

Ricardo Wilson-Grau

1942 - 2018



Book of remembrance from the Outcome Mapping Learning Community

January 2019

Ricardo was a valued member of the Outcome Mapping Learning Community since it started in 2006. Over the years he was among the most active contributors of the community, regularly responding to queries from newcomers, engaging in methodological discussion and contributing his extensive experience.

He was a Steward of the OMLC from 2010, and when the OMLC was instituted as a standalone organisation, Ricardo was appointed as the first Chair of the Board, a position he held until 2014. As the primary developer of the Outcome Harvesting approach, Ricardo continued to contribute to the OMLC through his methodological innovations and promotion of OM-based approaches in fora across the world.

His death at the end of 2018 was felt very strongly by many in the community, including those who had worked with him directly and those who only knew him through his generous contributions online. This is a compilation of messages from OMLC members to pay respects, show appreciation and to remember Ricardo.

My wife Ann and I am deeply saddened to learn that Ricardo has died. The OMLC has lost a valued colleague. Globally, monitoring & evaluation practitioners have lost a leading thinker and practitioner. Ricardo inspired many of us to clarify and refine our methods and he certainly helped put wheels on the Outcome Mapping wagon. I will always remember fondly our passionate methodological discussions walking back to the hotel at the end the day during our many workshops at the University of Bologna. The one argument we never did resolve concerned which gelateria had the best pistachio ice cream.

Our deepest condolences to Erica and the rest of Ricardo's family.

Terry Smutylo, Canada

Ricardo,

Thank you for sharing yourself in so many ways.

Yes, you contributed via Outcome Mapping and Outcome Harvesting so much of value to a group of people trying to make a difference. But much more than OM and OH this is about you- kind and generous and wise and insightful and encouraging. Inspirational too. I wish I had got to know more about all those other things you did trying to contribute positively to this planet and to humanity. The snippets you shared with me revealed depths in which your values germinated.

Thank you for living the life you did, sowing so many seeds of goodness, hope and positivity. Know they will sprout and grow and flower beyond what you could ever have dreamed. Thank you for the life you lived, for the person you gave us.

Ricardo, sentiremos muito a sua falta, lembraremos com saudade a tu presença preciosa.

Com carinho

Jeph Mathias, India

Ricardo was a great friend and colleague. I was carrying out an evaluation with him at the moment he was diagnosed with brain cancer. Ricardo being Ricardo, he wanted to continue working on this assignment even after receiving this news. Looking back at my last conversations with him, they are about cancer, life and death as well as discussions on the details of the evaluation report :)

I will miss the long conversations I had with him about Outcome Harvesting - from the moment it all started to where the approach is now- as well as our conversations about personal things, his excitement whenever he had discovered a new functionality in excel or word or another tool, nice dinners together, his great appreciation for good food (especially the deserts and the hummus :)) and his positive thinking, even at the moment when he was diagnosed with cancer.

My heartfelt condolences to Erica, Carmen and the rest of his family.

Goele Scheers, Belgium

Ricardo was a very positive influence in my life as a coach, mentor and friend. He was kind, wise and down to earth with a deep love of nature. Always full of insights and challenging those around him to think differently. He was so generous with his time as a mentor and shared his inspiring devotion to understanding and advancing complex social change. He was a gift to us all at the Outcome Mapping Learning Community and will be greatly missed.

Heidi Schaeffer, Canada

We are thankful for Ricardo's life. He provides a model for all of us; he generously shared the wisdom he acquired through his life. He leaves behind a growing legacy, but will be missed.

Phil and Mariam Smith, Sweden

Ricardo was an enormously inspirational and cherished figure in my life. I write today as a freelance consultant whose main work is training, coaching and facilitating the use of Outcome Harvesting. In other words, I have Ricardo above all others to thank for having a vocation that I find deeply satisfying and enjoyable.

I first met Ricardo when I commissioned him to do both an Outcome Harvesting evaluation and serve as a mentor myself and BioNET colleagues Konny and John as we took our first steps in using Outcome Mapping to design the network's strategy. He rapidly gained my great respect and appreciation through his huge commitment to the tasks, his ability to ask probing questions and the stimulating way he coached me in evaluative thinking.

