

## **BIOGRAPHY OF JOAQUINA PIRES-O'BRIEN (UP TO 1980)**

**B**razilian botanist, ecologist, environmental consultant, translator, interpreter and writer presently living in East Anglia, UK, Joaquina Pires-O'Brien was born Maria Joaquina Pinheiro Pires, in Alegre, Espírito Santo, Brazil, on 30th March 1953, the second child of a family of nine children. Her father was a stationary shop owner and a practicing lawyer, and her mother a primary school teacher. She was married to her second husband in 1991, after which she took her double-barrelled name.

In 1969 her family moved to Vitória, the state capital, hoping that living nearby the only federal university in the state would allow the children to gain access to higher education. By then her mother had left teaching to become a postal worker and was able to secure a transfer to the capital, while her father relocated his shop in the 'bairro' of Jucutuquara, which he ran with the help of the eldest children. After she arrived in Vitória, Joaquina first studied at Colégio Estadual, where she was enrolled in the evening shift in order to be able to help her father in the shop and her mother at home. In lieu of payment, Joaquina's parents paid for her to attend one of the English language schools called Yazigi. It was there that she found out about the student exchange programme known as AFS (American Field Service), which, unlike the others, did not have a mandatory fee for parents. In August 1970, after passing through the various stages of the selection process, she went to live with the family of Ronald and Anne Streeter in West Hartford, Connecticut, USA, where she was enrolled as a senior at Conrad High School, graduating with the class of 1971.

After returning to Brazil in July 1971 Joaquina still had to return to high school in Brazil to attend the missing semester which was interrupted by the year spent as an exchange student in the United States, in order to obtain a Brazilian secondary school certificate. In August 1972 she enrolled in the Biological Sciences program at Universidad Federal do Espírito Santo. After Joaquina began her studies at the university she no longer worked at her father's shop although she carried on working as an English tutor and a supply teacher. At that time, she became acquainted with the leftwing movement against the military dictatorship, which was organised in a similar fashion as the French resistance during the Second World War. However, did not take any active part in it due to her hectic schedule that required commuting by public transport between the university campus and the high schools where she taught.

Joaquina's higher education took a convoluted loop from 1974 when she left university in Brazil and moved to the state of Washington, USA, following her marriage to an American Peace Corp volunteer whom she had met the year before. In 1975 she got accepted by Central Washington State College (CWSC) in Ellensburg. Her life as an undergraduate student in the US was even more hectic than that of Brazil. In addition to the difficulties associated with language and the need to work part time to pay for her tuition, in June 1976 she also gave birth to a baby daughter. In spite of all these problems Joaquina enjoyed the academic environment at CWSC where she cultivated several friends. In June 1977 she obtained her *cum laude* B.A. degree.

In March 1978 Joaquina moved to Corvallis, Oregon, with her two and a half year old daughter, in order to study for a master's degree in Botany, at Oregon State University, financed by a Brazilian educational grant from CAPES. After a waiting period of six months she secured a place for her daughter at the Campus Day Care as well as accommodation at the married student housing estate. In both she had many chances to meet other graduate students from all over the world including many Brazilians. Joaquina describes Corvallis as having the perfect academic atmosphere one could hope for in terms of courses and community. In April 1980 Joaquina completed her dissertation and moved back to Brazil.

## ➤ Education

### Primary and Secondary

1959 - 1962	Ginásio Sagrada Família, Alegre, E.S., Brazil
1963	Grupo Escolar Professor Lelis, Alegre, E.S., Brazil
1964 - 67	Ginásio Sagrada Família, Alegre, E.S., Brazil
1968	Colégio Estadual A. Aguiar, Alegre, E.S., Brazil
1969	Colégio Estadual, Vitória, E.S., Brazil
1970	Colégio Americano de Vitória, Vitória, E.S., Brazil
1970 - 71	Conard High School, West Hartford, Conn. USA
1971	Colégio Americano de Vitória, Vitória, E.S., Brazil

### Higher Education - Undergraduate

08.1972 – 06.1974. Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo, Biological Sciences Department,  
09.1975 – 06.1977. Central Washington State College, Department of Biology, Ellensburg,  
Washington, U.S.A. **B.A. (Cum Laude)**; double major : Botany.

