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# **RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES IN GEOGRAPHY IN BRAZIL – SOME REFLECTIONS**

*PESQUISA E PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM GEOGRAFIA NO BRASIL  
– ALGUMAS REFLEXÕES*

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## **Abstract**

This is part of a lecture delivered to summer-school students in 2008 (University of Bologna/PUC Minas). The central theme concerns Research and Graduate Studies in Geography in Brazil, besides some basic concepts of geographic science in today's world. The second part of the presentation is stored in its totality.

**Key words:** Graduate Studies; Geography; Brazil. GIS.

## **Resumo**

Este artigo é parte de uma conferência feita para alunos de um curso de verão em 2008 (Universidade de Bolonha/PUC Minas). O tema central refere-se a Pesquisa e Pós-Graduação em Geografia no Brasil, além de alguns conceitos básicos da ciência geográfica no mundo atual. A segunda parte da apresentação está armazenada em sua totalidade.

**Palavras-chave:** Pós-Graduação; Geografia; Brasil; GIS.

Brazil was probably one of the Latin American countries where applied geography has made an important development in the past with a very strong French influence. The flow of new geographical ideas started in the 1930s with the arrival of French professors at USP (São Paulo).

James (1972) states that

*In the 1930s there were many influential Brazilians who recognized the need to train teachers in the universities. The result was the organization of Faculties of Philosophy in the French model. The assistance of the French government was requested to provide scholars in a variety of academic fields. As part of this program, with costs partly covered by France, the French geographer Pierre Deffontaines came to Brazil in 1934 as professor of geography at the University of São Paulo. In São Paulo he organized the Instituto de Geografia (Geography Institute, a department offering both undergraduate and graduate training). Later he organized departments in Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte, and founded a professional association for geographers and a professional periodical. When he left Brazil in 1939 he had laid the groundwork for the introduction of the new geography and for the creation of a body of trained professional geographers. He had also taken the opportunity to study in the field and to gather materials for a number of papers on the geography of Brazil (DEF-FONTAINES, 1938). His successor, Pierre Monbeig, also contributed to geographical study of Brazil.*

Sophisticated Graduate Studies and Research in Geography are very recent in Brazil. They started in the 60s with the creation of the Master's Degree programs in *Universidade de São Paulo* – USP (University of São Paulo) and the *Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística* - IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics), as well as the development in funding from state agencies for Geography planning and production.

The 80's witnessed more critical Geography studies connected with social work, partly due to the political and economic situation in the country, as well as to the vital need to reduce poverty, and to social and regional inequalities. Relevant geographical studies were carried out in a political perspective, in various levels.

With the re-democratization of the country and the demand for more objective and applied planning, works of a more technical nature came out, comprising measures, quantification, cartography and technical projects. All that brought about a rebirth of fields such as:

- Regional Studies in general;
- GIS / Analytical Cartography;
- The Environment;
- Geopolitical Studies.

Recently, there was a boom in the offer of graduate studies in Geography in Brazil (2006 – 37 Master's Degree programs and 16 PhD's) and a substantial rise in the amount of inner sponsorship from government agencies. (Annexed -Map 1,2,/Table A)

International collaboration can be implemented mainly in the following fields:

- The Environment (global changes);
- Cartography (GIS)
- Territory Planning and Ordering;
- Geography Teaching;
- Applied Studies (agrarian, urban, big cities, medium-size cities).

Our suggestion for a return of the SOUTH/SOUTH and SOUTH/NORTH cooperation is the elaboration of a preliminary diagnosis with a mapped census of the programs and main research lines for a global view, mainly in Brazil and Latin America, so that we may together finance and develop high-quality productive works.

**Table 1 • Brazil-2006 - MSc/MA/PhD Programs – Research Lines**

ID	Institution	Core subject	Research line
1	UFBA	Geographic space analysis	Urban and regional analysis Environmental studies and territory analysis
2	UFC	Territorial and environmental dynamics	Social/environmental study of the coast area
3	FUNECE	Geo-environmental analysis of territory ordering in semi-arid and coastal areas	Integrated geo-environmental analysis in semi-arid and coastal areas Territory, society and culture
4	UNB	Environmental and territorial management	Urbanization, the environment and territory Geo-processing for environmental and territorial management
5	UFG	Nature and space appropriation in the <i>cerrado</i>	Geo-environmental studies Regional formation: policy, economy and culture Geography and educational practices
6	UFMG	Environmental analysis Space organization	Geomorphology and the environment The environment, landscape and sustainable development Space production, organization and management Theory, methods and languages in geography
7	UFU	Geography and territory management	Teaching, methods and techniques in geography Environmental analysis, planning and management Urban and rural spaces analysis, planning and management
8	UFMS	Regional space production	Environmental planning and management Regional planning
9	UFGD		
10	UFMT	The environment and regional development	Regional space production Nature dynamics and anthropic actions
11	UFPA	Territory organization and management	Urban and regional management Environmental and natural resources management
12	UFPB/JP	Territory, work and the environment	Territory management and geo-environmental analysis The city and the countryside: space and work

