



Lester Eugene Embree (1937 - 2017)

After months of struggle with a spinal injury and complications, Lester Embree passed away on January 19, 2017.



He was Professor of Philosophy and William F. Dietrich Eminent Scholar at Florida Atlantic University, having received his PhD from the New School (New York) for Social Research in 1972 under Aron Gurwitsch (and had taken classes with Dorion Cairns).

Before becoming the William F. Dietrich Eminent Scholar at Florida Atlantic University in 1990, Professor Embree had taught at Northern Illinois and Duquesne Universities, and was President of the Centre for Advanced Research in Phenomenology for 20 years. In addition, he precipitated the founding of the Organization of Phenomenological Organizations and the 'Newsletter of Phenomenology'. He was also instrumental in setting up the archives for the papers and files of, among others, Alfred Schutz, Aron Gurwitsch, and Dorion Cairns.

Lester was a prolific scholar, having published 5 book-length investigations, 94 book chapters, 89 interpretive essays, 46 edited books, and 31 edited works of other authors. Moreover, many of his works have been published in several languages. Additionally, he gave 200 presentations in various conferences and academic settings. Lester served on the boards of 35 phenomenological societies and belonged to 20 philosophical societies, including serving as an Advisor to the Editorial Board of the *Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology* from early 2008 until his passing.

One of Professor Embree's great services was to foster the growth of phenomenological organizations worldwide, and he was frequently involved in the beginnings of such organizations, such as the Center for Advanced Research in Phenomenology, the Organization of Phenomenological Organizations, the Husserl Circle, the Círculo LatinoAmericano de Fenomenología, the Central and European Conference in Phenomenology, the Nordic Society for Phenomenology, Phenomenology for the East Asia Circle, Réseau Euro-Méditerranéen de phénoménologie pour le dialogue interculturel, the Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences, and the International Alfred Schutz Circle for Phenomenology and Interpretive Social Science. Lester was also instrumental in establishing two book series, Contributions to Phenomenology (Springer Press) and the Series in Continental Thought (Ohio State University Press).

He was a great entrepreneur for phenomenology, always imagining and realizing new phenomenological projects and setting up new organizations. His service to phenomenology included encouraging the practice of phenomenological method, fostering multidisciplinary engagement, mentoring a generation of younger phenomenology scholars, and helping the tradition of phenomenology to flourish across cultures. In the many scholarly conferences he attended, he could be counted on to provide regular illuminating comments based on

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the views of authoritative phenomenologists, particularly those of the New School; to offer encouraging compliments and insightful criticisms; and to occasionally indulge in instances of corny humor.

With Lester's death, phenomenology has lost one of its great animating spirits.

Though his work was a large part of his life, he was also a father and is survived by his three children. His other passion was being a caretaker of the environment, encouraging all of us with his early adoption of electric cars and other alternative fuels.

Source: Adapted from obituary material penned by

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