

## 4.21 My Memory of Da

Prof. Dr. Gabriella Pasi

Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca, Italy

My last memory of Da brings to mind several images of San Francisco last May. We were both attending the WCSC conference, and I can see Jie, myself and Da seated close to each other on the bus going with the conference attendants to the conference banquet. Jie is on my left, Da is on my right, sometimes talking to us and sometimes looking at his PC...

I met Da several years ago, and although we never co-authored a paper together, several times we had the opportunity to exchange ideas and to collaborate on the definition of joint research proposals and research plans.

When I decided to start my journey in the beautiful land of research, I was very young and I had an “ideal” picture in mind about people going about in this land and about their interactions. I imagined a world (the world of ideas and intellectual exploration) where people could be free to focus on their main aim of conquering new knowledge and to go around inspired only by a great passion for research and noble objectives. What better world to interact and feel free in than in the world of thoughts, of ideas, of knowledge, of creativity, where there is room for everyone trying to make a contribution? Over the years and with experience I discovered that not all people in this environment are animated by the same objectives; wrong competition mechanisms can sometimes lead people to miss big opportunities for freedom and constructive cooperation. However, in a world that still remains beautiful for me my journey has brought, among others, an invaluable and precious gift: the opportunity to meet beautiful people, who have enriched my life. Da was one of these people: in my mind he is a man who truly represented the ideal prototype of a scientist: an open minded man, with intellectual honesty which allowed him to enjoy his experience in the world of research, while never forgetting the fundamental value of friendship, family and cooperation. He has made an invaluable and important contribution to the growth of his research field and to the people who worked with him.

For this reason he leaves an unforgettable trace of his passage in this life experience.