of French Geographers)/AGF, where the results of research carried out up to that time were presented (Queiroz Neto; Pellerin,1991).

Later, in the first decade of this century and following the same approach, Queiroz Neto focused on studying the soils of the Pantanal (Barbiero et al., 2008; Furquim et al., 2010), an area he described as a World Heritage Site, particularly the Nhecolândia region (MS). These studies emphasized geochemistry and mineralogy, producing indicators of pedogenesis co-evolving with the morphogenesis of the interfluves dividing the saltwater and freshwater lakes. In the following decade, he dedicated himself to studying the role of tectonics in pedogeomorphological evolution, as discussed in articles about the São Pedro (SP) region (Pinheiro and Queiroz Neto, 2015; 2017). These articles demonstrate the presence of ascending and subsiding rocky blocks, with paleoclimates contributing to the formation of the sandstone-basalt cuesta in the Serra de São Pedro and Serra de Itaqueri, as well as the surrounding lowered pediment zone, known as the *Glacis* de São Pedro. This zone marks the northern boundary at the foothill of the Serra's scarp and the southern boundary at the Piracicaba River valley. The studies also showed that the deposits, which had already undergone latosolization as surface coverage, were the parent materials from which the differential erosive retreat of the cuesta escarpment (Serra de São Pedro) formed. These materials were laterally transformed into acrisols (Villela et al., 2018), providing a record of the subsequent, current geomorphological and climatic conditions and soils.

In summary, as the *Lattes Curriculum* (Academic Curriculum) of José Pereira de Queiroz Neto reveals, he played a significant and innovative role in Brazil in the study of pedogenesis versus morphogenesis and produced a notable body of academic work. This includes contributions in book chapters, journal articles, lectures, collaborations, as well as holding various academic positions and roles, not to mention his numerous, equally commendable student supervisions. Many of his studies have become scientific references both in Brazil and internationally. As a result, it is impossible to discuss the relationships between slopes and soils in toposequences,

or the interactions between pedogenesis and morphogenesis, without referencing Queiroz Neto's publications, from his earliest to his most recent works.

It can be deduced that Queiroz Neto developed a trajectory that began with superficial coverage (regolith, deposits, and soils), subsequently cutting it up morphologically into soil profiles and their (geochemical and mineralogical) constituents along lateral sequences (structural analysis) on slopes, and finished with the deepest Geomorphology (tectonics), always aiming to understand the relationship between morphogenesis and pedogenesis in tropical landscapes.

His last public appearance was at the tribute session for Prof. Archimedes Perez Filho in June 2022, upon Peres Filho's retirement from the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (State University of Campinas)/Instituto de Geociências (Institute of Geosciences) (UNICAMP/IG). Upon entering the auditorium, Prof. Queiroz Neto was met with enthusiastic applause from the audience and from Archimedes himself, who, overcome with emotion, paused his speech to greet him. This moment was captured at the end of the session (Figure 6).

