

A Meaningful Life: The Joy of Learning, Loving, Caring, and Sharing

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Carlos was such a remarkable, kind and competent scholar and friend that it is hard to choose what to highlight in this brief tribute to this great soul. On a personal level, he was a major influence in my career, especially in my first moves to reach international academic audiences. He was always keen to promote not only better knowledge of past Latin America and Continental Europe psychical researchers, but also to support and stimulate internationalization of current researchers from beyond English-speaking countries. We first met in 2005, when I moved to US with my wife Angelica and our one-year-old boy Caio, for a postdoctoral fellowship at Duke University. The amazing couple Carlos Alvarado and Nancy Zingrone welcomed us for the first time in their own home during our visit to DOPS-UVA (Division of Perceptual Studies at University of Virginia). They helped us settle in the new country (including taking us to a Brazilian restaurant in Charlottesville to eat black beans and collard greens and drink Guarana, the favorite Brazilian soda) and to make academic contacts. Our families' friendship and academic partnership bloomed. He contributed to a book (Alvarado, 2012) and a journal issue (Alvarado et al., 2007) we edited and came to Brazil for conferences. In 2011, the couple spent one week delivering talks, workshops, and mentoring students and researchers at NUPES-UFJF (the Research Center in Spirituality and Health, School of Medicine, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora). In addition, Carlos graciously provided valuable feedback of papers and research projects and was a member of the Ph.D. examination board of Alexandre Sech Jr on William James (Sech Junior et al., 2013). Throughout these almost two decades of partnership and friendship, I have been constantly amazed by his astonishing scholarship and deeply touched by his kindness, supporting attitude, and great sense of humor.

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From a more academic perspective, his many personal virtues allowed him to make unique contributions to the fields of psychology, psychiatry, and parapsychology. Among these qualities are great generosity, openness tempered with academic rigor, prodigious broad knowledge of the history of psychical research, and being completely fluent in English and Spanish while also able to read several other languages (to my knowledge, French, Italian, and Portuguese).

One of his most meaningful academic contributions was rescuing neglected but valuable studies, researchers, and psychics, especially from beyond the English-speaking world, mainly from continental Europe. For example, Carlos performed in-depth studies about the prominent, but currently largely unknown, Italian psychical researcher Ernesto Bozzano (Alvarado, 2016). He also brought to contemporary academic light researchers such as Camille Flammarion (Alvarado & Zingrone, 2020) and Albert de Rochas (Alvarado, 2016a), as well as mediums such as Eusapia Palladino (Sommer, 2012) and William Stainton Moses (Alvarado, 2018a).

He also contributed to broaden the scholarship on the history of psychical research by investigating the studies performed by spiritualists, spiritists, and other researchers from mid-19th Century (e.g., Agénor de Gasparin, Allan Kardec, and William Stainton Moses). Carlos showed that the usual dismissal of studies before the founding of the SPR – Society for Psychical Research in 1882, as if they were all naïve, credulous and non-rigorous was unwarranted (Alvarado, 2018a, 2018b; Alvarado et al., 2007).

He also devoted a great deal of effort to build bridges between mainstream psychiatry and psychology and the fields of parapsychology and psychical research. He did this mainly through dozens of articles (often in mainstream psychology and psychiatry journals) that convincingly showed the many unrecognized interconnections between these fields (Alvarado, 2012; Alvarado et al., 2007). One strategy was to show that many prominent founders of scientific psychology and psychiatry not only were interested in but also actively involved in psychical research. Among these were Charles Richet (Evrard et al., 2021), Cesare Lombroso (Alvarado & Biondi, 2017), Theodore Flournoy (de Oliveira Maraldi & Alvarado, 2018), Alfred Binet (Alvarado, 2010), William James (Alvarado, 2015), Ambroise August Liébeault (Alvarado, 2009), and William McDougall (Alvarado & Zingrone, 1989). A complementary approach that Carlos took was to present relevant contributions to scientific psychology and psychiatry by authors most known for their psychical research such as Frederic Myers (Kelly & Alvarado, 2005) and James Hyslop (Alvarado, 2014). In truth, he showed that it was hard to distinguish between founders of psychical research and of psychology because they were often the same people. This was particularly clear in his studies of the First International Congresses of Psychology, between 1889 and 1905 (Alvarado,

2017). Finally, still in line with his mission of making good scholarship widely available worldwide, he also kept a blog and co-organized and participated in online courses with Nancy.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Carlos, who deeply influenced me, especially by showing how to live a meaningful and fulfilling life in which he found pleasure in learning and sharing with remarkable generosity and competency what he learned: All of this, surrounded by the love, admiration, and gratitude of his friends, academic colleagues and loved wife. These categories are not separate, but were usually mixed in a sacred blend.

Carlos devoted many of his studies to the topic of survival of bodily death and he now has surely seen the results of the crucial and ultimate test. May he continue to learn, love, and inspire us all who follow his steps down here.

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