

Mauricio Solaún Giberga

Mauricio Solaún Giberga, professor of sociology and Latin American studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and former US ambassador, passed away in St. Petersburg, Florida on October 14, 2023.

Solaún was born in Havana, Cuba on September 22, 1935. During his years as a law student at the University of Santo Tomás de Villanueva, Solaún was a student of Dr. Guillermo Belt Ramírez, former Secretary of Public Instruction, former ambassador of Cuba to the United States and the Soviet Union, and former delegate of Cuba to the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of American States (OAS). It is unlikely that, at the time, Solaún would have thought that he would follow in the footsteps of this diplomat-turned-professor. He went on to earn a master's degree in economics from Yale University (1959) and studied at the University of Pennsylvania.

Like so many Cubans, Solaún went into exile, settling in the United States. In this country he dedicated his life to the academic profession, making himself known among students, professors, and researchers interested in sociology and Latin American studies. He earned a PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago and served for many years as a professor of sociology and Latin American studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

His academic career was interrupted when he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to serve as US Ambassador to Nicaragua. With this appointment, Solaún became the first Cuban-American to be appointed ambassador to the United States, thus opening the door to many who have come after. In that diplomatic post, which he held from September 1977 to February 1979, Solaún witnessed the last years of the government of Anastasio Somoza Debayle and organized a mediation process carried out by the OAS. Many remember Ambassador Solaún's administration, which helped him resume his academic career.

Returning to academia, Solaún was invited to lecture in Latin America, Europe, and Asia. He returned to the classroom as a visiting professor at the Universidad de los Andes and the Universidad Pontificia Javeriana, both in Bogotá, Colombia, the Universidad de Belgrano in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, in Chile. He was awarded prestigious international fellowships and research grants,

including those from Carnegie (1963-1964), Mucia (1971), Fulbright (1971), and the International Legal Center (1973). At different times, he balanced his academic responsibilities with those of consultant for the United Nations Development Program for Chile, the Dow Chemical Company in Colombia, and the National Planning Department of Colombia. He was also a member of the American Sociological Association (ASA) and the Latin American Studies Association (LASA).

Solaún's literary contributions have left a significant imprint on Latin American studies. Among his works are *Sociology of Latin American Coups D'état* (1969), written with Manuel S. Alguero; *Chile: Models of Development and Political Options* (1973), written with Fernando Cepeda and Paul Oquist; *Discrimination without Violence: Miscegenation and Racial Conflict in Latin America* (1973), co-authored with Sidney Kronus; *Sinners and Heretics: The Politics of Military Intervention in Latin America* (1973), written with Michael Quinn; *Politics of Compromise: Coalition Government in Colombia* (1980), edited by R. Albert Berry and Ronald G. Hellman; and *US Intervention and Regime Change in Nicaragua* (2005).

Cubanía, or *Cubanness*, was never lacking in his work and in his life. He always sought to understand the Cuban people and the characteristics and processes that contributed to the collapse of the Cuban Republic. Dedicating his sociological and regional knowledge to the case of Cuba, he published research papers such as "Political Culture and Democracy in Cuba: Comparative Reflections" (1998) and "On Political Change in Cuba: A Comparative Introduction" (1999). At the same time, he was an active member of various Cuban exile organizations, including the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE) and the National Association of Cuban-American Educators (NACAE).

With his wife of over 60 years, Dr. Joan Davies Rosenbaum, and their daughter, Emma Cristina, he forged a beautiful home. After retiring, he lived in St. Augustine, Florida until finally moving to St. Petersburg. His academic and literary contributions help other generations to study the political and social processes of Latin America, many of them derived from the themes addressed by Solaún in his books. At the same time, his contributions to Cuban studies presented a serious and analytical approach to the subject and contributed to considerations for the construction of a future Cuba. ■

— Daniel I. Pedreira, Florida International University

Ola Listhaug

Ola Listhaug was an international scholar, a mentor to numerous students and younger colleagues, and an entrepreneurial university administrator. He passed away on September 14 and will be missed by many.

Ola Listhaug was born in the small community of Sjøholt in Western Norway, where he also eventually retired and died. Following studies at the University of Oslo, he moved to Trondheim and obtained his magister's degree in sociology in 1971. As a 24-year-old in 1973, he was engaged as an amanuensis in the newly established Department of Sociology and Social Studies (ISS), now the Department of Sociology and Political Science at NTNU. He obtained his PhD in 1988 and was promoted to full professor a few years later.

Ola's main field was political sociology, particularly electoral research and political behavior. He is probably best known for his contribution to the study of electoral behavior, with Stuart Macdonald and George Rabinowitz. In an article based on survey data gathered in Norway with extensive information on the issue positions of all parties with potential for achieving representation in the parliament, they found support for their directional theory in a European multi-party system. In contrast to the widely favored spatial model of electoral behavior, they found that parties which occupy a centrist position on an issue are not evaluated on the basis of that issue. Voters neither love nor hate a party in the middle. In order to build support on the basis of issues, parties must offer some strong stands. The authors were awarded the Heinz Eulau Prize for the best article in the *American Political Science Review* in 1991 for that work.