Over the years, I learned so much from Ricardo through his example and mentoring. He taught me not only about Outcome Harvesting but also about evaluation and evaluative thinking and indeed how to practice as an independent consultant. Through collaborations on articles, conferences and his mentoring, to discussing a draft of the Outcome Harvesting book that, thankfully, he was able to finish just before getting terminally ill, I found he was always open to discussion and willing to help or offer ideas. For me, above all, Ricardo always combined a highly professional approach and great personal warmth.

Ricardo the innovator, mentor, professional and friend: his way remains as a powerful guiding light in my life.

Lastly, as others, I have fond memories of sharing my passion for cooking and eating with Ricardo. The memory that will probably last longest is eating the most wonderful hummus with him in Beirut and marvelling that there was another human who perhaps liked hummus even more than I, something I had thought was an impossibility!

Richard Smith, UK

I'm so sorry to hear of Ricardo's death. I first met Ricardo more than 15 years ago while working on outcome mapping at IDRC. He was a great man and a wonderful colleague. He taught me a lot. I fondly remember being with him at workshops around the world. We communicated by email for a long time before I met him in person. When we finally met, I was immediately struck by his amazing ability to always be an active part of a group (having dinners, going on outings, active discussions, etc.) while also being a calm observer of a group. When I think of him, that's the image that comes to mind - Ricardo sitting a bit outside the crowd, a small smile on his face, his eyes actively observing everything going on. Also, I loved the joy he got from desserts!

My best wishes to his family and friends.

Sarah Earl, Canada

Ricardo will be dearly missed by the whole outcome/outcome harvesting community and people from the wider evaluation field. His work will surely live on and will continue to inspire many. My thoughts go out to all his family and friends.

Jan Van Ongevalle, Belgium

A big loss to the outcome-oriented process management. We will forever be indebted to him in his work with Heather Britt: How, in Outcome Harvesting, they linked the forward-looking and monitoring process of Outcome Mapping with the hindsight approach of project evaluation. May he rest in eternal peace. My condolences to the family.

Julius Nyangaga, Kenya

I too add my heartfelt condolences, as well as happy memories of time spent with Ricardo. A few photos from the archives - Tanzania Lab (2014; missing Ziad and Terry!), and post-Beirut Lab (2012) when Ricardo and I (and baby Lucia!) played tourists for a day (and ate aaaallll the hummus - do you guys remember how enthusiastic he was about the hummus?)



Kaia Ambrose, Canada

I want to offer my condolences to Ricardo's family. He was one of the most sincere and generous people I've worked with. I first met Ricardo through the OMLC – his name would pop up all the time in emails as he responded to questions and discussions in our list-serve. He was so active in fact that we decided to invite him to join the Stewards group, and then to act as the first Chair. I got to know him well over those years. His support to me in my role as coordinator was crucial, he was always available for advice and I really appreciated our regular calls. I always enjoyed meeting up with him at various places around the world - Helsinki, San Antonio, DC, Minneapolis, Beirut, Brussels and Dar Es Salaam. I will miss his deep wisdom, his leadership and mutual food appreciation. May his legacy live on.

Simon Hearn, UK

Ricardo, I never met you physically, but your work touched my professional life. It's hard to hear of the passing of someone who contributed so much to life. You will be remembered through your hard work and dedication. It is my prayer that you are in a good place.

Glown Kyei-Mensah, Ghana

We will miss Ricardo for all his warmth, wealth of expertise, and as dear friend.

My deepest condolences to his family.

Daniel Roduner, Mexico

This is very sad news and a great loss for the OM and evaluation community.

Ricardo was a great promotor of OM-based thinking in evaluation. His systematic and persistent way of working resulted in a practical approach that is widely used and has inspired (and will inspire) many many M&E practitioners.

I am really happy that he managed to finish his book before he passed away

My deepest condolences to his partner and family.

Steff Deprez, Belgium

Very very sad news indeed! Beyond his undeniable scientific merit, his human values and natural warmth cannot be forgotten as well.

RIP Ricardo.

Ziad Moussa, Lebanon

Ricardo made major contributions and his commitment and persistence were strong. His contributions live on through Outcome Harvesting.

Fred Carden, Canada

Ricardo's passing is an immense loss in so many ways – foremost to his family and close friends and colleagues, yet also to the members of the development and evaluation community. We have lost an important innovator and driving force in this field.

