

Chapter 11

Enric Trillas Barcelona

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Working in France where the community of researchers in fuzzy logic was very small in the 80s, I remember how surprised I was when I met Enric Trillas for the first time in 1982, at the occasion of the Second World Conference on Mathematics at the Service of Man in Las Palmas. I saw him as a leader and a reference for many people. I had heard of his reputation from Lloren Valverde, for whom he was the advisor at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, and whom I met in France during his visit to Professor Joseph Kampé de Fériet in Lille. I then discovered the rest of his group, Francesc Esteva, Claudi Alsina, Ton Sales, Teresa Riera, Ramon Lopez de Mantaras, Eduard Bonet and others, showing a combination of scientific enthusiasm, high level expertise and friendship. My meeting with them was the first one of a long series which gave rise to collaborations at various levels.

Enric Trillas was a role model for me. During a few years, I visited him and his group regularly in Barcelona, finding there the most stimulating and encouraging environment. I am really indebted to him for having accepted me, in some sense, as an “associate” member of the group, at least it is the way I felt it. I remember my visits to the Polytechnic University of Catalonia in the first half of the 80s, working groups, workshops on logics on Sundays, because it was the only day when everybody was free, coffees at the cafeteria with vanilla cream instead of milk, an exceptional visit of the Miró Museum one evening, piles of books and documents I was bringing back home, which was an extraordinary source of information at a time when internet did not exist I also remember their visits to Paris, seminars Enric Trillas gave for my research group in the Laboratoire Claude-François Picard of the University of Paris VI, and joint dinners with them. Enric Trillas was teaching fuzzy logic in his university, which was very rare in the world, and I used his book in Spanish “Conjuntos borrosos” published in 1980, because of its educational quality, when I constructed my own lessons to teach fuzzy logic in 1985.

Things changed in the second half of the 80s, when Enric Trillas moved to Madrid, but his group at the same time spread across Spain and greatly contributed to the success of fuzzy logic in Spain. His presence and his leadership is certainly an important factor of the number and the quality of Spanish researchers in computational intelligence, working either on fuzzy logic or on hybrid systems. The establishment of the European Centre for

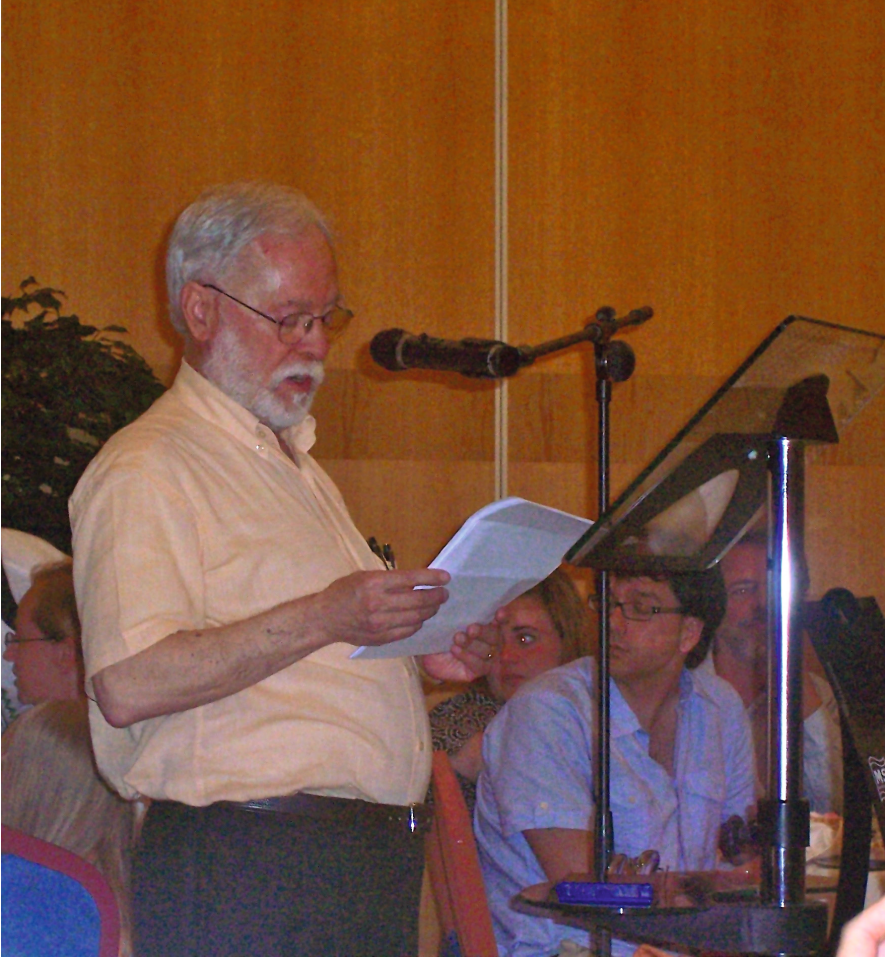


Fig. 11.1 Enric Trillas giving an address when receiving the Kampe de Feriet award at IPMU 2008 in Malaga

Soft Computing in Asturias is one of his successes and he brilliantly handed over to the young generation, who is continuing an outstanding job. It was with great pleasure that I presented the medal of the Kampé de Fériet award to him during the IPMU 2008 International Conference held in Málaga.¹

¹ For a photo of Enric, other scientists and the author of this chapter see figure 16.1 in the contribution of Didier Dubois and Henri Prade in this volume.