### Higher Education – Graduate School

03.1979 – 04.1980. Oregon State University, Department of Botany & Plant Pathology,  
Corvallis, Oregon, U.S.A. **M.Sc.**; major: Botany; minor: combined (Statistics & Genetics).  
10.1988 – 04.1991. University College London, Department of Biology & Plant Pathology,  
London, UK and The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK. **PhD.**

## ➤ Professional Affiliations

The Linnaean Society of London

Chartered Institute of Linguists (London) - 020505

National Registration of Public Service Interpreters (London) - 12568

American Translators Association (Alexandria, VA) - 241306

## ➤ Publications

### Scientific Articles & Book Chapters

- Pires-O'Brien, M.J. (1992). Report on a remote swamp rock savanna, at the mid-Jari river basin, Lower Amazon. **Bot. J. Linn. Soc.**, London, 108(1):19-33.
- Pires-O'Brien, M.J. (1992). Ecology of the Jari-Paru microregion I. Chemical and physical aspects of soils from eight primary forest communities. **Bol. Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi, série Ciências da Terra**, Belém, v.4:59-72.
- Pires-O'Brien, M.J. (1992). Ecology of the Jari-Paru microregion II. Ecological distances between eight forest communities. **Bol. Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi, série Ciências da Terra**, Belém, v.4:73-84.
- Pires-O'Brien, M.J. (1993). Local distribution and ecology of *palha-preta* - a pioneer and invasive palm in Lower Amazon. **Principes**, 37(3-4):68-71.
- Pires-O'Brien, M.J. (1993). Phenology of tropical trees from Jari, Lower Amazon, I. Phenology of Amazon forest communities. **Bol. Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi, série Botânica**, Belém, 9(1):67-92.
- Pires-O'Brien, M.J. (1994). Phenology of tropical trees from Jari, Lower Amazon, II. Genetical and environmental influence. **Bol. Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi, série Botânica**, Belém, 10(1): 57-68.
- Pires-O'Brien, M.J., Prance, G.T. & O'Brien, C.M. (1994). Fenologia de famílias arbóreas do Jari. Caryocaraceae, Connaraceae & Humiriaceae. **Boletim FCAP**, Belém, v. 28:1-20.
- Pires-O'Brien, M.J. (1997). Transverse Dry Belt. In: WWF and IUCN (1994-1997), **Centres of plant diversity. A guide and strategy for their conservation**. 3 volumes. Vol. III. **The Americas**, edited by Davis, S.D., Heywood, V.H., Herrera MacBryde, O. & Hamilton, A.C., p.319-324. IUCN Publication Unit, Cambridge, U.K.
- Pires-O'Brien, M.J. (1997). Check-list comentada da flora da região do Jari. I. Saprófitos parasitas. **Bol. Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi, série Botânica**, Belém, Belém, 13(1):49-67.

### Books

- Pires-O'Brien, M.J. & O'Brien, C.M. (1995). **Ecologia e Modelamento de Florestas Tropicais**. FCAP, Belém, 400p.

Pires-O'Brien, M.J. & O'Brien, C.M. (1995). **Aspectos Evolutivos da Fenologia Reprodutiva das Árvores Tropicais**. FCAP, Belém, 25p.

Coutinho, S. da C. & Pires, M. J. P. (1997). **Jari: Um Banco Genético para o Futuro**. Imago Editora, Rio de Janeiro, 242p.

### **Essays, Articles of Opinion and Book Reviews**

Pires-O'Brien, M J (1993). *An Essay on the History of Natural History in Brazil, 1500-1900*.

**Archives of Natural History** 20 (1): 37-48.

Pires-O'Brien, J. (1995). João Murça Pires 1917-1994: Adeus ao Grande Botânico da Amazônia. **O Liberal**, Belém (24.02.1995).

Pires-O'Brien, J. (1999). A Novel View of the Gospels. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 274, no. 1599: 187-190. [An essay on José Saramago's book *Gospel According to Jesus Christ*]

Pires-O'Brien, J. (1999). Indian Land Rights and Land Conflicts in Brazil. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 275, no. 1604: 113-117.

Pires-O'Brien, J. (2000). GM Foods in Perspective I. Biological Review. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 276, no. 1608: 19-23.

Pires-O'Brien, J. (2000). GM Foods in Perspective II. The UK Commotion on GM Foods. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 276, no. 1609: 84-89.

