



OBITUÁRIO

by Jørgen Christian Bang

Jørgen Døør 1933-2021

It is with sadness I inform you that one of the great pioneers of Ecology, Language, and Ideology, Jørgen Døør, emeritus of the University of Southern Denmark, died in the summer of 2021, aged 88 years. He was born on 16 March 1933 and grew up in a working-class district in Copenhagen, Denmark. After training and working first as a technical designer and then as a schoolteacher, he completed the doctoral study in philosophy and psychology, after which he became a valued researcher and teacher at the University of Copenhagen. In 1966 he became associated professor in Philosophy at the new Odense University (in 1998 the university was expanded by fusions and renamed University of Southern Denmark). Here he was a very important and charismatic lecturer in propaedeutic philosophy for students from all departments of study at the university and even today he is remembered by many former students for a very vivid and engaging introduction to philosophy and science theory with in-depth reference to the everyday life of students, and the political and ethical issues of that time. As a researcher and teacher, he was an active part of the student rebellion in 1968, and throughout all his work - both in the institutional university framework and in his private work - he always was explicitly aware about the dialectical connections between theory and praxis - and between the researcher, the research, and the society. In most of his researching, he prioritized to cooperate with other critical researchers and students in a collective organization; however, he has also produced several monographs, especially concerning political and ethical philosophy discussions. He worked with Indian and Tibetan philosophy and Buddhism, practiced yoga, and was interested in all avantgarde trends of worldviews and scientific fields, also in the field of natural and health sciences. By his transition to emeritus life in 1998, he published a personal moral philosophy book, *Moral Meditations*, which like most of his publications was published through the printing works at Odense University / University of Southern Denmark and sold by the student bookstore. He largely avoided the large – mainstream – publishers and preferred the personal contact through sharing channels. He was always concerned about the implied power relations to avoid explicit and implicit corruption; he always wanted to contribute to a more democratic and healthier world.

In the period 1971-75 Jørgen Døør and I started our collaboration that continued more or less intensively over the next 50 years. By that time, we established together with four other

colleagues and students a working group hosted by the faculty of humanities at Odense University with the aim to develop and conduct a two-years university pedagogical experiment in a basic cross-disciplinary education. The experiment was characterized, among other things, by the fact that both teachers and students worked interdisciplinarily and collectively together on the formulation and theoretical & practical treatment of vital problems, using different methods and theories, discussing different, competing scientific paradigms, cf. Thomas Kuhn's concept of scientific revolutions. During this period, we outlined the special Danish Dialectical Theory on language and communication, cf. "Language, Theory and Conditions for Production" (in Jacob Mey (ed.), *Pragmalinguistics. Theory and Practice*. Mouton 1979). The concept of dialectics was further developed through the articles and congress contributions of the 1980s on themes such as "Classes and Languages", "Children and Languages" and "Language and Sex and Gender". In the summer 1990, the time became ripe for a more extensive international development of Ecolinguistics. At the AILA World Congress in Thessaloniki, we decided together with Frans Verhagen and Richard Alexander to establish "Ecolinguistics – Ecology and Language" as a symposium theme for the next AILA conferences (in 1993 and 1996) and other international conferences throughout the 1990s and subsequent decades. Back in Odense in the autumn 1990, Jørgen Døør and I established the ELI: Research Group for Ecology, Language, and Ideology, an important network of students and researchers at Odense University (together with Anna Vibeke Lindø, Jeppe Bundsgaard, Sune Vork Steffensen, Joshua Nash, among others). Several prominent researchers were as corresponding members associated to this network, including Richard Alexander, Alwin Fill, Hermine Penz, Frans C. Verhagen, Adam Makkai, Harry Perridon, Adelaide Chichorro Ferreira, Martin Döring, Peter Finke and Wilhelm Trampe. They all contributed to the broader and deeper knowledge and interest concerning Ecology and Language, both under the auspices of AILA, and at their own conferences at European universities.

In his emeritus life after 1998, Jørgen Døør continued to join the Eco-linguistic society. He was thus a fully engaged part in writing and editing the *book Language, Ecology and Society: A Dialectical Approach* (by BANG; DØØR; STEFFENSEN; NASH, 2007: London: Bloomsbury Academic). The work summarizes the key features of Døør & Bang's dialectical philosophy and contains references to much of our theory. In recent years, a congenial connection was established with Hildo Honório do Couto and the journal *ECO-REBEL*. As late as the beginning of 2020, *ECO-REBEL* brought an interview with Jørgen Døør and me. Here Jørgen Døør presented himself in his emeritus life with these words: "Free-lance researcher, novelist (published 14 novels with my wife, Dorte Bay Madsen), pacifist, vegetarian, and ecological activist" (*ECO-REBEL*, v. 6, n. 1, p. 163-172, 2020). The interview and the bibliography stand out as a fine picture of Jørgen Døør's scientific life and work.