

Peter Eimas, 70

PROVIDENCE — Dr. Peter D. Eimas, 70, died Oct. 28. He was Fred M. Seed Emeritus Professor of Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences at Brown University.

Dr. Eimas made significant contributions to the fields of psychology and cognitive science throughout his career. In a seminal article published in 1971 in the journal *Science*, his research team at Brown reported that infants possess sophisticated abilities to perceive speech far earlier than had been thought. This finding spurred a new field of research in infant speech perception and placed him at the center of the "cognitive revolution."

A hallmark of his research was that he both asked original questions about the linguistic and cognitive abilities of infants and devised creative methods to reveal that they possessed unexpected abilities.

From 1964 to 1996, Dr. Eimas received grants from the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to support his research. He also received a Guggenheim Fellowship and a James McKeen Cattell Sabbatical Award. He was a fellow of both the American Psychological Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Eimas published more than 100 research articles, including many influential reviews, and co-edited three research volumes on speech and language.

Dr. Eimas was born in 1934 in Bridgeport, Conn. He graduated from Yale University and earned his master's degree and doctorate from the University of Connecticut. He taught and conducted research at Queen's University, Ontario, Can.; Williams College, Mass.; and Rutgers University, N.J. before joining the Brown faculty in 1968.

He leaves his wife, Joanne L. Miller, a daughter, Leslie Eimas of Syracuse, N.Y., and three grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to a fund being established to support graduate education in the Department of Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences at Brown University.

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DR. PETER D.