

Obituary

Emeritus Prof. Dr. Dietrich Fischer (1941 – 2015)

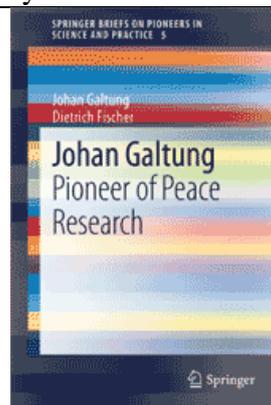


We have both lost a good friend, colleague and devoted peace researcher whom we have known for several decades and met during conferences of the *International Peace Research Association* (IPRA) and of the *International Studies Association* (ISA). After a guest lecture at the *European Peace University* (EPU) in Schlaining in 2007, where he was then academic director, he invited us to offer a course on „Resource and Environmental Conflicts” and later we taught several other courses. Beside his high level of professionalism he was an exceptional personality. Dietrich was a man of a dry Swiss humour and always full of jokes especially when we had breakfast with him in his flat in Haus International.

He had always an open ear for the concerns of his students from all parts of the world – especially from the Global South - and helped them personally when they were in need. He was a modest and amicable person who was loved and esteemed by his students and respected by his colleagues as an innovative thinker across disciplinary boundaries and beyond the intellectual mainstream. We will miss him as a friend and his sense of humour. He was not only the light of EPU, but also a sincere friend and promoter of Transcend. We all trusted him and worked together with pleasure with him.

Prof. Dr Dietrich Fischer was director, TRANSCEND University Press. From 2009-2012 he was Academic Director of the World Peace Academy, Basel. From 2003-2009, he was Academic Director of the European University Center for Peace Studies in Stadtschlaining, Austria. Before that he was an Assistant Professor at New York University (1976-1986), a MacArthur Fellow in Peace and Security Studies at Princeton University (1986-1988) and a Professor at Pace University, New York (1988-2003). He has been a consultant to various United Nations agencies on issues of disarmament and development. Born in 1941 in Münsingen, Switzerland, he obtained a PhD in mathematics, physics and astronomy from the Bern University, and a PhD in informatics from New York University.

He is author of *Preventing War in the Nuclear Age* (1984) and *Nonmilitary Aspects of Security: A Systems Approach* (1993) and co author of *Warfare and Welfare: Integrating Security Policy into Socio Economic Policy* (with Nobel Laureate Jan Tinbergen, 1987), *Winning Peace: Strategies and Ethics for a Nuclear Free World* (with Wilhelm Nolte and Jan Oberg, 1989), *Conditions of Peace: An Inquiry* (with Grace Boggs, et al., 1991), and *Peace Mathematics* (with Johan Galtung, 2012), and of many articles on peace and development. Dietrich was the main editor of an anthology with selected key publications of Johan Galtung: *Johan Galtung – Pioneer of Peace Research*.



See the review by Dr. Vithal Rajan – Bangla Times < <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2013/10/johan-galtung-pioneer-of-peace-research-edited-by-dietrich-fischer/> >

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Udaya R. Tennakoon 19 October 2015) <<https://www.transcend.org/tms/2015/10/fishing-the-peace-fischer-is-gone/>>

Adeleye Oyeniya (26 October 2015) <<https://www.transcend.org/tms/2015/10/emeritus-prof-dr-dietrich-fischer-1941-2015/>>

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