
**Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Archibald Orben Haller, Jr.**

Archibald Orben Haller, Jr., Emeritus Professor of Community & Environmental Sociology, died January 24, 2018 in Tucson, Arizona.

Arch was a leading scholar of social stratification whose work spanned both developed and developing nations. In addition to his pathbreaking work on the U.S., he maintained a life-long commitment to the study of Brazil and to the promotion of the work of Brazilian sociologists.

After serving as an electronics technician in the U.S. Naval Reserve during and after World War II, in 1946 Arch enrolled at the University of Arizona, where he intended to study Engineering. Finding himself discouraged by his coursework and drawn to the arts and humanities, in 1948 he moved to St. Paul and enrolled in Hamline University, where he discovered Sociology and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in that field. In an autobiography that he wrote in 2011, Arch noted the importance of the GI Bill in making his education possible. He went on to complete his Master's degree in Sociology at the University of Minnesota and in 1954 and received his doctorate in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where William H. Sewell was his doctoral advisor. Arch's first academic appointment was at Michigan State University. In 1965, a few years after receiving tenure there, he returned to what was then known as the Department of Rural Sociology at UW-Madison.

In 1969, together with William Sewell and Alejandro Portes, Arch published an article in the *American Sociological Review* that reshaped the field of social stratification by articulating a theory of status attainment processes that measured educational and occupational influences on social mobility. The enduring contribution of their approach is evidenced by the fact that the article was republished repeatedly over the years, well into the new millennium. Arch's authored and co-authored books included *Stratification: A Theory of Societal Inequality*, *The Stratification System of Brazil*, and *Status Allocation Mechanisms*, among many others. He was the author of nearly 100 scholarly articles, often in flagship journals like the *American Sociological Review*. In these articles, he tackled topics that ranged from how migration and labor market segmentation affected social mobility, the relationship between "class" and social mobility and how it varied across geographic regions in Brazil, gender dynamics in social stratification, discrimination effects, prestige and aspirations. One of the hallmarks of Arch's work was his commitment to developing models that worked as well for explaining the life chances of Wisconsin farm boys as for adolescents in Amazonian Brazil. Another was his commitment to rigorous quantitative models that took into account the complexities of social structure.

In 1962, Arch received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach at the Rural University of Brazil, an opportunity which began his lifelong passionate engagement with that nation. At the time of his trip to Brazil, he was already working on his theory of status attainment and was eager to see if his findings held true in that context. Based on this research, he introduced important modifications to the theory, which expanded its relevance and reach. Through his repeated trips to teach in Brazil, his commitments to conducting research with and publishing with Brazilian scholars, his active participation in Brazilian scholarly organizations, and his support of Brazilian graduate students who wanted to pursue degrees at UW-Madison, Arch built an enduring network of ties between UW-Madison and Brazil and fostered the careers of a number of

influential Brazilian sociologists. An important part of his legacy is the mark he has left on Brazilian sociology and its scholarly institutions. In 1981, the President of Brazil presented Arch with the Order of Merit of Labor.

Arch was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a past president of the Rural Sociological Society. In 2007, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Ohio State University.

Upon retirement from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1994, Arch relocated to Tucson, Arizona, but continued to teach occasionally in Brazil until 2002.

Arch was married to Hazel Laura Zimmerman until her death in 1985. In 1989 he married Maria Cristina (Tina) Del Poloso Haller, who survives him. He is also survived by daughters Elizabeth Ann Haller and Stephanie Lynn Bylin, son William John Haller, two stepdaughters, three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, and by his sister Ruth Fliegel.

Memorial Resolution Committee

Jane Collins

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