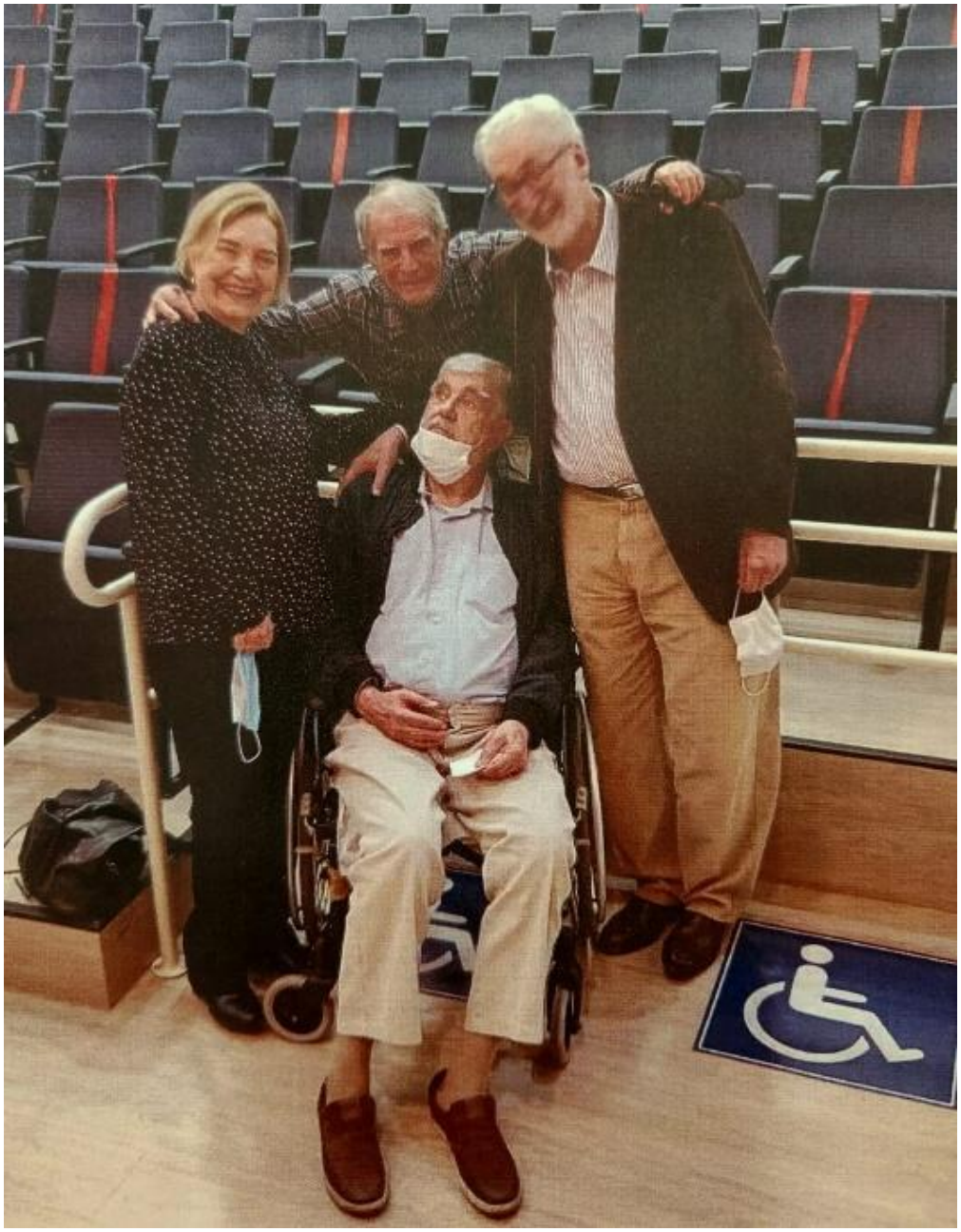

**Figure 6.** From left to right: Profs. Selma Castro, Carlos Roberto Espíndola, and Archimedes Perez Filho standing, and Prof. Queiroz seated, at the end of the tribute session for Perez Filho's retirement in June 2022. Photo: F.N.J. Villela.

Brazilian Geomorphology and Pedology recognize the great privilege in having counted this great teacher and innovator among their number, he was extremely competent in both research and teaching, as testified by his academic production and his ex-advisees spread around the country. It should also be emphasized that he had the ability to bring people together and coordinate research programs, especially the French-Brazilian projects, which were marked by his unquestionable leadership of the research groups contained in these programs, in particular, the so-called Nostradamos group. He always served as a stimulus and an example of work based on a permanent and rigorously critical spirit, which made it possible to deepen the existing interpretations or create new interpretations on pedogenesis and morphogenesis in tropical regions, centered in Brazil.

We thank you, Professor, for allowing us to share this notable journey with which we have learnt so much and been molded by! You can rest in peace.

**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare not having any conflict of interest.

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