



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

In Memoriam:

Mercè Pujol-Ferran (1960-2025)

2025 brings us more sad news: On January 10, the Hostos Family lost Professor Mercè Pujol-Ferran, a long-time member of the College's Language & Cognition Department.

Born in Spain, Pujol-Ferran received a bachelor's degree in *Filologia Anglo-Germànica* from *la Universitat Autònoma* in Barcelona, a master's degree in TESOL, a master's degree in applied Linguistics, and a Doctorate of Education in Applied Linguistics, all from Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC.

Her grandmother was a Catalan poet, and this may help to explain Mercè's sensitivity to and gift for language – she was fluent in Spanish, Catalan, French, and English. (Mercè merged the personal and the professional when she translated and annotated a collection of her grandmother's poetry in English.)

She also possessed the gift of conveying her enthusiasm for language to countless numbers of students. At Hostos she taught advanced ESL and Linguistics courses. She developed and taught the College's Language Acquisition course, as well as a new course of comparative Spanish and English grammar for Spanish-dominant ESL students. She published widely in her field, authoring or co-authoring papers on such subjects as neuroscience, multilingualism, and plurilingual pedagogy, and served as a professional consultant for Oxford University Press and Amsco School Publications in New York City, and for American College Testing in Iowa.

"Mercè was very brilliant, elegant, and amazingly generous with her knowledge and friendship," said Dr. Jacqueline DiSanto, Chair of the College's Education Department. "I learned valuable lessons from her expertise, especially on translanguaging, which left an indelible impact on my teaching."

Dr. Gail August, Chair of the Language and Cognition Department, said she will miss Mercè's "intelligence, passion, persistence, energy, and mostly her love for languages and her commitment to share that love with our Hostos students."

All at Hostos share in their sadness, and send our heartfelt condolences to Mercè's family, friends, and colleagues.

In sorrow,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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