Ricardo has been a uniquely inspiring mentor to me and my work. I met Ricardo while working for an international science network as an internal focal point in an evaluation he led back in 2010. He introduced me to the intricacies of Outcome Harvesting and with this planted the seed that has grown into a substantial part of my later work as an independent consultant. Over the years he was always there and supported me whenever I reached out to him – I will be forever grateful to have had the chance to experience his generous guidance and sharp mind.

When I think of Ricardo I also recall long and enthusiastic discussions that could involve everything under the sun – especially when taking place over a highly enjoyable gourmet meal ;-). In 2015, I was invited to one of Ricardo's workshops in Bologna to share some of my OM/OH experience. After the course we celebrated in a fine Italian trattoria. We were left talking late into the evening about where evaluation and the evaluation community may be headed, to how our individual small lives could contribute to a better world. Ricardo has done more than his share in this respect and he has left a rich legacy for others to take up and build on.

Ricardo – I feel honoured having had the privilege of meeting you. My deepest thanks for everything. I owe you.

Farewell.

Konny Rassmann, Germany

I feel we all owe so much to Ricardo, his ideas, positive spirit and empathy, he mentored us with thoughtful posts shared via the network or in direct communication. We have been fortunate to have had Ricardo helping to evaluate, sharing knowledge, with wisdom of those who know that wisdom is just part of the universe.

Vejo a Ricardo

Eu vejo a Ricardo e vejo a complexidade da identidade misturada, sangue e alma de identidade diversa.

Eu vejo Ricardo e vejo a vida em todas partes: amor, tranquilidade, esperança. Eu vejo um homem livre, aventureiro, emigrante e intrépido.

Eu vejo nele a semente de um futuro possível em um mundo que globaliza o ouro e esconde o drama.

Eu vejo nele um bom homem, que nos fez melhor a quem tivemos o prazer de conhecê-lo.

Eu vejo nele um homem sábio, que nos enriqueceu da simplicidade e humildade de sua palavra.

Eu vejo nele um homem vital, que soube aproveitar cada momento de sua vida.

Noemi Bertomeu, Spain

Such sad news as this year draws to a close. Thank you for sharing this information. Ricardo had been an inspiration for me and many of my students. His Skype lectures to my classes were always a highlight of the semester. He will be missed ... But remembered and alive in those who continue developing along the paths he pioneered.

Timothy Ehlinger, USA

I was extremely sad to hear about the death of Ricardo Wilson-Grau - I will miss him very much.

I try to keep my work and home life reasonably separate so I don't often talk about many work colleagues with my family, but Ricardo was one of the few exceptions - so my wife and children all understood my sadness when I told them that Ricardo had passed away. The context in which I spoke about Ricardo with my family was always the same. It concerned the twin issues of passion to do what you believe in and never wanting to retire because you are doing something that you love. Ricardo was an inspiration to me in this respect and in many others.

I first met Ricardo in 2010 in Uganda where we worked together on a strategic planning exercise. It was here that I was first introduced to Outcome Harvesting, Ricardo's baby. Thanks to him I have been utilising the approach in much of my work since this time. Throughout this time Ricardo has always been there as a mentor and friend. His insights and wisdom will be sorely missed.

However, Ricardo's legacy is alive and kicking both in his recently published book, and the memories and inspiration he provided. I am very proud to have been a friend and colleague of Ricardo and all my thoughts and love are with his family during this difficult time.

John Mauremootoo, UK

This is indeed a sad news! Ricardo Wilson-Grau has indeed been a pillar in the evaluation community; and has had incredible intellectual contributions and sharing of his practice. It is a great loss to this global learning community; and I wish the family much strength as they deal with this immense loss!

May God rest his soul in eternal peace!

Jerim Obure, Kenya

A prayer for Ricardo:

We gently caress you, the Earth, our planet and our home.

Our vision has brought us closer to you.

Touching you gently, we pray that we may become peace-bringers and life-bringers.

Uma oração por Ricardo:

Nós gentilmente acariciá-lo, a Terra, nosso planeta e nossa casa.

Nossa visão nos aproximou de você.

Tocando-lhe gentilmente, oramos para que possamos nos tornar portadores de paz e trazedores de vida.

Ann Braun, New Zealand

Dear All, I am deeply sorry to hear this. I worked closely with Ricardo. He was a truly amazing individual with such rich experience. I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to know him.

Jenny Gold, USA

Sincere condolences to Ricardo's family and friends.

Jorge Laffite, Brazil

What a loss!, may his soul RIP.

