



August 15, 2006

Fishman Celebration  
c/o Professor Nancy H. Hornberger  
3700 Walnut Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Philadelphia PA 19104-6216

Dear Celebration Organizers:

I am very pleased to add my congratulations to the celebration honoring Professor Joshua A. Fishman.

Professor Fishman was very influential in the early days of my academic career, even though I was not a student nor colleague at the same university. I had gone to Kampala, Uganda in 1968 to establish the linguistics program at Makerere University, an initiative under the Ford Foundation Survey of Language Use in Eastern Africa. I had just received my PhD in Linguistics in 1967 from the University of Wisconsin, with a specialization in syntax.

I knew little about research on the social use of language, having had not even a course on "language and culture" in my studies. But once I was immersed in the "sociolinguistic laboratory of multilingual Kampala", I became very interested in the social side of language and starting reading in the field. Immediately I recognized that Professor Fishman was a leader in the field even then, as I read whatever I could find by him.

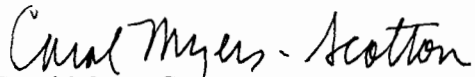
There I was in Uganda—little known in the academic world and knowing little that my interest in sociolinguistics was about to take off in a measurable way. What happened is that I was surprised and honored when I received an invitation from Professor Fishman to contribute to what became his 1978 edited volume, *Advances in the Study of Societal Multilingualism*. My chapter on "Language in East Africa: Linguistic patterns and political ideologies" truly launched my career.

A few years later when I was back in the United States, Professor Fishman was again an important element in my developing career. He was kind enough to write letters of recommendation for me when I needed them and had no mentors from the University of Wisconsin versed in the sociology of language and therefore able to recommend my work in this field. He even included me as a guest at his "mortgage burning" party when his New York house was paid off when I was living in the New York area in 1973-74,.

Over the years, Professor Fishman and his wife Gella and I have met happily again and again at conferences. And of course over the years his work has shaped my ideas about language policies and language use patterns—especially on language maintenance and shift. I refer to his work over and over in my own writings as he has remained as the dean of students of all aspects of the social use of language.

I congratulate him on this happy occasion!

All good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Myers-Scotton". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Carol" and last name "Myers-Scotton" clearly legible.

Carol Myers-Scotton

Emerita Carolina Distinguished Professor,

University of South Carolina

Visiting Scholar, African Studies Center

Michigan State University