



conservative in the sense of having a solid education in your background.

**You told me a moment ago that there are no choices that you can never regret. Did you see people who were at the end of their PhD, and they started to have second thoughts about the huge investment that they made?**

Yes, but they don't finish their PhD. Usually, they give up sooner. There are different options when you can stop. You can complete a Master's and such. You can opt out. I also advise my students to make sure that it is really what they want. I can tell you an anecdote when I went to do my PhD at NYU, in the late 80s. I have an uncle in New York that said: "What? You want to do a PhD in artificial intelligence? Two comments: why do you want a PhD when you can hire one? Artificial intelligence? Well, you have no natural intelligence. Why do you need artificial intelligence?" He was a Jewish man living in the Bronx... very practical. He thought there were three worthwhile careers; a doctor, an accountant, or a lawyer. The rest didn't count. A very nice man, but you know, I think he was very right because that basically forces you to question if it's worth the investment. This is a completely personal thing. There are no formulas. That's for sure.

**You are very a very international person. You teach in Jerusalem, but you are not originally from Jerusalem. You went through several countries. What can you tell us about the internationality of your career? How has it enriched you?**

I was indeed lucky enough to be able to be exposed to different places. I grew up in Mexico. I went to a French school. Then I did my Bachelor's in Israel at the

Technion. Then I lived in New York for fifteen years. At a certain point, I felt very much like the wandering Jew, which also comes with some anxieties. In the end, I understood that home is wherever you are and with the people you are with. Therefore, I started to see that this is a great enrichment and privilege. I believe that human relationships enrich you in a great way most of the time. Some cause damage, but then you walk away from them. I think it gives a very good perspective which gives you a better understanding of the different tendencies. I think that it has enriched me incredibly. This is one of the things I like about CARS because I meet here people from all over the world. The diversity is extremely enriching.

**Well, this is one of the things that is embedded in the soul of this conference.**



Guest