

OBITUARY

David O. Friedrichs

David O. Friedrichs, age 78, passed away on 1 December 2022, in Scranton, PA, after a very long struggle with cancer. Anyone who knew David was aware that he was a unique person! He combined a warm heart that made him friends with hundreds, with tremendous scholarship and insight that made him a worldwide leader in critical criminology and the study of crimes of the powerful.

How surprised the medical staff were when he announced a trip to the American Society of Criminology Annual (ASC) Meeting in mid-November to host the Presidential Plenary on “The Trump Aftermath—and the Future of Criminology in a Divided Nation”. “A very unusual choice for someone in your condition” they commented at the hospital. That was the scope of David’s commitment to preventing another criminogenic presidency of Trump! His trip to the ASC also shows his commitment. He agreed to do it three years ago, before the pandemic hit the world, and when David made a commitment, David was there, against all odds.

David’s most radical period was probably his time in Mississippi doing voter registration in the 1960s when it was dangerous! He was also very proud about walking out of his college graduation as a protest against the Vietnam War. In his 50-year career teaching criminology, sociology, and criminal justice at the City University of New York, Staten Island, and at the University of Scranton, David never abandoned this critical spirit.

He was a native of New Rochelle, New York, and was educated at New York University, where he was a student of Richard Quinney. David was the author of *Trusted Criminals: White Collar Crime in Contemporary Society* (Cengage 2010), a text that was so comprehensive and original that it won the 2011 Outstanding Publication Award from the National White Collar Crime Center. David’s other publications aimed at moving the study of the crimes of the powerful forward include the bestselling *Law in our Lives: An Introduction*, 3rd edition (Oxford University Press 2012), *Crimes of Globalization* (Routledge 2014), co-authored with Dawn Rothe, and *Edwin H. Sutherland* (Routledge 2018), co-authored with Isabel Schoultz and Alexandra Jordanoska. His editing work included the two-volume *State Crime* (Ashgate/Dartmouth 1998), and a term as editor of the *Legal Studies Forum* (1985 to 1989). Overall, he published more than 150 journal articles, book chapters, encyclopedia entries, proceedings papers, and essays on such topics as the legitimization of legal order, radical/critical criminology,

violence, narrative jurisprudence, postmodernism, crimes of states, and white-collar crime. Rather amazingly, he also published more than 300 book reviews, on an extraordinary array of topics, mostly for library science journals. As part of his desire to move some of the arguments and findings of academics into popular arenas, David also published a large number of open newspaper pieces, letters, and comments in numerous publications, in addition to appearances on various radio shows.

Looking to engage with critical criminologists outside the USA, he lectured in Australia, South Africa, Sweden, Germany, Iceland, Serbia, and the Netherlands. He was also invited to give the opening address at conferences in Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, New Zealand, Germany, the United Kingdom, and India, generally speaking on transnational, supranational, and global criminology, on critical criminology, or the criminology of crimes of states.

Possibly his proudest academic moment came in 2021 when he received the Gilbert Geis Lifetime Achievement Award of the Division on White Collar and Corporate Crime of the American Society of Criminology. Gil was the scholar David probably respected most in the field, so it was very meaningful. But he also received 2005 the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Division on Critical Criminology of the American Society of Criminology, for his many groundbreaking and table-setting articles in critical criminology.

David is survived by his daughter Jessica (Matthew), son Bryan (Olga), two grandchildren, Indiana and Zarya, and his former wife Jeanne; also by several siblings, many in-law relatives and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his grandson Zenin. We will remember him in our scholarship, in our hearts, and fighting against Trumpism!

Martin D. Schwartz
Professor Emeritus and Presidential Research Scholar
Ohio University

Valeria Vegh Weis
Research Fellow Konstanz University