Pires-O'Brien, J. (2000). GM Foods in Perspective III. GM Foods in Latin America. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 276, no. 1608: 19-23.

Pires-O'Brien, J. (2000). Latin American Integration and the Formation of Mercosur. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 276, no. 1613: 281-285.

Pires-O'Brien, J. (2000). The Misgivings of Globalisation. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 277, no. 1618: 264-272.

Pires-O'Brien, J. (2000). Latin America After the 1998 Market Tumble. **Contemporary Review**, Chesham, Surrey, vol 277, no. 1614: 11-17.

Pires-O'Brien, J. (2001). Latin American Indians and Nationalism. Review of *From Tribal Village to Global Village: Indian Rights and International Relations in Latin America*, by Alison Brysk, 2000. Stanford University Press. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 278, no. 1621: 116-117.

- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2001). New Perspectives in History and Geography. Review of *World System History: The Social Science of the Long-Term Change*, by Robert A. Denemark et al, editors, 2000. Routledge and *Development Geography* by Rupert Hodder, 2000. Routledge. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 278, no. 1623: 244-247.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2001). The Tricks of the Trade. Review of *One Market Under God. Extreme Capitalism, Market Populism and the end of Economic Democracy*, by Thomas Frank, 2001. Secker & Warburg. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 278, no. 1624: 308.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2001). Brazil 501. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 279, no. 1626: 9-11.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2001). The Uphill Struggle of Brazil's Reforms. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 279, no. 1627: 92-99.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2001). The Many Colours of Tourism Tricks. Review of *Making the World Safe for Tourism*, by Patricia Goldstone, 2001. Yale University Press. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 279, no. 1628: 179-181.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2001). Towards a fair Capitalism. Review of *Just Capital: The Liberal Economy*, by Adair Turner, 2001. Macmillan. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 279, no. 1631: 372-373.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2002). Politics, Tourism and Boundaries. Review of *Tourism and Political Boundaries* by Dallen J. Timothy, 2001. Routledge. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 280, no. 1637: 371-372.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2002). Globalisation now and Then. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 281, no. 1640: 149-159.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2002). A Fury for God. Review of *A Fury for God: The Islamist Attack on America*, by Malise Ruthven, 2002. Granta Publications. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 281, no. 1641: 243-244.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2003). Roger Scruton on Terrorism and Political Correctness. Review of *The West and the Rest: Globalisation and the Terrorist Threat*, by Roger Scruton, 2002. Continuum. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 282, no. 1647: 239-240.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2003). The Women of September the 11<sup>th</sup>. Review of *The Women's War: Voices from September 11*, by Christopher Hilton, 2002. Continuum. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 282, no. 1649: 369-370.

- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2004). A Treatise on Terrorism. Review of *No End to War: Terrorism in the Twenty-First Century*, by Walter Laqueur, 2003. Continuum. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 284, no. 1657: 113.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2004). Art and Politics in the Work of Paula Rego. Review of *Paula Rego's Map of Memory: National and Sexual Politics*, by Maria Manuel Lisboa, 2003. Ashgate. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 284, no. 1659: 249-250.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2004). Brazil's Native Indians. Review of *Die if you Must: Brazilian Indians in the Twentieth Century*, by John Hemming, 2003. Macmillan. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 285, no. 1663: 113-114.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2004). Brazil Under a Labour Government: Part One. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 285, no. 1664: 150-156.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2006). WTO'S Trade Rounds: A Call for Reform. Review of *Fair Trade for All: How Trade can Promote Development*, by Joseph E. Stiglitz and Andrew Charlton, 2005. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 288, no. 1683: 511-512.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2007). Politics and Globalisation. Review of *Globalisation and Politics: Promises and Dangers*, by Jan-Erik Lane Ashgate. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 289, no. 1685: 237-238.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2008). Sociology and Globalisation. Review of *Globalization and Everyday Life*, by Larry Ray, 2007. Routledge. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 290, no. 1689: 236-237.
- Pires-O'Brien, J. (2008). Nature and Culture in Latin America. Review of *An Environmental History of Latin America*, by Shawn William Miller, 2007. Cambridge University Press. **Contemporary Review**, Oxford, vol 290, no. 1690: 371-372.