

Editorial

In memoriam - Ross Leadbetter [1931-2022]

It was very sad to hear the news on the death of Ross Leadbetter, [Doctor Honoris Causa of ULisboa](#) since 2013 and Professor Emeritus at the [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#), last February 26, 2022, at the age of 90. We are indeed missing Ross dearly. Ross Leadbetter was a true friend of his friends, among whom we are. It is our hope that present and future generations of statisticians will foster Ross' scientific legacy. Ross had a huge soul and was (is) one of the giants in the field of Extremes, having been interviewed about his career in the prestigious magazine *Extremes* ([An interview with Ross Leadbetter | SpringerLink](#)). The book he co-authored with Georg Lindgren and Holger Rootzén, entitled '*Extremes and Related Properties of Random Sequences and Processes*', is a landmark in the field, with over 5000 citations. Indeed, we cannot fail to mention that Ross Leadbetter was one of the guests at the 'NATO *Advanced Statistical Institute* (ASI), entitled '*Statistical Extremes and Applications*', which took place in Vimeiro, almost 40 years ago, in the summer of 1983, an event currently recognized as a milestone in the affirmation of this area and a milestone in the launch of the '*School of Extremes in Portugal*', which Ross Leadbetter, with his sense of humour, used to call the '*Portuguese Gang*', and which has more recently been referred to as PORTSEA, from the English '*Portuguese School of Extremes and Applications*'.

I also would like to mention that Ross Leadbetter honored ULisboa by accepting, at the request of DEIO, the distinction of [Doctor Honoris Causa of ULisboa](#), because without a doubt, and just as can be read in [Extremistas da minha terra | Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa \(ulisboa.pt\)](#), '... when the university honors researchers of this importance it is also honoring itself.'

And Ross Leadbetter was also a very active participant in another of PORTSEA's major milestones, the '*EVT 2013—Extremes in Vimeiro Today*', organized by our colleagues and great friends, Antónia Amaral Turkman, Isabel Fraga Alves and Manuela Neves, to commemorate the 30 years of the Vimeiro meeting in 1983. Similar memories, written in Portuguese, can be found at the recent [Bulletin of the Portuguese Statistical Society](#) and at [Info-Ciências Digital/14-03-2022](#).



*Participants in EVT 2013, who had also participated in the Vimeiro Meeting in 1983: *Top row*: Clive Anderson, Georg Lindgren, Jef Teugels, Ivette Gomes; *Bottom row*: Rolf Dieter-Reiss, Richard Davis, Anthony Davison, Ishay Weissman, Barry Arnold, Ross Leadbetter, Antónia Amaral Turkman, Kamil Feridun Turkman, Dinis Pestana, Juerg Huesler, Helena Iglésias, Isabel Barão, Manuela Neves

At last, Ross was deeply involved with *REVSTAT-Statistical Journal*, both as a Guest Editor of the Special Issue on [Statistics of Extremes and related Fields](#) and as a reviewer of some articles submitted to this journal.

Ross is undoubtedly greatly missed, but his work will always be present and available for present and future generations!

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Ivette Gomes (*Former Editor-in-Chief*)
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