

Para Joshua A. Fishman en sus 80 años

De Ofelia García y familia

Fecundo académico

Intellectual por excelencia

Sabelotodo

Ilustrador de datos

Mentor de todos

Amigo fiel

Nácar que brilla

It is often much more difficult to write personally than academically. And writing to you on your 80th birthday has been taxing. How do I acknowledge all that you have taught me in the last twenty-five years? How do I express how grateful I am for the countless hours of conversation, the many breakfasts, the numerous letters of reference? How do I thank you for having included me in your academic life and for bringing life to my academic interests? How do I recognize all I've learned from you and from Gella, not only about sociolinguistics, but about life itself?

I remember how I came to you first -- a very junior scholar, without a clue of what academic life was like. Although I knew little, you always made me feel as though I had something to contribute. As your student, you pushed me. You didn't let me settle. You asked me to read extensively, to think deeply, to care intensely. You taught me everything I now know. You asked me to extend myself in ways that went beyond what I knew. To my poetry, I added your numbers. To your data analysis, I added my literature. To your Yiddish, I added my Spanish. To my City College of New York, you added your Yeshiva University. To your Gella and children, I added my Ricardo and my children. And my Cubanness and your

Jewishness became acquainted in the Multilingual Apple, first at the Ferkauf Graduate School on Fifth Avenue and 12th Street, then at the Albert Einstein Campus in the Bronx; sometimes at Bainbridge Avenue, and later in Riverdale.

You pushed me not only as a student, but also as an instructor and colleague. You invited me to join you as an adjunct instructor in the PH.D. Program in Bilingual Developmental Psychology at the Ferkauf Graduate School of Yeshiva University when I was still inexperienced. And you never gave me an opportunity to doubt whether I could do it. You also invited me to write my first article. And when I told you I just wasn't ready, you said, "You never will be. Just write it." And you got me involved in your research project, teaching me everything there was to know about quantitative research. You laid project after project on my lap, and never gave me permission to doubt my abilities. You trusted Ricardo and I with the project on English across cultures. And when you turned 65, you gave me the privilege of putting together a volume on bilingual education in your honor, bringing together my intellectual interest with my intellectual mentor. We struggled through the Multilingual Apple, with Gella adding the ring of the toy apple she gave me. And for your 80th, you once again gave me the privilege of working on one of the volumes in your honor, the one containing Gella's extensive bibliography, an archival labor of love.

When I work with graduate students and young scholars, I'm always inspired by your work with me, and all you taught me through your actions. You never told me you were busy. You never declined to write a reference or to make a phone call on my behalf. I always wondered how you were able to do it, with so many, all around the world, before the speed of e-mail, with little help. You never waited for an assistant to do your work. Because of the extent of your work, most assume that you have had all the help in the world, but I know better. I have been with you when you have made photocopies yourself, mailed manuscripts, and done clerical and administrative work. You never complained that you were doing more than others. You never talked about social justice, you lived it, and did it. You

organized and implemented a program to educate bilingual Latino developmental psychologists in a Jewish university. You worked with colleagues across the board -- psychologists and linguists, sociologists and educators. You talked to everyone that was interested and interesting. And you listened well. You have a remarkable ability to get the story right, and to represent well the interests of others.

You ended your Concluding Sentiments to our volume in honor of your 80th birthday by saying that you were the irritant in the pearl, but you're much more. You're also the pearl, no sólo la perla, sino también el nácar, that reflects myriad realities, all beautiful, all simple, all shining, all deep, with colors and reflections that run into each other, and that together, like your ideas and actions, make up a beautiful whole.

Professor Fishman, as I still call you, we wish you felicidades en tus 80. Thank you for sharing yourself and your family with all of us.

Ofelia, Ricardo, Eric, Raquel and Emma