Professor Ebrahim (Abe) Mamdani died on January 22, 2010.

He was born in Tanzania in June 1942 and educated in India, he went to UK in 1966. After obtaining his PhD at Queen Mary College, University of London, he joined its Electrical Engineering Department, where he developed the first fuzzy controller. In the mid-eighties he moved to Imperial College, where he was now an Emeritus Professor. In recognition of his contributions he received the ‘European Fuzzy Pioneer Award’ from the European Society for Fuzzy Logic and Technology (EUSFLAT) in 1999, and the ‘Fuzzy Systems Pioneer Award’ from Computational Intelligence Society of the IEEE in 2003. He was also a Fellow of IEEE, IFSA, and of the Royal Academy of Engineering and the IEE in the UK.

With his disappearance, the world’s fuzzy community did lose one of its most distinguished members, the one to whom all of us are mainly indebted for introducing the first ideas on fuzzy control as an engineering discipline. EUSFLAT loses one of its ‘Pioneers’, the Imperial College loses a Professor whose contributions to the research and to the prestige of his department are widely appreciated, and the European Centre for Soft Computing loses one of its supporters in the Scientific Committee, who was always deeply involved in the Centre’s development. The unexpected passing away of Abe meant a big loss for all his friends and colleagues, not to mention his relatives. Professor Mamdani’s wife, Ginny, deserves our deepest sympathy for his loss.
Nobody expected such a fatal end from what, on his own words one week before, was an apparently simple surgery. An end that makes it impossible to offer him a long ago well deserved homage in which he would have addressed the audience with his views on science and technology. Some of us were so lucky to hear him in what probably was his last public talk, past October in Mieres when offering our students the Opening Talk of the Master in Soft Computing and Intelligent Data Analysis. In that talk he shared with us his memories on the beginning of fuzzy control, his recommendations to young students in the way to approach problems, and his views on the future.

We have lost a good and generous friend with whom we delighted discussing, and whose intellectual power and honesty, fairness, sense of humour and gentle ability to incite debating, we deeply admired. As we look at thought, we look at death in the continuity of life, and we are sure that Abe’s examples of living and thinking will be continued. Abe Mamdani lived a deep life from the personal, familiar, and professional sides, and we will always remember his joy for life, his passion for Technology, Science, Philosophy, and his interesting ideas on the relevance of establishing links between reasoning and digital computers. Abe Mamdani did a research that is worldwide recognized. He loved and was loved, discussed and was discussed, but among all he always tried to help people.

Professor Mamdani is in a central place in the history of fuzzy logic, but he contributed as well to other fields of Computer Science and Telecommunications. Below we have compiled some of his contributions to Fuzzy Logic and Approximate Reasoning, including those published in this journal, particularly the paper published in the first issue of Fuzzy Sets and Systems.

Abe will be always with us.

Main articles in fuzzy systems and approximate reasoning by E.H. Mamdani.


Editorial activity in the field:


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