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With Gratitude

Steinvör Pálsson

I had the great good fortune to have Dr Bjarne Thorup Thomsen as my PhD supervisor from the autumn of 1999 to January 2006, when I was awarded my doctorate.

I was not your typical PhD candidate. A single parent and a former dancer by profession, I had entered the academic world somewhat late in life. But from our very first meeting, Bjarne put me at ease. His constant encouragement and interest in my work enabled me to continue with my thesis when at times I was struggling to progress with it.

In 2002, my father Hermann Pálsson died as the result of a road accident and I paused my studies for a year. I am doubtful that I would have been able to continue had it not been for Bjarne's sensitivity and patience. His insights and invaluable suggestions guided me towards the eventual submission of my thesis. I thank him for the kindness and wisdom he showed me as my PhD supervisor, and I warmly congratulate him on his retirement.