

In Memoriam

Richard F. Hamilton

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies mourns the passing of longstanding research associate Richard F. Hamilton (January 18, 1930–June 15, 2022). A sociologist of mass politics, Hamilton delighted in debunking received opinion through empirical investigation. His best-known and widely cited book, *Who Voted For Hitler?* (Princeton 1982), challenged the assumption that Nazi Party support came largely from the lower middle classes. Through a granular analysis of municipal voting records, Hamilton discovered disproportionate support among wealthy and upper-middle urban voters, variability across rural districts, and division among working class voters; these differences he accounted for by weighting district outcomes against information sources and local party activities. The book's ongoing relevance won recent endorsement in a surprising venue: in 2021, Dan Simon of *The Nation* wrote a [lengthy appreciation](https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/trump-hitler-nazi-fascism/) (https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/trump-hitler-nazi-fascism/) treating Hamilton's commitment to impartial, nuanced assessment of the evidence as a model for progressives tempted to stereotype the Trump voter.

Professor of Sociology at the Ohio State University from 1986 to his retirement in 1998, Hamilton was named a University Distinguished Scholar in 1993. He published fifteen books and a wide range of scholarly and general-audience articles on electoral behavior, the logics of mass society, the role of elites in the origins of the First World War, the question of American empire, and historical patterns in education.

Hamilton explained his scholarly ethos as the product of his

generation: the experience of wartime in early adolescence; the example of the GI Bill students during his undergraduate years at the Universities of Michigan and Chicago; and the extraordinary concentration of exile scholars that was reshaping American social science as he entered his doctoral program at Columbia. In a talk given at the Mershon Center to open the conference of the Comparative National Elections Project (CNEP) in 2005, Hamilton revisited his formative experience as a research assistant on Paul Lazarsfeld's Elmira Project, a pioneering Columbia study of opinion formation in the US national election of 1948. Explaining the Elmira Project as the precursor both of his own case studies and the large-scale, multinational, ongoing surveys of the CNEP (<https://u.osu.edu/cnep/>), Hamilton defended the value of models built up from the ground of empirical research against the elegant over-generalizations of grand theory. This brief retrospective, linked [here](https://academic.oup.com/book/27096/chapter/196446342) (https://academic.oup.com/book/27096/chapter/196446342), might also be taken as Richard's credo.

Richard was a faithful presence in Mershon's old building on Neil Ave., where, in the intervals of writing, he kept the plants of the atrium watered, apprised us of the birthdays of presidents and composers, posted quirky notices on the bulletin board, and could occasionally be heard humming operatic passages in a fine tenor voice. He is survived by Irene Wagner Hamilton, his wife of 64 years, with whom he shared a deep love of music and German culture, as well as two sons, Carl and Tilman (Cynthia); three grandchildren, Rhys, Devon and Cormick; and Howard, his younger brother.

—Paul A. Beck, Richard Gunther, & Dorothy Noyes,
The Ohio State University

Stephen L. Schechter

Stephen L. Schechter (1945–2022) passed away from cancer on July 18, 2022, at age 76. He was Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Russell Sage College, Troy, New York, where he taught from 1978 to 2020. He received the college's Consistent Outstanding Service Award in 2018.

Schechter earned his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs in 1972 before serving as Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science and Urban Studies at Temple University (1972–1976), where he directed international programs for the Center for the Study of Federalism. He then served as Assistant Professor of Political Science at the State University of New York at Albany from 1976 to 1977.

As a long-time fellow and, in recent years, vice president of the Center for the Study of Federalism (<https://federalism.org/>), Stephen was an invaluable colleague who established a considerable institutional legacy. He participated in launching *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, founded *Publius' Annual Review of American Federalism*, edited it from 1977 to 1984, and coedited the 1985 issue. Called "The State of American Federalism," the annual review was intended to reach an educated lay audience in addition to scholars and to show how the perspective of federalism provides a helpful way to understand and interpret current political issues in the Ameri-

can governmental system.

In 1977, Stephen was a co-founder of the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies (<https://iacfs.org/>). In 1983, he co-founded the Section on Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations of the American Political Science Association—the association's first such section (<https://connect.apsanet.org/groups/federalism-and-intergovernmental-relations/>).

On leave from Russell Sage College, he served as executive director (1986–1990) of the New York State Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. The commission produced more publications and education materials than any other state commission. Edited books included *Well Begun: Chronicles of the Early National Period* (New York Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution 1989), *Roots of the Republic: American Founding Documents Interpreted* (Madison House 1990), and *Contexts of the Bill of Rights* (New York Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution 1990). As a lead-up to the bicentennial, he edited *The Reluctant Pillar: New York and the Adoption of the Federal Constitution* (Rowman and Littlefield 1985).

In 2018, he revived a training program for New York's State Academy for Public Administration (<https://stateacademy.org/>). To honor Stephen after his death, the academy changed the name of its Essentials of Public Administration Program to the Stephen L. Schechter Essentials of Public Service and Leadership Program. He

also worked with Troy's Department of City Planning to reinvigorate city neighborhoods and train new neighborhood leaders and, in 2000-2003, directed "Own a Home," a Sage-Troy homeownership program for downtown Troy. Until his death, he chaired the Social Justice/Tikkun Olam committee at Congregation Agudat Achim in Schenectady, New York.

