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A tribute in honor of Ubiratan D'Ambrósio's life and legacy

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On the last May 12th, Ubiratan D'Ambrósio – our dear Ubi – passed away at 88, saddening family members, friends, and colleagues in the Mathematics Education community. Everyone recognizes Ubi's significant contributions to the field of Education and Mathematics Education.

Perhaps, the theorizing on Ethnomathematics was the scientific contribution most identified with his work. Based on his understanding of Ethnomathematics as a program for studying the production, systematization, and dissemination of knowledge, his research also firmly focused on the History of Mathematics. Also, his studies included mathematical modeling in mathematics education, in particular, making this research agenda in Brazil have a strong socio-cultural approach. More than that, Ubi's thinking went beyond the boundaries of mathematics education. His reflections also focused on transdisciplinarity and education for peace and social justice.

Author of dozens of papers and books, Ubi was awarded the Kenneth O. May Award in 2001 by the International Commission on History of Mathematics. In 2005, he was awarded the Felix Klein Medal by the International Commission on Mathematics Instruction. These prizes were the recognition of Ubiratan D'Ambrósio's work for educational thinking and the field of Mathematics Education.

For us Brazilians, Ubi had even greater importance due to the centrality of his figure in the constitution of the field of Mathematics Education in Brazil and Latin America. In the seventies, Ubi implemented the first master's degree in science and mathematics teaching at the University of Campinas (Brazil), with the support of the Organization of American States. This course was intended to train researchers from Central and South America. Later, in the early 1980s, Ubi helped to establish the first Master's in Mathematics Education in Brazil, at Sao Paulo State University, *campus* of Rio Claro, and a few years later the Ph.D. Ubi always had a constructive attitude. Another example, he actively supported the foundation of the Brazilian Society of Mathematics Education (in the late 80's). He also encouraged public policies at the CAPES Brazilian Funding Agency to expand Master's and Ph.D. programs in Science Education and Math in 90's and 2000's.

Most of us, researchers from the Brazilian Mathematics Education community, had the honor of sharing moments with Ubiratan D'Ambrósio in classes, conferences, panels, etc. In addition to his brilliant thinking, Ubi was always kind and generous. He always had that kind smile and welcoming words, which made us have even more admiration.

In honor of his life and legacy, all three TME's special issues of the Brazilian research on mathematics education, the previous one (volume 18, no. 3), the current one (volume 19, no. 1), and the next one (volume 19, no. 2) are dedicated to the memory of Ubiratan D'Ambrósio.