In memoriam Prof János László

Dear Friends, Dear Colleagues,

János has departed. After a disease borne with courage and patience, he found eternal rest on 25 January afternoon. He left a lot to us. He left thoughtfulness, creativity, activity, experience, friendship and love.

We were not prepared for János’s departure. We knew he was seriously ill and we worried whenever receiving bad news concerning his health, but we believed that he would overcome his disease and return to us. He left an immense heritage as well as an immense burden on us. We are convinced that he would have not left us if he had not had to do so if he had had any chance to stay. We still had a lot to ask him about and there was no time left. Now we need time to receive the weight of our loss.

János was a man of stature. With a pragmatic attitude, he based his groundbreaking ideas on the reality of everyday life. He was an innovative scholar, a sage who told stories, a teacher who showed the right paths, a strict and demanding boss, an understanding and loving friend, a fascinating discussion partner – and all these together, all these for us. He was an ideal and – borrowing the word from Giovanna Leone – a Maestro.

János has laid the foundations of scientific narrative psychology. He created knowledge where he found a gap. First of all, he found a gap in the empirical approach to the close relationship between memory and identity where he created something new and unique. His work is based on an extensive knowledge spanning across psychology, history, linguistics, literature and theatre, this latter as both theory and experience.

It is hard to tell a story now – not only a good story but any story. It needs time to hear the voice of memories.

We have created this web page where all of us can pay tribute and express condolences. Dear Friends and Colleagues, all memories and thoughts to share are welcome.
In memoriam Prof János László
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