His greatest passion was for civic education and democratic practices at home and abroad. He founded the Council for Citizenship Education at Russell Sage College in 1990 and directed it until 2022. Over the years, his council produced materials and conducted workshops and training for thousands of teachers in the United States and many other countries such as Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, and South Africa. Stephen enjoyed the challenge of making complex political ideas accessible to students, teachers, and other citizens worldwide. He was the second American to be awarded the "Friendship Medal of Mongolia" by the president of Mongolia. He received a Distinguished Service Award (2004-2005) and Special Service Award (1996) from the New York State Council for the Social Studies; a Distinguished Service Award (1998) from the Capital District Council for the Social Studies; and an Outstanding Leadership Award (1991) from the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association and Department of Education. He also worked closely with the Center for Civic Education (CCE) from 1988 until his death, serving as a scholar at teacher workshops, grant writer, conference administrator, consultant, and state coordinator for

various CCE projects.

Stephen was a wonderful colleague in many summer institutes for United States K-12 teachers hosted by the Center for the Study of Federalism and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities as well as the Center's summer institutes for young international scholars funded by the United States Department of State. Most of the institutes were held at resorts in the Rocky Mountains, Stephen's second beloved mountains after the Adirondacks. He also enjoyed reading insightful novels about the American West.

His last major book publications were as coeditor of *Exploring Political Ideas: Concepts That Shape our World* (CQ Press, 2010) and editor-in-chief of *American Governance* (Macmillan Reference 2016) a five-volume encyclopedia that won an American Library Association Award as one of the best reference works of 2017.

Stephen is survived by his wife Stephanie, who was a vital partner in his global civic education work, his daughter Sarah Davis, granddaughter Juliana, and step-daughter Kelly Sommerman and her family. Everyone who knew Stephen benefitted from his life and admired his fervent commitments in and out of the classroom to educate people—young and old—to be good citizens and supporters of democratic governance. In federalism, he saw pathways to foster liberty, enhance self-government, protect diversity, and cultivate peace.

—John Kincaid, Center for the Study of Federalism & Lafayette College

John F. Stack, Jr.

John F. Stack, Jr., professor and founding dean of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), passed away in Miami, Florida on June 23, 2022, after a long illness.

Born in Brockton, Massachusetts on July 8, 1950, Stack received an AB summa cum laude from Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts in 1972. He went on to pursue his graduate studies at the University of Denver's School of International Studies, then under the leadership of the legendary Dr. Joseph Korbel. At the University of Denver, he received an MA in International Studies in 1974 and a PhD in the same field in 1977.

From the snow-capped mountains of Colorado, Stack moved to sunny South Florida, joining the faculty of Florida International University in 1976. Then a relatively new university (founded in 1965), FIU's location in Miami, known as "the Gateway of the Americas," provided both opportunities and challenges for the new professor. Stack tackled both with his Irish charm and sharp wit, demonstrating his dedication to his students along the way.

As the world changed with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the end of the Cold War, and the rise of international terrorism, the task fell on international relations and political relations scholars to rapidly adjust to a changing world. Stack met that challenge with intelligence and drive. Throughout his career, he balanced the scholastic imperative of educating students with a university's role in fostering research and policy work.

Stack's rapid rise through the ranks reflected his value as an educator and his ability as an administrator. Having served as Instructor at FIU's Department of Political Science from 1976 to 1977, he was quickly promoted to Assistant Professor (1978-1981), Associate Professor (1981-1986), and Professor (1987-2009). From 1981 until 1987, Stack served as Chair of FIU's Department of Political Science, returning to that role from 1996 until 1999. In 1990, Stack was

tapped to serve as Interim Director, and later Director, of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies, serving in that capacity until 2008.

Ever the inquisitive mind, Stack went on to law school, earning a JD from the University of Miami in 1989. His legal studies served him well in becoming an instrumental figure in the creation of FIU's College of Law. Stack served as Executive Director of the College of Law Initiative (2000-2001) and as one of the College of Law's founding faculty members (2009-2022).

Throughout his career, Stack wrote and co-wrote numerous books and articles. Among these are *Conflict in an American City: Boston's Irish, Italians, and Jews 1935-1944* (1979) and *Globalization: Debunking the Myths* (3 editions, 2009, 2011, and 2017). He edited the books *The Primordial Challenge: Ethnicity in the Modern World* (1986), *Policy Choices, Critical Issues in American Foreign Policy* (1983), and *Ethnic Identities in a Transnational World* (1981). The 2008 book *The New Deal in South Florida: Design, Policy, and Community Building*, which he co-edited with John A. Stuart, received the 2009 Silver Medallion (Second Place) Florida Book Award.

Stack was, first and foremost, an educator. His courses in Politics and International relations were varied: American Ethnic Politics, American Foreign Policy, World Issues and Prospects, World Politics, a Senior Seminar in Transnational Relations and Comparative Politics, Graduate Seminars in International Politics and Ethnicity and the Politics of Development, Model United Nations, Constitutional Law: Powers, and Constitutional Law: Limitations. The diversity in his courses extended to the College of Law, where he taught Administrative Law, Conflicts of Law, the First Amendment, National Security Law, a Seminar in National Security, and Florida Constitutional Law.

Stack's distinguished academic career earned him numerous accolades. He earned FIU's Alumni Association's Torch Award (2002) and Top Scholar Award (2009) and was Honorary Member of Phi Beta Kappa, Epsilon of Florida. In 2010, Stack delivered