Mwiru Sima, Tanzania

RIP the Father of Outcome Harvesting... Ricardo Wilson-Grau... This is indeed sad news to end the year... I first received the sad news from our Outcome Mapping Learning Community (OMLC) Steward, Julius Nyangaga... I feel so pained. I have had to shed a tear at this loss... I remember when I met him for the first time in Maastricht, the Netherlands during the EES Conference 2016. I had to attend his Workshop and was really impressed with his work. We even took some pictures (below), which I shared here on Facebook... It is really a great loss to the Outcome Mapping and Outcome Harvesting Communities globally.

I remember early this year... I engaged him on E-Mail and he set the debate online, when I sought to inquire how we can make Outcome Harvesting Gender-responsive and Equity-focused. He did give me some very good points (both on Better Evaluation as well as Outcome Harvesting Forum), which I have continued to use with my students as learning points. For my Students of "Participatory Approaches and Tools in Gender and Development" ... We have lost an Icon... But we can console ourselves that the Knowledge he shared remains with us! I had told him about Outcome Harvesting, "I use it as one of the emerging participatory approaches to evaluation. Next time, I will invite you to present it directly to my students through a Webinar so they can get it directly from the horse's own mouth." I had thought that he would present the Webinar to my Class this coming year; that was never to be! What a loss!

I will surely miss him. May the Almighty grant Ricardo Eternal PEACE till we meet again, Amen!

Awuor Ponge, Kenya

I'd like to express my condolences to Ricardo Wilson-Grau's family.

Will god bless him.

Dr. Ahmed Safsafi, Morocco

I feel like this is a bad dream. It's a shock to hear the demise of Mr. Ricardo. It's hard to believe.

I have always loved attending his sessions and always learning something new. I was already looking forward to still doing it again hopefully during the AFrEA conference or the other upcoming forums.

May he rest in peace as we celebrate his life.

Eddah Kanini, Kenya

I have been thinking a lot about Ricardo lately. I just finished the OH book (writing a review) and his personality was all over it.

I never met him, though felt that I had, and I will miss him.

Mark Cabaj, Canada

I'm really Shock about the loss of Ricardo. I send my condolences and wish for his family and friends all the strengths to cope with this sad moment.

Alexander Vargas, Costa Rica

This is really a sad news for OMLC. Ricardo, at least for me, was a distance resource person and I have learnt many on OM/OH from him. He was one of the valuable contributors on promoting OM/OH as one of the useful P M E tools. I would like to express my condolences. Hopefully his materials, whatever are available, will be the parts of his memory to our community and related others.

Nand Lal Banstola, Nepal

This is indeed a very sad news.

I just finish reading his new book "Outcome Harvesting: Principles, Steps, and Evaluation Applications"

I also participated to his workshop at the African Evaluation Association (AfreA) in 2017 in Kampala (Uganda) and was very impressed by his ability and humility when presenting this technic.

I was hoping having him as facilitator for the introduction of qualitative approaches for monitoring our global programme on FGM.

May the OH Community maintain his legacy.

Thierno Diouf, USA

Unfortunately, I never met Richard or had any contact with him. However, I am glad to say Richard enriched my world, my manner of thinking and approaching people and organisations.

He will for sure be missed widely!

Anja Taarup Nordlund, Sweden

To family and friends,

Outcome Mapping owes so much to Ricardo, from the ideas and tools and practices to the many of us he mentored through thoughtful posts shared via the network. We are fortunate to have had such a dedicated person helping evaluate our development programs - and share knowledge around the world. I had the chance to sit in on a presentation he did for a Mercy Corps program, that he led at USAID headquarters - and his presentation and insightful answers gave us so many good ideas. He'll be missed.

Patricia Orlowitz, Bangladesh

This is a big loss for the community. We will miss him. Please convey my condolences to his inconsolable family.

Regards

Zephirin Selemani, Democratic Republic of The Congo

Like many others, I am deeply saddened by the demise of our colleague, friend, teacher, mentor.... Although he has physically departed, we will continue to celebrate his contributions through the works that he has done.

RIP Ricardo Wilson-Grau.

George Ebulu, Uganda

Though a bit late, I have learnt with deep sorrow about home going of our dear friend and mentor Ricardo. His life and legacy shall ever be remembered in the OM Community. May Hos Soul Rest In Peace.

George Chaima, Malawi