

Talking about Rahul in the past tense is the hardest thing we are having to do. For us LISSIMers, processing the very idea of LISSIM without Rahul is a heart-ache.

Rahul was brilliant, spontaneous, patient and one of the most unassuming people we know. He was a brilliant linguist, with his contribution to South Asian linguistics being deep and immense. His body of work in formal semantics, syntax, computational linguistics and phonetics is invaluable. He did incredible work in Dravidian languages and was part of a new-age cohort working in Dravidian linguistics, where his influence and contribution will continue to be seen, for years to come. It was a joy and privilege for his colleagues, students, and fellow linguists to have known him and worked with him.

As LISSIM participants, not only did we get the opportunity to work with and learn from Rahul, we also had the privilege of spending time with him outside of academic collaboration. He loved food, travel, trekking, and adventure. Due to these varied interests, during a rigorous routine of talks, workshops, and presentations of the summer school, he provided relief and a much-needed break to anyone who needed it.

Rahul was the most reliable person in a LISSIM. If you are on a trek with him, he would lead and encourage you to hike forward. When you were stressed and hungry from working tirelessly in the common lounge, he would appear with a basket of fruits, a packet of momos, or biscuits, like a saviour. If you had reached a deadlock with a linguistic issue, he would sit there to brainstorm with you as long as you needed him. And if you were in the Dravidian group, then the way you learnt to do and present research linguistics was the 'coolest' of all: you had to think and explore on your own and then better it through a thoughtful discussion with the rest. Every LISSIM served up some new exciting dish, but the Dravidian vada will always bring the broadest smiles to our faces.

Each one of us has many memorable anecdotes about him, all with a common thread: Rahul was the most approachable, kind, generous, and beloved of all. On behalf of the LISSIM family, we bid farewell to Rahul, our colleague, mentor, and friend. We will cherish your memories in our hearts forever. Some of us will remember you in the LISSIM classroom, in your usual spot each morning, coffee in hand, smiling; others will remember you with the backdrop of the picturesque Himalayas you loved so dearly. For all of us, you will be dearly missed, but you will continue to inspire us always.