

Jairo de Almeida Biography

September 1, 2021. Patrick Charbonneau

Jairo Rolim Lopes de Almeida (1950-) was born in Recife, Brazil, son of José Lopes de Almeida, a dentist, and Cacilda Rolim de Almeida, a nurse.

De Almeida attended Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (UFPE), in Recife, where he first pursued undergraduate studies in electrical engineering and physics for the BSc (1969-1973) and then obtained a MSc in Physics (1973-1975) for a thesis entitled “Espalhamento Inelástico de Luz por Excitações Magnetoelásticas” [Inelastic Light Scattering by Magnetoelastic Excitation], under supervision of Prof. Sergio Machado Rezende. He was then granted an Assistant Professor position, but left for the University of Birmingham to pursue further studies (1977-1980), obtaining a PhD for a thesis entitled “On the mean field theory of spin glasses,” under the joint supervision of David Thouless and Michael Kosterlitz. He then returned to the UFPE faculty and left in 1987-1988 for a postdoc at UCLA, with Robijn Bruinsma, and at the Service de physique théorique of the Centre d’énergie atomique, in Saclay, France, with Cirano De Dominicis. He was eventually promoted to Associate Professor, and retired in 2010.

De Almeida’s thesis first demonstrated the instability of the replica symmetric description of the Sherrington-Kirkpatrick mean-field model of spin glasses, and found it to extend to the ferromagnetic regime. This influential work helped seed the study of replica symmetry breaking. De Almeida’s subsequent research efforts largely centered of spin glasses and frustrated systems more generally.

De Almeida was married to Sonia Maria de Souza Almeida in 1975, and together they have three children: Alessandra (1979), Leonardo (1981) and Igor (1984).

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