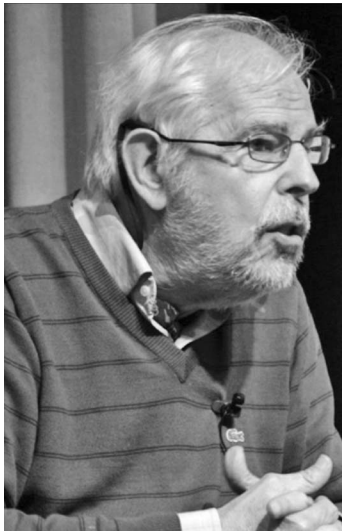


IN MEMORIAM

Héctor Fernández-Álvarez (1944–2023)



The renowned Argentine clinical psychologist, Héctor Fernández-Álvarez, passed away unexpectedly on November 16, 2023. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on July 27, 1944, Héctor was an exceptional mentor, therapist, supervisor, professor, researcher, author, and leader, as well as a beloved brother, partner, father, and grandfather. The consummate renaissance person who embraced all manners of cultural expressions through an intentional wanderlust, he sought to understand all forms of human suffering and to alleviate senseless ones.

Héctor's career spanned well over 5 decades. He received a licenciatura degree in 1967 from the University of Buenos Aires and a PhD in 1995 from the National University of San Luis, Argentina. Héctor held multiple academic appointments throughout Latin America and Spain. He authored over 100 journal articles or book chapters, and 16 books, including a novel, *La Distancia* (The Distance), and *Fundamentals of an Integrated Model of Psychotherapy*, one of the most respected psychotherapy books in Latin America and Spain.





In 1977, Héctor challenged the constraints of a military dictatorship by founding Aiglé (the everlasting flame), together with his partners Diana Kirszman, María Teresa Nieto, and Sergio Pagés. Aiglé remains a nongovernmental organization that delivers clinical and community services and prepares mental health practitioners informed by an active research program that evaluates training and psychotherapeutic processes and outcomes. Over the years, Héctor advanced Aiglé as a practice-oriented research clinical

setting, a paradigm articulated by Louis Castonguay to investigate psychotherapy as it unfolds in clinical practice. He developed an integrative model of care that resulted in Aiglé's cognitive-integrative model. Aiglé has grown to be a hallmark for research-based, leading-edge psychotherapy training in Latin America, with centers throughout Argentina, Guatemala, and Spain. Héctor imbued Aiglé with his dearest values, including humility, sharing, solidarity, commitment, and cooperation.

As a visionary, Héctor thwarted the asphyxiating environment of a military dictatorship by pursuing international collaborations, which he described as the "oxygen" that sustained him and his colleagues over time. A collaboration with Amparo Belloch and others advanced the treatment of individuals presenting with personality disorders. Another collaboration included Larry E. Beutler and the development of Aiglé's research program, starting with a systematic treatment selection project that served as the catalyst for Héctor's development of a research line on the therapist's personal style. The Therapist's Personal Style Questionnaire, developed by Héctor and colleagues, has been used in many countries and in multiple research projects. Meanwhile, he became an expert supervisor who created a certificate program for supervisors.

Héctor received some of the most prestigious recognitions in psychology, including the Interamerican Psychologist Award from the Interamerican Society of Psychology (1999), the Sigmund Freud Award from the city of Vienna (2002), the Senior Career Award from the Society for Psychotherapy Research (2013), APA's Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology (2016), and the Distinguished Award for International Advancement of Psychotherapy from APA's Society for the Advancement of Psychotherapy.

Héctor lived a committed life; he was devoted to instilling hope in patients while motivating professionals to be their better selves. He was a soccer fan of Argentina's San Lorenzo de Almagro, a generous, caring friend, and a tireless traveler. His legacy is an inspiring challenge that a better world is indeed possible.

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