

OBITUARY: *José Tiago de Oliveira*

José Tiago de Oliveira, an eminent Portuguese statistician, well known for his pioneer work in the statistical theory of extremes, died of a heart attack in Lisbon on 23 June 1992. Although it was known that he had a serious heart condition, his sudden death came as a great shock to those who knew and admired him.

José Tiago de Oliveira was born in Mozambique, a former Portuguese colony, on 22 December 1928, and lived there till 1945 when he finished his high school education and left for Portugal to enter university. He studied mathematics at the University of Porto and finished his degree in 1949 having received the Rotary Club Prize for the best student of the Faculty of Sciences. He started his professional experience at the Institute for Marine Biology as a research assistant in biometry and biostatistics. In 1953 he became an assistant lecturer at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon. He was appointed assistant professor of mathematics in 1957, and was promoted to associate professor of applied mathematics in 1965 and to chair professor of mathematical statistics in 1967. He occupied this last position until 1988, when he moved to the New University of Lisbon as a chair professor of statistics. He was often appointed to higher responsibilities at the university, as head of department, dean of the faculty, etc. He was also an effective member of the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and a member of many other scientific societies.

Tiago de Oliveira was a man of broad interests, scientific and cultural. His main contributions were in the area of statistics, mainly statistical extremes, but he had a deep understanding of history and Portuguese political culture. He published around 160 scientific papers, 9 books, 22 historical and philosophical papers, 18 didactic and expository papers and 21 other papers on miscellaneous subjects. At the time of his death he had six papers and four more books in preparation.

Tiago de Oliveira served the Portuguese scientific community in many ways. He founded the Department of Statistics, Operational Research and Computation of the Faculty of Sciences of Lisbon, the Center of Statistics and Applications of the University of Lisbon and the Laboratory of Statistics and Actuarial Mathematics of the Faculty of Science and Technology of the New University of Lisbon. He was also a secretary of state for scientific research (1976–78). His contributions to science were recognized by the award of several prizes, in particular the Malheiros prize and the Gulbenkian Foundation prize for science and technology. Tiago de Oliveira was among those who knew how to captivate students; he always had time and respect for them. His death represents a severe loss to all of us and we shall miss him greatly.

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