

Obituary

Per Ole Träskman

On the 22nd of July 2019, professor Per Ole Träskman passed away at age 75. Born in 1944, Per Ole Träskman's entire working life was dedicated to criminal law. The Nordic criminal law environment has lost one of its most essential contributors and distinct and admirable personalities.

Per Ole Träskman was one of a kind. In many ways he personified Nordic criminal law. Born, educated, and ultimately gaining his professorship in Finland, he also spent several years as a professor in Lund, Sweden, worked and resided for a period in Copenhagen in Denmark, and maintained a close connection to Norway and Iceland. There are few people with such in-depth knowledge of Nordic criminal law as Per Ole Träskman had. He was also among the initiators of the annual Nordic Workshop in Criminal Law, which has become so important for the familiar and friendly Nordic research environment in criminal law.

His own research profile can be said to have mirrored the Nordic criminal law and its typical features. He was well informed about the legal rules and institutions in different Nordic countries, both concerning substantive criminal law and criminal procedure. He was also empirically well informed, acknowledging the importance of criminology. He was socially engaged, emphasising and addressing important challenges and developments, for instance those related to environmental criminal law. He was strongly engaged in criminal law policy, criticising for instance the 'war on drugs' and the misuse of criminal law in this regard, with the aim of protecting what he saw as the significant strengths of Nordic society and its defensive criminal law. His qualities earned him a reputation far beyond the Nordic countries, including the award of an honorary doctorate at Ho Chi Minh University in Vietnam. His academic engagement did not stop with his formal retirement in 2016.

A notable side of Per Ole's academic profile was his willingness to allow young scholars and doctoral students to develop their own views, even when they diverged from his own. This did not, however, prevent him from voicing his own clear views on the relevant matters, often in a modest, subtle, and humoristic style. His humour was an ever-present element in the many lectures and comments he gave, and was well combined with the similarly ever-present intellectual depth in his reflections. A

typical expression of his distinct personality was his reaction when his Nordic friends produced a Festschrift for him in 2011, edited by his close colleagues in Lund, Ulrika Andersson, Christoffer Wong, and Helén Örnemark Hansen. In response he produced a counter-Festschrift, thanking and commenting on each contributor with a touch of humour, a good amount of kindness and a lot of wisdom. This combination of traits sums up Per Ole. He will be sorely missed.

With profound respect, both personal and academic appreciation, and a lot of affection,

Linda Gröning and Jørn Jacobsen

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