

**Raymond Reiter**  
**1939-2002**



Raymond Reiter was professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Toronto, a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and winner of the 1993 International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence Research Excellence Award. He died on September 16, 2002 and was known throughout the world as “Ray,” made foundational contributions to artificial intelligence, knowledge representation and databases, and theorem proving.

Ray was born in Toronto, Canada, in 1939 to immigrant parents who came from Poland. He received a B.S. in mathematics from the University of Toronto in 1961, and an M.S. degree in mathematics in 1963 from the University of Toronto. He received a Ph.D. in 1967 from the University of Michigan. His thesis was entitled “A study of a model for parallel computations.” His thesis advisor was Harvey Garner, but he was also motivated by Dick Karp who was then on leave from IBM.

Ray wrote many seminal articles, some of which are described below. He also co-edited two books (Brachman, Levesque, and Reiter 1989, 1991) and published a book on dynamical systems (Reiter 2001). He served the scientific community by being program chair or co-program chair of important conferences and workshops and as an editor, or on the editorial board of journals, such as the *Theory and Practice of Logic Programming*. He was a fellow of the ACM and the American Association for Artificial Intelligence.

From Fiora Pirri, Geoffrey Hinton, and Hector Levesque:

*"Ray dedicated his life to his research with the wonder of a child, the fearlessness of an explorer, the precision of a mathematician, and the tirelessness of a researcher who found shallowness and confusion intolerable. He leaves a legacy of groundbreaking, deep insights that have changed the course of AI."*

*Credits to the University of Toronto*