

Memorial Minute for Donald Hindley

Donald Hindley came to Brandeis University in 1962, a month before the Cuban Missile Crisis erupted. He had earned an Honors degree in Geography and a graduate diploma in Education from Leeds University, having written a thesis on the decline of the Welsh language in North Wales. He then earned an Masters degree in International Relations from the University of Southern California where he wrote a Masters thesis on the Communist Party in Bolivia. He went on to earn a PhD in Political Science from the Australian National University with a dissertation on the Indonesian Communist Party. He was the recipient of a Rockefeller Foundation Grant as well as a Fulbright Travel Grant which enabled him to conduct field work in both Southeast Asia and Latin America.

At Brandeis, Professor Hindley taught courses on the Politics of Southeast Asia, Revolution, Latin American Politics, and the Vietnam War. In 1964 he published a book with the University of California Press on *The Communist Party of Indonesia (1951-63)*, followed by articles on the politics of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand in such journals as *American Political Science Review*, *Asian Survey*, *The Journal of Asian Studies*, *Pacific Affairs*, *The China Quarterly*, among others. Hindley was tenured in 1966 and was promoted to full professor by 1971.

Donald Hindley was elected Chair of the Politics department for some seven or eight years and served as Director of Undergraduate Studies for many years. He was an active member of the Faculty Senate and served as a leading member of the faculty committees for both Latin American Studies (LAS now by name LALS) - and East Asian Studies.

Donald Hindley come from an English working class socialist background - with a strong sense that injustice and inequality based on gender, race, class, ethnicity and nationality should be exposed and combated. He was outspoken on many issues of political moment, from the Vietnam war to contemporary politics in the Middle East.

Hindley taught at Brandeis for 52 years – one of the longest serving professors in Brandeis’ history. He prized the opportunity to teach students, saying at his retirement in 2015 that “the chance to interact with (students) and watch them grow ...has kept me thrilled and alive and interested.” His long tenure meant he was even able to teach multiple generations in a single family, pointing to a father and his daughter who both took his courses. Every year Professor Hindley received appreciative emails from former students including the following message sent in March 2016 from Larry Rosen (who went on to become the Cromwell Professor of Anthropology at Princeton University:

“In 1963, as a senior at Brandeis and what may have been your first year there, I came into your course on the politics of Southeast Asia. I was planning on a career in anthropology with the hope of working in Indonesia. After several years of preparation the outbreak of civil war in that country made fieldwork impossible, so I wound up working alongside Cliff and Hilly Geertz in Morocco. But I never forgot the course I took

with you, and as I too approach retirement I simply wanted you to know that you had a profound influence on my own work and that, whatever your other experiences at Brandeis, you should know that I, no doubt like many others, remain enormously grateful for all you taught us.”

Donald Hindley was a hill walker and rock climber. He enjoyed his walks with his old Border terrier named Puppy. He reported that “As usual I am rambling off course. I do enjoy the deer and self-made paths rather than the beaten human trails.”

Donald Hindley was a vital part of the Politics department for six decades. May he rest in peace.