In Memoriam

Rui Alexandre Alves (1972-2026)



It is hard to say goodbye forever to such an inspiring and engaged colleague and friend as Rui. This year there will be no Christmas Card from Rui reminding us to engage in fighting for a better and fairer world and not hiding in (no longer existing) Ivory Towers. Rui always not only declared but also showed us how academic rigour and responsibility for community and society; equity, equality, and inclusion; excellence and an open mind, self-reflection and collaboration; human integrity and solidarity; dialog and debate can come together. Even if sometimes it is not easy to do, Rui showed us that it can be done and how it can be done.

It is not only time to say goodbye but also to say thank you to Rui. We want to do this on behalf of EARLI SIG Writing —Rui served as coordinator from 2011 to 2015 and organized a very successful SIG Writing Conference in Porto in 2012. And we hope to include many colleagues in our writing (research) community who cooperated with him in projects, at boards and initiatives, networks or just enjoyed discussing in formal and less formal settings with Rui at one of the numerous conferences he attended or had organized.

Since this year we will not get any Christmas letters from Rui, we only can reread the last one he sent to us.



Geopoliticus Child Watching the Birth of the New Man, **Salvador Dali**, 1943

Dear Friends,

There is no longer any doubt! A truly new world is being born! Let us protect the geopolitical child, the human, the Christmas in this new world order. A world that does not take care of children, of Christmas, is an inhumane world, and one that dictates its own extinction. Let us take care of Christmas, of our own backyard, and of the world, then 2026 will be better. All the best, Rui

Last year he wrote

"A world that does not take care of children, of Christmas, is an inhumane world, and one that dictates its own distinction. Let us take care of Christmas, of our own backyard, and of the world, then 2026 will be better."

Perhaps the best way to honour him is to take his wishes into the year 2027.

With Rui, the Writing/ Literacy (Research) Community has lost a fighter for the human right of education, for participation and inclusion, and literacy, who always acted as a great networker, engaged scholar and supportive colleague, and a politically conscious citizen.

Dear Rui

You made a big difference for our academic community. We miss you already as an excellent researcher, great fighter, and marvelous colleague. We promise we will take up at least some of your research and fights as engaged academics in research and in educational contexts. Thank you that we had the privilege as friends and colleagues of knowing You and working with You.

Adeus, Rui!

Obrigado por tudo!

On behalf of EARLI SIG Writing

Cerstin, Karl-Heinz, Moira (Coordinators EARLI SIG Writing)