

Obituary of Julian P. Perry Robinson (11 November 1941 – 22 April 2020)



© Guardian, 8 May 2020 < <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/08/julian-perry-robinson-obituary>>

Other Obituaries

- (24 April 2020): “In Memoriam—Professor Julian Perry Robinson (1941-2020) *When COVID-19 strikes close to home.* < <https://www.nonproliferation.org/in-memoriam-professor-julian-perry-robinson-1941-2020/>>.
- (30 April 2020): “Obituary: SPRU remembers Professor Julian Perry Robinson, expert in chemical and biological warfare prevention” <<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/broadcast/read/51859>>
- Univ. of Sussex: “In memory of Julian Perry Robinson” <<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/spru/about/history/julian-perry-robinson>>
- (30 April 2020): Nicholas Sims: “Julian Perry Robinson, top chemical and biological arms control expert, dies of coronavirus”, in: *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* <<https://thebulletin.org/2020/04/julian-perry-robinson-top-chemical-and-biological-arms-control-expert-dies-of-coronavirus/>>
- (6 May 2020): Nils-Petter Gleditsch: “In memoriam: Arthur H. Westing (1928–2020)” <<https://blogs.prio.org/2020/05/in-memoriam-arthur-h-westing-1928-2020/>>
- (8 May 2020): “Julian Perry Robinson obituary - Specialist in the control of chemical and biological warfare who guided experts and policymakers from east and west”, in: *The Guardian* <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/08/julian-perry-robinson-obituary>>
- (19 May 2020): “Professor Julian Perry Robinson obituary”, *Times*, <<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/professor-julian-perry-robinson-obituary-5d7gtgg9j>>

- (21 May 2020): Caitriona McLeish: “Obituary: Julian Perry Robinson (1941–2020). Chemist and lawyer who shaped international weapons conventions”, in: *Nature* 581, 378 (2020) < <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01450-1>>.
- “Julian Perry Robinson 1941 – 2020”, < <https://www.forevermissed.com/julian-perry-robinson/about>>
- (June 2020): “Julian Perry Robinson (1941–2020) - Dedicated to Eradicating Chemical and Biological Weapons” by Daniel Feakes <<https://www.armscontrol.org/taxonomy/term/102>>. and < <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2020-06/features/julian-perry-robinson-1941%E2%80%932020-martin-b-malin-1961%E2%80%932020>>.



Prof. Matthew Meselson (left) and Prof. Julian P. Perry Robinson (Centre) at a Pugwash conference in 2002.

Personal Memories on Prof. Julian P. Perry Robinson

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I have known Prof. Julian P. Perry Robinson during my active time as a member of the Pugwash Movement (1976-1992) where we usually met during the annual Pugwash conferences and its chemical working group. He has contributed the following chapters and foreword to my edited and coedited books:

- “Supply, Demand and Assimilation in Chemical-warfare Armament”, in: Hans Günter Brauch (Ed.): *Military Technology, Armaments Dynamics and Disarmament – ABC Weapons, Military Use of Nuclear Energy and of Outer Space and Implications for International Law* (London: Macmillan and New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1989): 112-126.
- “The Australia Group: A Description and Assessment”, in: Hans Günter Brauch, H. van der Graaf, John Grin, Wim Smit (Eds.): *Controlling the Development and Spread of Military Technology* (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1992): 157-166.
- “Vorwort” [Foreword], in: Hans Günter Brauch - Alfred Schrempf: *Giftgas in der Bundesrepublik. Chemische und biologische Waffen* (Frankfurt: Fischer Taschenbuch).

Since the *European Disarmament Conference* (EDC) was set up as an independent movement for disarmament and human rights in Europe I was also in close contact with his wife, Mary Kaldor, from 1980-1985 through Prof. Ulrich Albrecht of the Free University of Berlin.

When I shifted my scientific interest after the end of the Cold War and with the signing of the chemical weapons convention in 1993 to issues of global environmental change and global climate change the cooperation gradually declined and shifted to my new scientific networks with a totally different scientific community.

He has been one of my mentors who has helped me when I was working, writing and speaking on issues of chemical and biological weapons, warfare, arms control and disarmament including the use of herbicides (Agent Orange) in the war in Southeast Asia. Julian has always been very open and cooperative and very careful in his judgement. He has always been a source of information, inspiration and support.

During those years I was in close contact and exchange with Julian and we regularly met and discussed CW issues during the Pugwash conferences. Whenever I visited the UK and London I tried to visit him at Sussex University in Falmer (Brighton). During the IPRA conference in April 1986 in Brighton I had several meetings with him and had the opportunity to look through his extensive files where I found several references to the German Nerve Gas programme (Sarin, Soman, Tabun) and the active role of several German chemists during the Nazi period on which I had already written in three books published in 1982. Julian was always an extremely friendly, supportive, cooperative and hospitable person and an excellent cook. Julian has been for me a mentor and a source of reliable information to enable me and many other younger natural and social scientists to counter propaganda efforts on CW issues.

After the two books of Prof. Arthur H. Westing (2013) in my book Series on *Pioneers in Science and Practice* Prof. Julian P. Perry Robinson was a candidate for a volume on his scientific and policy activities on chemical warfare and on biological and chemical disarmament together with the distinguished Prof. Matthew Meselson of Harvard University who had set up the Harvard Sussex Program formally in 1990 after two decades of previous close cooperation that maintained one of the best documentation centres that was publicly accessible for colleagues from all parts of the world to support informed research on a sensitive policy issue. I failed to discuss this project with *him* during his life time.