

## Foreword

Dear Björn,

On the occasion of your retirement, and your 65th birthday, we wanted to honor you and thank you for everything you have done for us at Stockholm University and for the scientific community around the world. Your dogged defiance of disciplinary boundaries has stimulated fruitful communication between investigators from many fields of research. You have motivated higher standards of intellectual rigor and roused a renewed interest in testing theoretical models. And, perhaps most importantly, you have made serious and successful efforts to make phonetics explanatory rather than merely descriptive.

In the spirit of your work and thinking, we announced a symposium for interdisciplinary discussions on 'Speech Communication and Language Development'. The response from the international scientific community was enthusiastic – both from researchers and sponsors!<sup>1</sup> This made possible an intensive 3-day conference (17–19 June, 1999) at Stockholm University with superb contributions from phonetics, psychology, biology, neurology, zoology, engineering, music and mathematics. A congenial atmosphere provided the perfect setting for a truly fruitful scientific meeting, and we hope that the insights and the interdisciplinary exchange that emerged at the symposium will be reflected in the composition of this volume, which preserves the sequence of contributions and the thematic sections of the conference.

With this we wish you a happy and productive retirement. May you continue to have success with solving the fundamental problems in phonetics!

*Francisco Lacerda and Christine Ericsdotter Bresin*

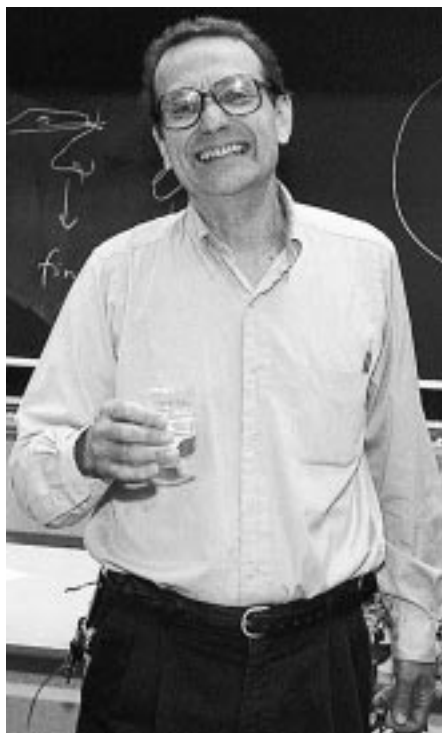


Photo by Yngve Fransson.

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