
Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison On the Death of Professor Emerita Claudia Card

Claudia Card, Emma Goldman Professor of Philosophy and affiliate Professor of Women's Studies, Jewish Studies, Environmental Studies and LGBT studies, passed away September 12, 2015.

Claudia Card was a true Wisconsinite. Born in Pardeeville, September 30, 1940, she did her undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with Marcus Singer and returned to teach in Madison after studying with John Rawls at Harvard. At that time women were not accepted for the Ph.D. at Harvard except under the aegis of Radcliffe College. Professor Card almost threw away her acceptance letter because she did not recognize the sender.

Professor Card was a pioneer, not just at Harvard, but especially in her work on feminist and lesbian philosophy. When she began teaching, there were hardly any classes in feminist philosophy in the country, few text books on the subject, the premier journal of feminist philosophy, *Hypatia*, did not exist, and there was certainly no formal discussion of gay and lesbian issues within the academy. Her own books and anthologies on these topics are now widely used, both here and abroad. (She gave invited talks in China, Europe and South America as well as at many universities in the U.S.) She was a proud member of the editorial board of *Hypatia* since 1989 and the Board of Associate Editors since 2004. She was a member of the committee that created the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and, on the national stage, she was co-founder of the Society of Lesbian and Gay Philosophy which sponsors sessions at meetings of the *American Philosophical Association* and also publishes its own newsletter.

When Professor Claudia Card began writing, feminist philosophy was not published by any mainstream press, a point that makes her own prolific publication record (she wrote four books and edited or co-edited another 6 and she also wrote 94 articles and 50 book reviews and book notes) even more impressive. She is one of those who broke that glass ceiling. To take just a few examples, Professor Claudia Card was editor of the *Cambridge Companion to Simone de Beauvoir* for Cambridge University Press, served on the editorial board of the feminist philosophy book series of Oxford University Press, and was under contract to write an introduction to feminist philosophy for Blackwell.

Professor Claudia Card addressed issues that are among the hardest to deal with, both philosophically and in human terms. Her latest work is a trilogy on evil. While evil has long been studied as a theological problem by philosophers--How can an all-powerful and benevolent god allow evil to exist in the world?--Professor Claudia Card addresses the issue from a new angle. She provides an account of evil, "the atrocity paradigm," that is not only a philosophical theory about what evil is, but also addresses particular evils, for example, rape in war, homophobia, domestic violence and poverty, and how to combat them. As she said herself in the Dewey lecture, an honor bestowed by the *American Philosophical Association* on a distinguished philosopher, "My current work on torture, terrorism, and genocide addresses the problem of how to respond to atrocities without perpetrating atrocities oneself in responding. The challenge is to find ways to respond that preserve humanitarian values...Much of this work is not focused on women. Yet all of it is permeated and shaped by my experience with feminism."

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Professor Card received many accolades during her career, including Distinguished Woman Philosopher of the year, a named professorship in honor of Emma Goldman (WARF), the Hilldale Professorship, Presidency of the Central *American Philosophical Association*, and numerous fellowships. Most recently, she was chosen to give the prestigious Carus lectures which will be read *in absentia* at the upcoming Central meeting of the *American Philosophical Association*.

One might expect a person with such grim interests to be an uncongenial mentor. Far from it. With her encouraging demeanor, Professor Claudia Card inspired numerous Ph.D. students and other advisees to excel in the profession, and mentored her more junior colleagues as much by her example as by her help and ever tactful advice. She was a great supporter of women's sports and particularly liked to take her mentees to watch the games, where her generosity is acknowledged on the wall of the Kohl Center. If the best tribute to the qualities of any professor is the admiration of past students, then it must be noted that past students from all over the US and from Puerto Rico came to pay their respects at the recent celebration of Claudia's life at the Pyle Center.

Claudia continued to teach while undergoing chemotherapy, and even in her last weeks at the hospice, she kept up her indomitable spirit, enjoying Babcock ice-cream, Amish pastries and music and watching hundreds of movies. In her last days, she said that she had had a good life and was pleased that she would have a good death. That she did, surrounded by family and friends and her beloved cats, Mischief and Persia.

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