

The Sociology Department known by Simon

by Robin Cohen (revised 14/May/24)



Sawubona!

In Zulu culture, death is not seen as the end of life but rather as a continuation into the ancestral realm. The Zulu people hold a profound respect for the deceased, who continue to exist.

Zulu philosophy also emphasizes the interconnectedness of humanity, which is expressed through various rituals, symbolizing the ongoing relationship between the living and the departed.

With the Zulus, we should venerate our ancestors and keep them as an integral part of our community, allowing them to guide and protect us.

Simon Clarke (1946-2022)



- Trained as an economist but switched to sociology, working on Claude Lévy-Strauss, social theory and political economy.
- Directed the Institute for Comparative Labour Relations in Moscow

Books

The Foundations of Structuralism (1981)

Marx, Marginalism, and Modern Sociology (1982)

The Development of Capitalism in Russia (2007)

Quotable Quote

‘I think that the principal responsibility of the social sciences today is to challenge and undermine the scientific pretensions of neoclassical economics, to show it up as the vacuous and pernicious ideology that it is’.



John Rex (1925-2011)

- John's role in building sociology in UK
- Major contributions to theory and 'race relations'
- Appointed Simon and others from Durham and Essex

Books

- *Key Problems of Sociological Theory* (1961)
- *Race, Colonialism and the City* (1973)

About

- Herminio Martins (ed.) *Knowledge and Passion: Essays in Honour of John Rex* (1993)



Margaret (Meg) Stacey (1922-2004)

- Full life with war work, hospital work, 5 children, teaching, research, anti-war and feminist campaigns, Buddhism.
- First woman to become a professor at Warwick
- Major contributions to community studies/urban sociology and to medical sociology/health and healing

Books

- *Tradition and Change* (1960)
- *The Sociology of Health and Healing* (2003)



Gillian Rose (1947-95) aged 48

- Political and social theorist.
- Worked on German theorists (Adorno/Hegel)

Books

- *The Melancholy Science: An Introduction to the Thought of Theodor W. Adorno* (1978)
- *Hegel contra Sociology* (1981)
- *Judaism and Modernity: Philosophical Essays* (1993)

Unusual book

- *Love's Work: A Reckoning With Life* (1995)

Quotable quote

Comment on Oxford philosophy: 'It teaches [students] to be clever, destructive, supercilious and ignorant. It doesn't teach you what's important. It doesn't feed the soul'