Ola quickly established himself as an international scholar with an impressive academic output. He published on numerous aspects of public opinion, political trust, and voter behavior. In more recent articles, he examined public opinion on climate change and human rights, the effects of terror attacks on public opinion, and the relationship between religiosity and political action. Ola also played a central role as the Norwegian contributor to the European Values Study since it was established in the early 1980s. He was a member of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters as well as The Royal Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters. He was a visiting scholar at several US Universities (Michigan, Iowa, and North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

In addition to teaching and research, Ola held several important academic and administrative positions, including the role of Head of Department at ISS for several periods. He was instrumental in establishing political science as a separate field within the Department in the 1990s. Ola was active in promoting research excellence and an international orientation many decades before the university itself introduced its own strategies and action plans towards this end.

When the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) was award-

ed funding for its Centre for the Study of Civil War in 2002, the first such Centre of Excellence in the social sciences in Norway, Ola served as the Head of the Centre's working group on Values and Violence. He played an active role in developing the Centre and used his position to further strengthen the bonds between PRIO and NTNU, which remain strong to this day.

His research and his work with students and colleagues in Norway and internationally were Ola's main passion. He was generous, inclusive, and caring and made a deep impression on those that had the good fortune of working with him. In 1996, he invited all the employees at ISS to his home for a "silver anniversary" to mark the fact that he had been married to his job for 25 years. On another occasion, he promised an award of a case of good Bourdeaux to any colleague who succeeded in getting an article published in one of the top journals of the profession.

Ola retired in 2019, and although he had been ill in recent years, he retained his interest in political science and the social sciences, his colleagues, and his former students. He is remembered with fondness by us and by many of our colleagues. ■

— Toril Aalberg, Norwegian University of Science and Technology;
and Nils Petter Gleditsch, Peace Research Institute Oslo

Kenneth S. Sherrill

Ken Sherrill died at home in New York City after an illness on December 2, 2023. He was 81. Ken will long be remembered for his pioneering scholarly and political work on LGBTQ+ politics and for his extraordinary role as mentor, teacher, institution builder, and friend. Ken's lifework stands as an example of a commitment to rigorous scholarship and effective, inspired advocacy in the service of building a more just and free society.

A native New Yorker, Ken graduated from Brooklyn College in 1963 and went to the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill to do graduate work, as he reported, because it was the only place at the time to study Black political participation. Ken later served as an instructor at Oberlin College from 1965-1967 before joining the faculty of Hunter College, City University of New York where he remained until his retirement. His PhD was granted in 1968 for his dissertation on "'Political Modernization' in the United States." Ken was active in civil rights activities in North Carolina and New York, and became deeply involved in Democratic Party politics in New York City, working, for example, on the 1968 campaign for Robert F. Kennedy and serving as a delegate to the 1984 Democratic National Convention. In 1969, he offered expert witness testimony on the effect of early registration deadlines to discourage voting. In 1977, he became the first openly gay elected official in New York City when he was elected as the party's District Leader in Manhattan's 69th Assembly District. He also creatively paid his political dues on the ground, for example, by going to a bordello in Hell's Kitchen to get out the vote in 1972.

Ken's early scholarly works in the 1960s concerned racial attitudes, but beginning in the early 1970s he also turned his attention to LGBTQ+ people as political actors. He published (often with co-authors, as collaborative research was an important value for him) many articles, for example "What Political

Science Is Missing by Not Studying AIDS" in *PS: Political Science & Politics* (1992) admonishing the discipline for ignoring the important political issues raised by sexual minorities. He edited an award-winning book with Marc Wolinsky on *Gays in the Military: Joseph Steffan versus the United States* (Princeton University Press 1993). He testified in several cases about the relative political power of gays and lesbians, including *Romer v. Evans*, the first US Supreme Court ruling applying the Constitution's Equal Protection Clause to protect the rights of sexual minorities. Ken published the research that formed the basis of this testimony in *PS* as "The Political Power of Gays Lesbians and Bisexuals" in September 1996. He studied the effects of gay marriage on political opinions, and he and his long-time partner, now long-time husband, Gerald Otte, married as soon as feasible in Canada in 2003. Ken was often quoted by the LGBTQ+ media and by the mainstream media on matters of national, state, and New York City politics, including by such outlets as CNN, CBS, and *The New York Times*.

In addition to his scholarly and public work, Ken Sherrill fought tirelessly to make the City University of New York more open and accessible. He was involved in studies to determine admissions requirements as the university instituted "open admissions" in the early 1970s. As Chair of the Hunter College Senate, he shepherded through a "pluralism and diversity" requirement in 1992 that preceded many other universities' efforts to diversify curricula by decades. He was a formidable advocate for public higher education and a frequent lobbyist on behalf of public higher education in New York City and State.

Ken will also be fondly remembered as a teacher and as a mentor. As a teacher, he would end his first semester American politics class by reminding students that, as people who had passed this class, they were now among the top one-quarter of Americans who understood American politics, and implicitly, that they now had a duty as citizens to act. He collaborated with many undergraduate and graduate students on research proj-