

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Saulo de Freitas Araujo

Diego Azevedo Leite,^(α) Lisa M. Osbeck,^(β) Luigi Pastore^(γ)

SAULO DE FREITAS ARAUJO (November 26, 1971 – May 2, 2024) was a towering figure in Brazilian academia, whose profound influence as a professor and researcher left an indelible mark on the field of psychology. Serving as an associate professor in the Department of Psychology at the Federal University of Juiz de Fora (UFJF, Brazil), Saulo's career was distinguished by his deep dedication to understanding the historical and philosophical foundations of psychology. His academic journey, marked by a bachelor's degree in psychology from UFJF (1997), a master's degree in the philosophy of science from the Federal University of São Carlos (2000), and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the State University of Campinas (2007) and the University of Leipzig in Germany, was a testament to his relentless pursuit of knowledge. His research, which sought to unravel the historical evolution of psychology as a scientific discipline, resulted in numerous publications in some of the world's most prestigious journals and with leading book publishers.

As a teacher, Saulo was not only respected but deeply admired by his students. His teaching spanned undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels, where his vast knowledge of the history of psychology, philosophical concepts, and empirical findings illuminated every lecture. His classes were known for their depth, often filled with insightful reflections on the fundamental debates within scientific psychology. Saulo's approach to teaching was both demanding and nurturing. He expected excellence, challenging his students to produce

work of the highest quality. Yet, he was also a mentor who was open, attentive, kind, and carried a good-humored spirit. The students who had the privilege of working under his supervision found the experience not only challenging but immensely rewarding. Saulo instilled in them a commitment to rigorous, independent thinking and a passion for exploring profound philosophical problems. Many of his students felt deeply honored to have had the opportunity to learn from such an extraordinary mentor.

As a researcher, Saulo's contributions to psychology were nothing short of monumental. His intellectual curiosity led him to explore a wide array of topics, including the history of psychology, philosophy of mind, theoretical psychology, the mind-body problem, and the contributions of seminal thinkers like Immanuel Kant, Wilhelm Wundt, and William James. In 2008, Saulo embarked on one of his most significant research projects at UFJF, delving into the concept of "empirical psychology" in Kant's works, a project that yielded numerous influential publications. In 2010, he founded and directed the Wilhelm Wundt Center for the History and Philosophy of Psychology (NUHFIP) at UFJF, further cementing his legacy in the field. His scholarly achievements were recognized globally, including the APA's Early Career Award (Division 26 – Society for the History of Psychology) in 2013, and the publication of his major work, *Wundt and the philosophical foundations of psychology: A reappraisal*, in English in 2016, following its original

^(α)Centro Integrado de Atenção à Saúde - Universidade Federal de Alfenas, Rua Gabriel Monteiro da Silva, 700 – Centro Alfenas MG, CEP 37130-001 (BR)

^(β)Department of Psychology, University of West Georgia, 1601 Maple Street, Carrollton, GA 30118 (USA)

^(γ)Dipartimento di Scienze della Formazione, Psicologia, Comunicazione - Università degli Studi di Bari "Aldo Moro", Palazzo Chiaia-Napolitano, via Crisanzio 42 – 70122 Bari (IT)

E-mail: diego.azevedo@unifal-mg.edu.br (✉); losbeck@westga.edu (✉); luigi.pastore@uniba.it (✉)



Portuguese edition in 2010. Saulo's international reputation was further evidenced by his collaborations with esteemed colleagues like Horst Gundlach and William Woodward, who visited him in Brazil to exchange ideas and engage with his students.

The impact of Saulo's life and work in Brazil is profound. His passing on May 2, 2024, was met with deep sadness and regret by his friends, colleagues, and countless students. The Federal Council of Psychology (CFP), UFJF, and the Brazilian Society for the History of Psychology (SBHP) all publicly mourned the loss of a scholar whose contributions to the history and philosophy of psychology were unparalleled. Internationally, Saulo's death was also deeply felt, as colleagues around the world recognized the loss of one of the foremost scholars in the field.

Saulo de Freitas Araujo was more than just a researcher and professor; he was a brilliant intellect, whose ideas and teachings have shaped the minds of many psychologists in Brazil and beyond. His legacy as a great intellectual will continue to inspire students and scholars for generations to come. Though his absence will be deeply felt, his remarkable body of work, his example, and his enduring influence will undoubtedly continue to illuminate the path for future researchers, professors, philosophers, and psychologists.

Diego Azevedo Leite

The period of Saulo's life that brought him into mine should have been his middle period. It was a time characterized by new directions of intellectual exploration even as he continued the careful scholarship for which he was known in his earlier years.

I first met Saulo in 2013 at the American Psychological Association annual conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. I was program chair for the *Society for General Psychology* (APA Division 1) and Saulo gave an invited address at the request of Wade Pickren, then president of the division. That Saulo was a "scholar's scholar" was immediately evident in his lecture on the philosophical foundations of Wundt's empirical psychology. Meeting him afterwards, I was equally impressed by his gracious and humble presence. Our talks at that conference led to recognition of many similar interests and we made plans to work together at some point in the near future. The conversation continued in 2015 when we attended the *International Society for Theoretical Psychology* meeting in Coventry, UK. There we pursued the topic of shared projects in earnest, landing upon an exploration of William James's pluralism as the most promising.

