

Special Section: In Memoriam: Reflections on the Friendship and Philosophical Life of Trudy Conway.

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TRUDY CONWAY WAS A VALUED MEMBER of the Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World. Trudy served as Executive Director of the Society and as an editorial advisor for the journal, *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*. She was Professor Emerita from Mount Saint Mary's College. Trudy passed away in 2021.

What follows are tributes from members of SPCW.

From Charlie Harvey (University of Central Arkansas)

The world is now a little less rich, a little less kind, a little less deep and a little less caring with you gone from it. And yes, of course, a little less thoughtful and intelligent, too. But it is also more of each of these things because you were once here. You will be missed by many, probably by everyone who was privileged enough to know you. Love to you and your

family, Charlie and Jeanne.

From Janet Donohoe (University of West Georgia)

For many, philosophy seems an esoteric exercise and maybe for some it is. For Trudy Conway, it absolutely was not. Trudy embodied the philosophy she explored. She was first and foremost concerned with hospitality, in her work, in her life, in her activism. She was the director of the Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World when I joined as a young scholar. Trudy was welcoming and gracious making sure that I felt that I belonged and was supported in the group. She was keenly aware of the challenges particularly for women, but really for all of us, in finding a place in academic philosophy. Her vision for SPCW was for it to be a different kind of community than so many that we find in academe. She modeled the generosity of thought and intellectual engagement that she thought was fundamental not only to good philosophy, but to a good life. She didn't hesitate to make clear that participation in group discussions about each others' work was not only good practice, but a necessary practice for good philosophy. For us to be generous intellectually, we need to be generous of spirit

personally. It is hard for me to imagine what my early academic career would have been like without SPCW and Trudy. Her guidance, support, and friendship were the mentorship that I never had elsewhere. I only hope that I have lived up to that model in my own support of other young philosophers. Here's to Trudy, with deepest gratitude.

From David K. Chan (The University of Alabama at Birmingham)

SPCW will be, for me, always associated with Trudy. In the summer of 2002, I went to my first SPCW meeting at St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where I met Trudy and her husband. Never before had I been to a conference that encouraged its participants to foster friendships in the way that the 2002 meeting did. Clearly, it starts from the top with Trudy's leadership. When I joined SPCW, it had already been eight years in existence, yet its "founders" were open, welcoming, and genuinely interested in the new members. SPCW was not a clique, but an expanding circle in which everyone immediately felt a sense of inclusion and belonging.

I do not work on the same philosophical subjects that Trudy did. But there was no barrier to interesting discussion and friendship, and the Society welcomed those who worked in any tradition on a variety of philosophical topics. I learned that presentations at SPCW meetings were opportunities to help the paper authors improve their work, not to shoot them down or show off one's own ideas. And I came to recognize that the practices in SCPW reflected Trudy's personality and character. The openness and friendliness, and the emphasis on personal bonds, were all part of who she was. It may sound trite, but for Trudy, it is the case that her philosophy was who she was, and made her the rock that kept SPCW steady, constant, and unique among philosophy groups and societies. Even when she withdrew from its leadership and was not at meetings, Trudy continued to be the model for its members. I took away from my association with her a commitment to serve the philosophical profession and to help junior scholars, which eventually led me to take leadership roles at the APA and at other societies, so as to influence them in the direction that Trudy had inspired at SPCW.

From Joseph Orosco (Oregon State University)

For me, Trudy Conway's grace and ethical convictions were what always made SPCW such a welcoming environment. I began attending meetings of SPCW when I was first starting in academia, upon the invitation of my colleague, Lani Roberts, who was a long-time member. She told me the group was unique because philosophers there genuinely encouraged one another to do the best kind of philosophical work, and they did not engage in attempts to cut one another down or to try to demonstrate their own superiority in debate (dynamics that can be all too common in bigger philosophical meetings). Part of the reason for SPCW being such a supportive group was Trudy's presence.

Trudy was always so eager to listen carefully and to learn from other scholars in SPCW. I remember her making time to come talk with me individually at meetings to find out how I was doing and what work I was doing. She invited me to be the keynote speaker for her university's Martin Luther King, Jr celebration one year, and she was a gracious host who took me around to meet her colleagues and students, always insisting that I had something important to share with them. Her kind of encouragement inspired me to find a voice of my own in my scholarship. She represented the best of the scholar-activist, with her dedication to the movement to abolish capital punishment. Her scholarship, her activism, all flowed from her own well of compassion, and a commitment to the ideal that the best ethic is one of deep care and righteous justice. It will be hard to imagine SPCW without her nurturing company.

From Andrew Fiala (California State University, Fresno)

It was an honor to know and work with Trudy Conway. I admired her work on hospitality, her opposition to the death penalty, and her work on forgiveness and restorative justice. I was fortunate to be able to work with Trudy on a couple of scholarly projects. She contributed an essay on restorative justice to a book I edited, *The Bloomsbury Companion to Political Philosophy*, where she concluded: "To be committed to justice requires us to devote ourselves to examine ceaselessly our conceptions and practices of it."

When I was editor of *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, we published an essay of Trudy's that has been widely cited: "From Tolerance to Hospitality: Problematic Limits of a Negative Virtue" (*PCW* 16:1, 2009). She concluded that essay with a series of "perhaps-es": She offers a speculative and hopeful call for hospitality and open-mindedness in life—and in the philosophical profession:

Perhaps all of us need to work on cultivating and passing on to the next generation the practice of hospitality. Perhaps, as philosophers, we should open ourselves to the resources of both traditional cultures and religious traditions that affirm this virtue, left so long unattended by our own philosophical tradition. Perhaps, as philosophers in the contemporary world we need to reflect on how, on many levels, in many ways, in our lives and our communities, we can actively further an ethos of hospitality toward the other.

I think Trudy embodied this, transforming "perhaps" into reality. She showed that it is possible for philosophers to be open, caring, and hospitable. She was an insightful philosopher who also cared about real people. She helped set the tone for SPCW. Among her many talents was her ability to welcome new people. I remember that she made an effort to get to know the families of the scholars who attended our conference, including my own. For that, I am very grateful. The philosophy profession can be cold and pedantic. But Trudy showed me that philosophers can be kind and humane. Trudy made philosophy warmer and more compassionate. Her legacy lives on in the welcoming and inclusive spirit of our society.

From Lani Robert (Oregon State University)

Trudy was a good friend of mine. We met at the first regular SPCW conference in Estes Park, Colorado in 1994. What led us to one another was that, at that time, there were few women academic philosophers. So, naturally, we were drawn to get to know one another. And, not surprisingly, we both studied social justice issues in a wide variety of manifestations. In these ways, we both found a home in the Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World.

I admired her because, in addition to being a published scholar, Trudy also did justice work on the ground, quite specifically to ban capital punishment in Maryland.

Over the years, our friendship grew through continued attendance every summer at SPCW conferences, even one in Mexico, as well as getting to know family members and my visits to the East Coast, staying with Trudy and Huschang at their home on multiple occasions over the past twenty some years. I miss her.