Preface

The relations between France and Brazil in the area of geography have always attracted my interest. My professional formation has been built with much proximity with French culture, especially geography. This book comes as a result of research developed during the time I lived at the Paris IV-Sorbonne University where I received the unconditional support of Prof. Paul Claval who has a profound knowledge of French geography, is a prolific researcher, and is in constant discussion with Brazilian geography. It was a privilege to enjoy this distinguished company and share theoretical and methodological discussions. I have the pleasure of being considered as part of his circle of friends.

The study of the different aspects of French geography, its schools and tendencies, the creation and diffusion of its lines of research throughout the world, especially in Brazil, led me to remain 18 months in Paris, where I had many opportunities to deepen the object of my study.

I chose courses and seminars establishing the following criteria:

- Perceive the general level of discussion in Human Geography;
- Explore the courses and seminars which worked on new themes and maintained relations with geography activities in Brazil;
- Reflect on areas which allowed the possibility of outlining and perceiving the wide spectrum of human sciences in France.

Among the general criteria I included the choice of institutions to carry out the research. I chose the Geography Institute, located at 191 Rue Saint Jacques, which hosts the geography courses of the Universities of Paris I and IV. The BoletinIntegeo facilitated my research in its archives about the activities of French geography. The library of the Geography Institute of Sorbonne was fundamental for the research to move forward.

In France I also had opportunity to collaborate with Profs. Martine Droulers, Michel Rochefort, Jacques Lévy, Yves Lacoste, Marion Aubrée, Alain Touraine, Cornelius Castoriadis, and Augustin Berque.
I emphasize the discussions made recently with deceased Bernard Lepetit. His interest in the theme increased my own commitment.

Alex Mengue, a geographer from the Republic of Cameroon, was an excellent dialogue partner. We shared rich and fruitful discussions.

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