Saulo later spent a year at the University of West Georgia outside Atlanta, where his insightful lectures on the history of psychology were cher-

ished by doctoral students and his collegiality was appreciated by all. After his return to his own university, we continued a regular correspondence to work on the James project with more focus. We spent two years engaged in systematic reading and regular discussion of James's writings, gleaning direct and implied references to pluralism and analyzing its forms and meanings. Our study surprised us by revealing pluralistic ideas in many more passages than we anticipated. We obtained a contract with Cambridge and began writing up our notes during the pandemic, culminating in publication of *Ever not quite: Pluralism(s) in William James and contemporary psychology* (2023). As the title suggests, the book compares psychology's treatments of "pluralism" with pluralism concepts James articulated, distinguishing different forms of pluralism in each and analyzing implications for psychology.

We spoke often of joining forces on a host of additional projects. In addition, we began to meet regularly with Barbara Held to explore avenues for collaboration. In the end, we were able to complete only three additional papers: an encyclopedia article on the relation of James' psychology to his philosophy (ARAUJO & OSBECK 2020); a paper for the special issue on the future of cognitive science (OSBECK & ARAUJO 2023); and a contribution to the special issue on the Psychological Humanities (ARAUJO & OSBECK 2024). During this time Saulo continued his own prolific scholarship, notably co-editing a pioneering volume on Christian Wolff's psychology (ARAUJO, PEREIRA & STURM 2021) and preparing a manuscript that forwarded a new interpretation of James's early essays.

This flourishing middle period, of course, turned out to be the end of Saulo's short life. The great loss and sadness so many of us feel make it difficult to convey his character with equanimity. He liked to call himself a "simple man", yet he was anything *but* simple in his range of interests and breadth of scholarly command. He was, in any case, a brilliant, calm, and straightforward collaborator, a trusted and cherished friend. We shared many scholarly interests and appreciations, including the psychological insights to be found in many Victorian novels, especially his favorite, *Middlemarch*. He was unfailingly gracious, serious yet full of humor on all occasions. He liked to say that we functioned together like "reason and intuition"; in turn he appreciated my joke that he would resonate with the title character in Trollope's *He knew he was right*. I learned a great deal from Saulo – about William James, of course, and the secondary literature on James, but more generally about a systematic, precise, and thorough process of scholarship, not to mention about decency, integrity, responsibility, loyalty, and courage in work and life.

Lisa M. Osbeck

The paths of Saulo de Freitas Araujo and *Rivista internazionale di Filosofia e Psicologia* crossed in Thessaloniki in June 2011, during the *14th Biennial Conference of the International Society of Theoretical Psychology*. I attended that conference together with Sara Dellantonio. In that time both of us had recently contributed founding a new journal that aimed to promote interdisciplinary research in the fields of philosophy and psychology. We listened with great interest to Saulo's talk on the presence and function of introspection in Kant and Wundt, and we were favorably impressed by both his ability to make complex issues simple and comprehensible, and by his skill in combining historical rigor, epistemological competence, and interdisciplinary sensitivity. We immediately felt that Saulo's cultural profile was particularly suited to actively contribute to the development and growth of the young journal. Thus, we decided to try to involve him in this editorial project. It was not a complicated endeavor. Saulo had recently published a small book (ARAUJO 2011) on the relationship between psychology and neuroscience, which included, among other things, a critical and systematic reflection on the role of methodological reductionism and materialist ontology in recent developments in the philosophy of mind and the epistemology of psychology. The programmatic manifesto of the newborn *Rivista Internazionale di Filosofia e Psicologia* seemed to him an excellent opportunity to continue this line of research.

Saulo's approach to *Rivista internazionale di Filosofia e Psicologia* also became a meeting of people. And I was fortunate to be one of them. Thessaloniki was not only the place where I met a brilliant colleague with whom to start a scientific exchange and collaboration; it was where a sincere friendship began, which, over time, strengthened, nurtured by mutual esteem and the discovery of shared passions, not least for music and good wine, strictly red. The following year marked Saulo's full involvement in the cultural and scientific project of the journal: I invited Saulo to give some lectures at the University of Bari, which was the occasion where he met a good part of the journal's working group.

Saulo showed immediate interest in the journal, even though it did not yet enjoy prestigious national or international recognition at the time. In addition to the interdisciplinary nature of the journal, Saulo appreciated its open-access policy and the ideal of autonomy and independence it aimed to realize. In his opinion, *Rivista internazionale di Filosofia e Psicologia* represented a place for ongoing experimentation and a constant pursuit of discussion and exchange.

With his discreet yet constant presence, Saulo left a profound mark on the life of the Journal: he was not only an author of stimulating contributions (ARAUJO 2013; OSBECK & ARAUJO 2023; ARAUJO & OSBECK 2024) but also a competent and meticulous member of the staff. He began as a member of the Scientific Advisory Board (2013) and later accepted the position of Consultant Editor (2014-2016) and member of the Editorial Board (2017-2024). His editorial experience and organizational skills were crucial for consolidating the overall scientific quality of the journal and expanding its international network. Driven by a profound skepticism towards the most stubborn forms of reductionism and the most extreme forms of dualism, Saulo was a genuinely critical thinker, whose approach was marked by a committed pluralism – the same pluralism that also inspires the *Rivista internazionale di Filosofia e Psicologia*.

The passing of Saulo is a great loss, not only for those who knew him and shared a personal and/or scientific journey with him, but it was also a profound human, scientific, and cultural loss for the entire community of *Rivista internazionale di Filosofia e Psicologia*.

Luigi Pastore

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