

*When we refer to an extraordinary professional, among his skills it is common to mention his talent and dedication. I believe, however, that we must add to these elements, obviously related to a successful career, another of equal importance. It is possible that in times of hyperindividualism and focus on personal achievements, we are failing to observe how important, in the academic path of each one, is the positive motivation that comes from living among our professors and colleagues.*

*This fact was bluntly revealed to me when I met, after many years, an old master. The situation was unusual (yes, although we have been living in social isolation for more than six months because of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is still challenging to get used to the restricted forms of contact we use to reinvent the human encounter). Our species, as we know, is atavistically linked to the group. Not only because it has made us stronger than our potential predators in nature, but because it has allowed us, throughout history, to be better and more productive through the exchange of experiences and ideas.*

*So, let's go back to the reunion with my previous professor in a current situation, that is, during a live stream. It was exciting to witness how that man, who during my graduation course had encouraged me to pursue my academic ideals and who, in this way, was decisive for my professional career, remained active. I was able, in my imagination, to hear the echo of his voice multiplying among tens, hundreds, perhaps, thousands of students who, like me, were lucky enough to meet him along the way.*

*I resumed this experience because I consider it significant in the moment that we live. The Coronavirus pandemic has reinforced the value of science and human solidarity. And the example above reminds us that we only develop research with collaboration and teamwork. This collaboration can arise directly, between professors, students, and colleagues, or, indirectly, through the reading of peers.*

*In this special edition of DATJournal, we celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of PPG Design at Anhembi Morumbi University (UAM). Ours was the first Postgraduate Course in the area in the city of São Paulo, and its excellence is supported by the tradition of teaching and research in design at UAM since the early 1990s. How many students, graduates, professors, and collaborators participate in this success story? Countless, and to each of them, we send our gratitude and our admiration. Creativity, perseverance, and the exchange of knowledge between people who have worked and studied here show the value of happy encounters. Let us celebrate, therefore, the people and the product of their work that, collectively, contribute to consolidate Brazilian science and to project a better future for all of us.*

*Paolo Roberto Inglese Tommasini*