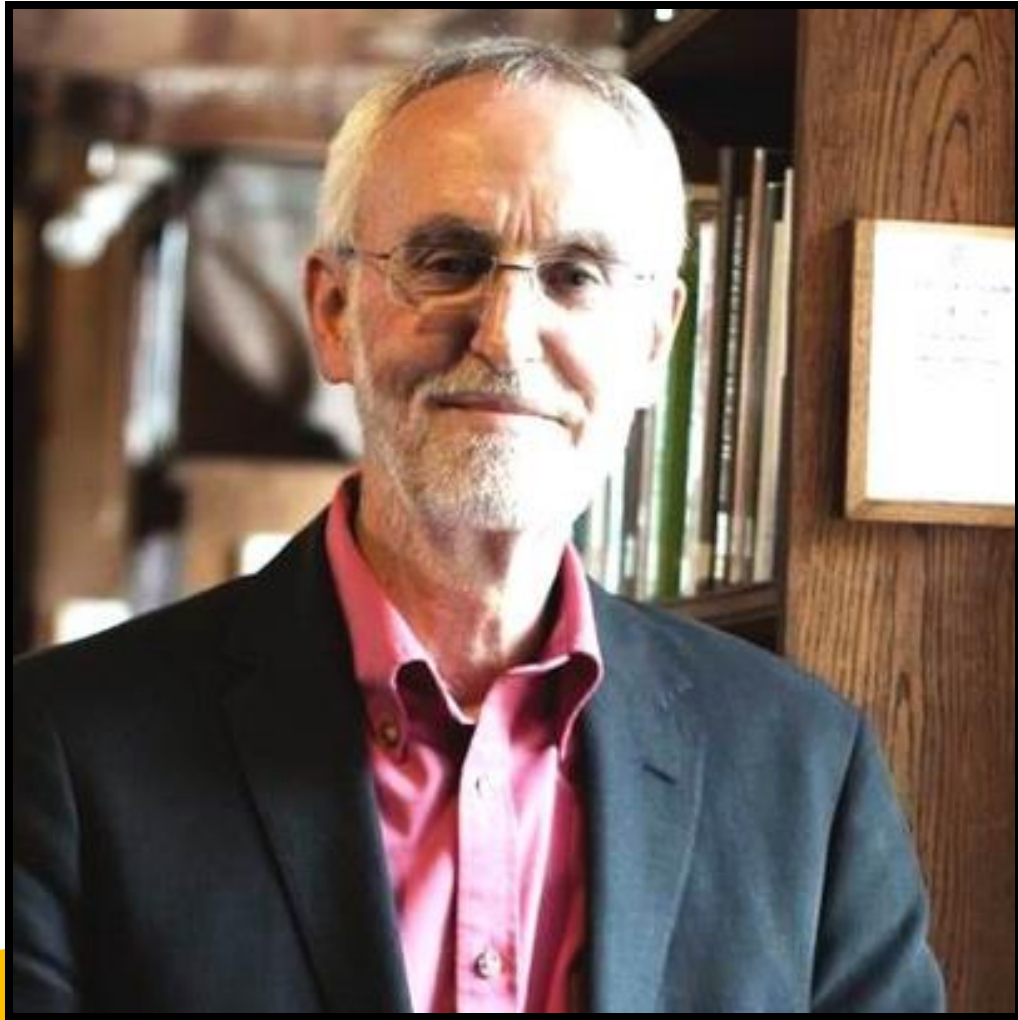


Robert (Bob) Burgess (1947-2022)

- The supreme institution builder. e.g. Dept. head, PVC, President of the BSA
- Vice-Chancellor, University of Leicester. Knighted
- Contributions to ethnographic methods and sociology of education

Books

- *In the Field: An Introduction to Field Research* (1984)
- *Sociology, Education and Schools: an Introduction to the Sociology of Education* (1986)



James (Jim) Beckford (1943-2022)

- Worked in Reading, Durham and Chicago before coming to Warwick
- Major contributions to sociology of religion, nationally and internationally. FBA

Books

- *The Trumpet of Prophecy. A Sociological Analysis of Jehovah's Witnesses* (1975)
- *Cult Controversies: The Societal Response to New Religious Movements* (1985)

About

- Eileen Barker (ed) *The Centrality of Religion in Social Life: Essays in Honour of James A. Beckford* (2008)



Deborah Lynn Steinberg (1962-2017)

- Professor of Gender, Culture and Media
- Worked at the interface between cultures of science; media, and gender and sexuality
- Pioneering work on biopower and the body

Key Publications

- *Mourning Diana: nation, culture and the performance of grief* (co-edited, 1999)
- *Genes and the Bioimaginary: Science, Spectacle, Culture* (2016).
- 'The bad patient: estranged subjects of the cancer culture. *Body & Society*, 21 (3). pp. 115-143. (Written during her battle with cancer.)

Robert (Bob) Fine (1945-2018)



- Wide-ranging work on social theory, apartheid, sociology of law and the policing of strikes in the UK.
- Later preoccupied with anti-semitism and cosmopolitanism.
- Worked in tradition of political economy with Simon

Books

- *Beyond Apartheid: Labour and Liberation in South Africa* (with Dennis Davis, 1990)
- *Antisemitism and the Left: On the Return of the Jewish Question* (with Philip Spencer, 2017)
- *Cosmopolitanism* (2007)

Unusual book and experience

- *Being Stalked: A Memoir* (1997)



Annie Phizacklea (1948-2022)

- Worked on race and racism, migration, gender, the fashion industry
- Gender division of labour connected to Simon's work
- Contributions to intersectionality (without using that word) and the understanding of women in migration studies.

Books

- *One-way Ticket: Migration and Female Labour* (1983)
- *Unpacking the Fashion Industry* (1990)

Unusual book

- *Time to Stop Running* (2016) (Fiction)

Margaret Archer (1943-2023)



- First woman president of the ISA
- Head of the Pontifical Academy of the Social Sciences
- Major contributions on comparative education and social theory

Books (sample)

- *Social Origins of Educational Systems* (1984)
- *Culture and Agency* (1988)
- *Realist Social Theory: The Morphogenetic Approach* (1995)
- *Making Our Way Through the World* (2007)

Interview

‘Contributions to realist social theory: an interview with Margaret S. Archer’, *Journal of Critical Realism*, 19 (2) 2020



Retired, but not yet with the ancestors

Carol Wolkowitz Peter Fairbrother
Mick Carpenter Tony Elger Terry Lovell
Peter Ratcliffe Ian Procter

