

Dear Hagit,

Happy birthday!!

It has been an incredible honour and privilege to have been your student. Even though I do not really do any Linguistics these days, you have been a great influence in the way I think, analyse, and look at things. For that, and much more, I am really thankful.

I first met you indirectly through your book *In Name Only*. I was an undergraduate student in Argentina with a keen interest in syntax and my professors gave me a copy of it. To me, you were Borer, the book! I have to admit I did not understand most of it at the time, but, for some reason, I was thrilled when I enrolled for the MA at QMUL and found out that you had recently joined. I still remember your first lecture in our Concepts and Consequences group.....I was so excited to meet you in person and listen to everything you had to share (so much so that geeky me even has a Facebook post on that!). Since then, I haven't stopped marvelling at everything you do/are: your intellect, sharpness, memory, generosity, friendship and the list goes on.

On an intellectual level, words are probably not enough to describe what I think of you. Having meetings with you was always an experience. You see things from so many different angles, always see the big picture even if you are looking at tiny details and think faster than anyone I know. I genuinely wish I had just a tiny bit of your brain! I couldn't have asked for a better PhD supervisor. Throughout the process, I got to see how you approach a problem, look at data, analyse all possible options, disagree with what others have said (always good to watch, I have to say!) and come up with novel theories. I have learnt so much from you just by seeing how you do things. Even though I am sooooo far away from being as good, I think I became much more of a critical thinker because of your influence.

On a personal level, you always believed in me more than I believed in myself and you did not give up on me through the years. You have been incredibly generous, kind and patient and besides being my supervisor, to me, you are also my friend. Thanks for always being there!

On your 70th (and your 10th at QMUL), I wish you an unforgettable birthday and a year filled with joy and health. You truly are an inspiration! =)

Lots of love!

Melisa