

rec_lage

From: Eduardo Jorge Seabra Lage [eslage@fc.up.pt]
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To: Yana Teterina; yteterin@indiana.edu
Subject: RE: Letter of Reference for Dr. Jose F. F. Mendes

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First, a few words about myself, so that you may better appreciate my judgements about Dr. Jose Mendes. I took my Ph. D. in Theoretical Physics at Oxford University (UK) in 1976. I did work under Prof. R. B. Stinchcombe on several statistical mechanics problems (mainly, ferroelectric and ferromagnetic models with several types of disorder) and later, after returning home, my work extended to spin glass models, transport theory in magnets, critical dynamics and renormalization group theory also applied to non equilibrium phenomena. Several dozen papers were published in international journals of Physics (mainly, Physical Review, Journal of Physics, Journal of Statistical Physics, etc.).

I first met Dr. Jose Mendes as a student in the course Statistical Mechanics, where he obtained above average marks, though not top marks. Later, he went on to become my research student, first at our Condensed Matter M. Sc. course and later, as Ph. D. Student. In both cases he performed very well, obtaining both degrees (in 1990 and 1995, respectively). During his Ph. D. period, he stayed for some time with several collaborators of mine: RB Stinchcombe, M. Droz (Geneva, Switzerland), M. Oliveira (S. Paulo, Brasil) and R. Dickman (CUNY). I know they fully appreciated his work. After his Ph. D. he enjoyed a one year sabbatical leave with S. Redner (Boston), where he started some work on physics problems with applications to biology. Later, he started collaboration with a Post-doc visiting research, Serguei Dorogovtsev, which is staying with our group for a period of 3 years. This was a very fruitful collaboration - many papers came up related, mainly, with "small world" research, whose applications extend from virus propagation to internet links. They are justly considered world leaders in this topic (together with A. Barabasi) and they just published a book about the subject at Oxford University Press. Dr. Jose Mendes is now a very mature researcher, with over 50 published papers in international journals. He is quite enthusiastic about his work and he is capable of communicating this enthusiasm to his collaborators. He enjoys computer simulations and is very eager to enter new fields of research, as he showed in the past. He is a very hard working researcher and he is not afraid of experimenting new solutions or tackling very difficult problems. As a teacher, he is very conscious, taking good care to present well prepared lectures and to solve students problems. As a person, he is very lively, with an excellent sense of humour, and he is very liked here by everybody who knows him. It was quite a loss for us when he decided to move to the University of Aveiro, where he became Associate Professor - his decision was taken on purely familiar matters, since he lives closer to that town, where his wife also works. I am sure he will do a fine job at Indiana, if you are willing to accept him.

Please, feel free to ask me further questions, if you think that I have not been clear enough.

Yours,

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