



RAHUL BALUSU

1975-2020



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Rahul came to NYU with an interest in syntax and phonetics. He added semantics and computational linguistics. He belonged to an intellectually vibrant student cohort --they were a lovely and loving bunch.

Rahul worked with me on distributive reduplication, presented his work at NELS 36 at Umass, but did his dissertation on the other line of his work, OCP effects in Telugu.

When he went to EFLU, he disappeared from my professional sight for a few years. He returned actively to semantics and the syntax/semantics interface maybe 5 or 6 years ago. We were in regular contact, on email and in person; you'll see that I refer to his input and his papers, and he to mine. He was brimming with ideas and, I think, he saw conferences and summer schools as an opportunity to do what he loved doing (other than hiking in the Himalayas). I'll miss him very much.

Anna Szabolcsi





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His contribution to South Asian linguistics is deep and immense, much like his contribution to all of our lives, scholars of formal semantics and linguistics in general. He was known as the avid traveller, the adventure and food lover, the very shy but extremely generous and kind spirit, beloved colleague, mentor, and friend.

Rahul would be the one setting out with you on crazy hikes in the Himalayas, or tracking down the best tapas bar in Boston, or quietly throwing one-liners in a late-night gossip session, or bringing you thoughtful gifts, or being a delight in the discussion of all things linguistics and food.

Diti Bhadra



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I knew Rahul as a kind and gentle person, with a lovely sense of humor. His acute observations about the world around him and his contributions towards uncovering and analyzing the complexities of South Asian languages were always coupled with humility and quiet self-effacement. Looking back, I wish there would have been a way to convey to him how important his work and his particular brand of insights were and that he touched many lives and became important to many of us in the community in ways he probably could not see.

Miriam Butt





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One of the most moving qualities of Rahul, (or at least one that I admired very much) was his un-self-conscious humility and how it manifested naturally in his enthusiasm to connect to and learn from everything and everyone; it showed in his linguistic investigation as well.

Ashwini Deo



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He was a truly excellent linguist and was, we feel, doing some of his most creative work in his final years and also getting some of the recognition he richly deserved. He was also extremely humble and entirely too self-effacing about his own talents. The combination of humility with talent was both potent and rare.

We are devastated that he is gone and will miss his gentle presence and formidable talent as a fellow-Dravidianist for years to come.

Sandhya Sundaresan and Tom McFadden





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A life lived to the full!