

## IN MEMORIAM JÜRGEN FRIEDRICHS (1938-2019)

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Last month the ENHR community was shocked by the news that our beloved and well-respected colleague Jürgen Friedrichs suddenly passed away. Jürgen was for many years an active member of the coordination committee of ENHR, chair of one of the most active working groups in our network: Poverty neighbourhoods, a mentor for the new researchers, a reviewer of the Bengt Turner award papers and a frequent participant of the ENHR conferences. Jürgen stepped down as a member of the committee at the CC-meeting in Delft in April 2018.

We all remember Jürgen as an excellent scientist who was very much committed to societal questions on housing issues. In this way, Jürgen was at the heart of ENHR. Jürgen was also a very amiable person, warm, welcoming, open and positive with his distinctive and ready laugh. He was always able to draw on his latest policy-related research, especially in the areas of poverty, urban renewal and neighbourhood effects. His work had a human perspective centred on the immediacy of life in local areas but European and international in scope, underpinned by his fluency in French and English. He was an immensely knowledgeable and collaborative colleague, always encouraging and willing to engage with new issues and ideas. Whilst taking great pleasure from his professional identity, Jürgen knew how to enjoy himself, from selecting a fine bottle of wine to his legendary holidays in the Greek Islands. He was often the man with the tan - or the new smart hat and raincoat. Jürgen was a 'can do' man and has left behind a legacy which, in its commitment to progressive and European values and principles, we shall continue to maintain.

We as members of the ENHR coordination committee share some precious memories with Jürgen. Like walking with him in Granada along the cave dwellings, the well-prepared coordination meeting in Cologne, watching the football matches during the ENHR conferences, his eagerness to know about and to discuss political developments from a human perspective and his interest in the French culture. Jürgen will be greatly missed and we hope that he will rest in peace.

*Peter Boelhouwer on behalf of the members of the ENHR coordination committee.  
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How does one condense into a few words an intellect so deep that even the immense corpus of his publications cannot plumb it, a curiosity so wide that no single academic discipline can describe it, a love of humanity so broad that no single nation can contain it? With the February, 2019 passing at age 80 of Dr. Jürgen Friedrichs, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Institute of Applied Social Research at the University of Cologne, we lost the rarest of gifts embodying these special attributes.

There are far too many fitting adjectives describing Jürgen to insert into a testimonial. So let me amplify only these four: indomitable; constructive; worldly; and sentimental.

Jürgen was an indomitable scholar. Over his incredible career, he authored 21 books and monographs, edited 24 books, published 70 refereed journal articles, and contributed 119 chapters in others' books! His spirit was as indomitable as his scholarship. Despite witnessing first-hand the horrors of war as a child growing up in Berlin during World War II, Jürgen never surrendered to cynicism. He thought society was imperfect, but redeemable nevertheless.

Jürgen was a constructive force, both institutionally and interpersonally. In 2000, he co-founded the Poverty Neighborhoods Workshop within the European Network for Housing Research, which remains a vital, ongoing international collaboration today. The Oslo University Summer School invited him in 2009 to teach a seminar of the same name that became a master class for PhD students from eight European nations. Any casual observer in these venues or his university would quickly conclude that Jürgen did not accept easy answers or flawed thinking, but he respected students and colleagues enough to challenge them constructively without intimidating them. He had an ineffable skill of encouraging others to do their best by disagreeing without being disagreeable.

Jürgen was worldly: well-travelled; widely-read; cosmopolitan in outlook. He seemed equally adroit when discussing the latest issues in U.S. sociology, Italian pop music, or his beloved Turkish resort of Kas. He was passionate about understanding another discipline's perspective on an issue and relished friends' stories about their home countries. I believe that he was drawn to making a wide circle of compatriots from nations that in the past had been enemies of Germany, thus through his life demonstrating both the insanity of war and the fundamental commonality of people. Jürgen's world was not divided into "us" and "them;" it was "us."

Jürgen's indomitable nature and razor-sharp intellect could not mask his sentimental, gentle, good-natured side, however. He belied the stereotype of the "cold, aloof German;" he could grace a friend with a hearty laugh and a bear-hug as well as anyone. He could be a remarkably good sport in embarrassing situations, such as when he visited Detroit in 2017 and had to endure counterfeit Bavarian hospitality at a local rathskeller where a "real German" proved a novelty. In 2018, tears filled Jürgen's eyes in the Museum of Contemporary German History in Bonn as he stood in a replica of an American DC-3 transport and recalled as a ten-year-old watching similar planes bringing vital supplies to struggling families like his during the 1948 Berlin airlift.

Though death came prematurely and unannounced, Jürgen's legacy fortunately is secured. The 50 colleagues from across the world who gathered in Cologne for his *festschrift* in November, 2018 made it clear that his scholarly contributions were as remarkable as they were indelible, though none realized then the timeliness of our testimonials. His legacy also lives on through the continuing work of younger generations of outstanding scholars whom he trained at Hamburg, Cologne, Oslo and elsewhere.

Jürgen Friedrichs was truly a remarkable and wonderful person. The world will miss him as an engaged, powerful and passionate scholar. His wife, Ulrike, and daughter, Rebecca, will miss him as a loving, life-affirming husband and father. I will miss him as a dear and irreplaceable friend for over a quarter of a century.

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