ID	Institution	Core subject	Research line
13	UFPE	Regionalization and regional analysis	Spatial organization and dynamics: theories and regional applications Ecosystems and environmental impacts Agrarian regions study Urban systems, urbanization and urban and regional planning
14	UFPR	Space, society and the environment	Hydrological basins analysis and management Landscape dynamics Urban and regional space production and transformation Territory, culture and representation
15	UEM	Regional and environmental analysis	Inhabited space organization Environmental analysis
16	UEPG		
17	UNIOESTE		
18	UFRJ	Environmental planning and management Territory organization and management	Geo-morphological processes and landscape evolution Hydro-climatic dynamics Geo-processing Geo-policy and territoriality Urban-regional space and dynamics Development, the environment and territory Culture, information and citizenship
19	UFF	Territorial and environmental ordering	Urban-regional territorial ordering Environmental territorial ordering
20	UERJ	Geographic space management and framing	Globalization, public policies and territorial re-framing Environmental changes and life quality Cultural dimensions in the social-spatial dynamics
21	PUC- Rio		
22	UFRN	Territory dynamics and re-framing	Globalization, state-nation and territory Urban and rural environment study Identity and cultural representations Geography and teaching
23	UNIR		
24	UFRGS	Environmental and territorial analysis	Territorial analysis Environmental analysis
25	UFSM	Environmental analysis and spatial dynamics	Geo-information and environmental analysis The environment and society Remote sensing in geography
26	FURG		
27	UFSC	Natural resources use and conservation Regional and urban planning	Environmental analysis Coast oceanography and sea geology Geological and geo-morphological processes and landscape evolution Water resources Nets, territorial organization and urban policies Social-spatial formation: the south region, Brazil and the world Rural space dynamic organization Urbanism, culture and city history Industrial space, technical-scientific innovation and urban regional configurations

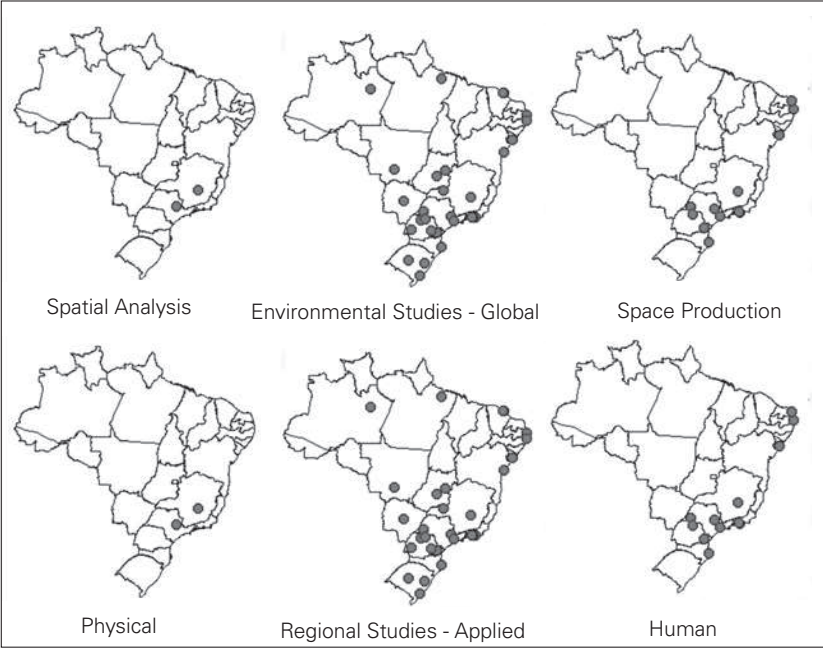
ID	Institution	Core subject	Research line
28	FUFSE	Agrarian and regional spaces organization and dynamics	Production and organization in the agrarian space Environmental dynamics Regional analysis
29	UNICAMP	Environmental analysis and territorial dynamics	Territorial dynamics: current technical systems and new social-spatial practices Geographic information systems and analysis of natural landscape components and of transformations resulting from the use and occupation
30	UNESP/PP	Geographic space production	Rural studies and social movements Regional development Environmental dynamics and management Transversal axes – Geography teaching/theory and method in geography Urban space production
31	UNESP/RC	Spatial information analysis Space organization	Spatial information analysis methods and techniques Epistemology and history of geography Social-spatial analysis and territorial planning Geography and teaching Territorial development Knowledge, education and culture in geography Territorial dynamics and planning Environmental analysis Spatial information analysis
32	PUC/SP		
33	USP	Physical geography	Forms, materials and processes in the humid tropical zone Theoretical and applied studies in tropical climatology Landscape and the environment Space: teaching, images and graphic representations Evidences of Cenozoic global changes in the humid tropics: basic and applied studies
34	USP	Human geography	Methodology in geography Geopolitics and territory planning and management Urban society: metropolis and territory Space: images and graphic representations Territory, economy and regional development Geography teaching in Brazil
35	UEL		Hydrographic basins dynamics and management Soil use and environmental analysis Technological modernization and spatial organization in the State of Paraná Population and development
36	UFAM		
37	PUC Minas	Spatial analysis	Geographic information systems Urban and regional studies The environment



**Figure 1 •** Programas de Pós-graduação em Geografia - Mestrado - Brasil, 2006.



**Figure 2 •** Programas de Pós-graduação em Geografia - Doutorado - Brasil, 2006.



**Figure 3 •** Graduate programs Geography - main topics - Brasil, 2006.

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