

In Memoriam

Paul R. Brass

Rarely has a scholar made such monumental contributions to both the theoretical and area-studies literature in political science and South Asian studies as Paul R. Brass, who passed away in his home near Seattle, Washington on May 31, 2022. Professor Brass helped define the field of Indian politics and ethnicity/nationalism in his five-and-half decade career, which included active scholarship even after his formal retirement. Rich empirical detail, theoretical relevance, and self-reflective methodological skepticism defined his rich corpus of scholarship, which included over a dozen books and scores of articles/chapters. Most of these were based on a lifetime of research and conference travel to India.

Professor Brass was born in Boston and attended Harvard College where he earned a BA degree in political science, before going to the University of Chicago where he completed his PhD in political science in 1964. He subsequently accepted a position in the Department of Political Science and the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington (Seattle) in 1965, where he taught until his formal retirement as professor emeritus in 1999. Professor Brass's first book, *Factional Politics in an Indian State: The Congress Party in Uttar Pradesh* (University of California Press, 1965) contributed to the emerging theoretical literature on political parties/factions and examined the integrative and representative role of party "factions" in deepening participatory democracy in post-Independence India.

Perhaps Professor Brass's most important and influential work was his landmark *Language, Religion, and Politics in North India* (Cambridge University Press, 1974). This three-case (and over four hundred-page) comparative study took an "instrumentalist" approach to the study of ethnic/national identity formation and challenged the previously dominant "primordialist" paradigm. In this book, which was the product of years of empirical field work, Professor Brass argued that the consolidation of ethnic identities and group recognition was the result of communal elites successfully mobilizing their "communities" around carefully selected cultural symbols, and institutionalizing their leadership and emerging group identity into permanent organizations including political parties. This work contributed not only to the area studies literature on North India, but also added analytical value to understanding and explaining other cases of group mobilization and ethnic/national identity formation beyond India.

Professor Brass made a significant methodological shift in his

scholarship toward the latter part of his career. Becoming somewhat skeptical of purely "positivist" approaches to research—both qualitative and especially quantitative—he transitioned into more postmodernist/critical modes of analysis including "interpretation" and "narrative." This included the supposition that the construction of academic "knowledge" is often conditioned by power dynamics, as argued by philosopher Michel Foucault. This intellectual evolution resulted in the publication of two important books. The first was *Theft of an Idol: Text and Context in the Representation of Collective Violence* (Princeton University Press, 1997) in which Professor Brass examined how perception and politically strategic interpretations of supposed "hard facts" by political actors facilitated communal violence in India. His next major book of over four-hundred pages was *The Production of Hindu-Muslim Violence in Contemporary India* (University of Washington Press, 2003) which built on this "interpretative" methodological tilt.

Professor Brass's last major academic project was a multi-volume political biography of Congress Party leader Charan Singh, who he had met as a graduate student in the 1960s and from whom he had inherited a treasure trove of personal documents, which provided insights into transformation in Indian politics over several decades. This work represented not only an academic contribution/analysis, but also a true "labor of love" for a confidant and research subject who he had known for his entire career. It also demonstrated Professor Brass's deep sense of personal loyalty to his friends.

On an interpersonal level, Professor Brass was known to sometimes be gruff and direct in his style of communication—perhaps, a product of his rough Bostonian childhood. Yet, a little-known fact about Professor Brass was his deep commitment to human rights, open research access for scholars to India (and other developing countries), and unbridled academic freedom in the pursuit of knowledge and "the truth." As a result, he was never hesitant to critique political leaders (including those of the postcolonial Indian state) for their periodic excesses against their own people and the scholarly community for its reluctance to unpack the power dynamics behind the "construction of knowledge" in relation to South Asia. Professor Brass was arguably the most influential American scholar on Indian politics for a generation, whose work defined the field with its rich empirical, theoretical, and methodological contributions. His active presence and "voice" will be missed but never forgotten by those who knew him and utilized his rich corpus of academic works which defined their own intellectual trajectories. ■

—Jugdep S. Chima, Hiram College

Russell L. Hanson

Russell L. Hanson (February 21, 1953–November 8, 2022), emeritus professor of political science at Indiana University, Bloomington, recently passed away in Minneapolis, Minnesota. An accomplished scholar working at the intersection of political theory and American politics, Hanson's teaching and researching chiefly focused on the history of American liberalism and its impact on public policy.

A Minnesota native who regularly returned to his cabin "up north" and loved to hike with colleagues and friends from graduate

school, Hanson earned a BS in political science at St. John's University (Minnesota) in 1975. He then pursued graduate study at the University of Minnesota, where he worked under Terence Ball and earned a PhD in 1982. In 1991, he was awarded a Distinguished Alumnus Award from his PhD alma mater. While Hanson held prestigious fellowships from, among others, the Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Science and University of London, he spent his entire career at Indiana University. He was initially hired as a Lecturer in 1980, was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1982, Associate Professor with tenure in 1987, and then Full Professor in 1995.

The political science department's first winner of the prestigious

campus-wide Outstanding Young Faculty Award, Hanson was a legendary teacher whose courses on political theory and especially American political thought were consistently overenrolled and among the department's most popular. He taught thousands of undergraduates, and for well over 30 years was one of the political science department's best teachers. He was also eagerly sought after by generations of graduate students, in a variety of subfields, who appreciated his extraordinary talent for helping students better formulate their own ideas.

Beyond his extraordinary pedagogical achievements with both undergraduates and graduates, Hanson was a valued member of the Indiana University community who served in an array of top-level administrative positions, including: Inaugural Associate Dean, School of Global and International Studies, 2014-15, Chair, Department of Political Science, 2009-2015; Acting Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, 1999-2000; Executive Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, 1997-1999, and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education, College of Arts & Sciences, 1992-95. Hanson consistently excelled in these positions: he combined a mastery of administrative detail and institutional procedure with a broad and deep commitment to core intellectual values and an even-keeled, respectful, and collegial way of dealing with all issues and all colleagues. Hanson was often the "go to guy" at vital junctures in Indiana University's recent history, frequently chairing important campus-wide task forces and high-level search committees.

Hanson was a major scholar of democratic theory, American

political thought, and American political development. His first book, *The Democratic Imagination in America: Conversations with Our Past* (Princeton University Press, 1985), remains a landmark study of the evolution of democratic ideas in US political history that continues to be cited by scholars working in this area. He published many other important works on the history of political thought, the evolution of the US welfare state, and contemporary welfare policy. He had a special interest in how US federalism impacted social welfare policy by generating divergences between and among states. His final publication (for the *Cambridge Companion to Civil Disobedience* [Cambridge University Press, 2021]) focused on the transnational diffusion of ideas about civil disobedience and centered on one of his intellectual heroes, Henry David Thoreau.

Hanson's teaching, scholarship, and administrative activities always rested on a deeply rooted, fundamental commitment to public education as a civic responsibility. As part of his lifelong attempt to bring political science to students and to help educate future citizens, he also co-authored an award-winning textbook, *Politics in the American States*, 11th edition (Congressional Quarterly Press, 2017), winner of the Mac-Jewell Enduring Contribution Award of the APSA's State Politics and Policy Section.

Hanson will be greatly missed as a valued colleague, friend, mentor, and teacher to so many both in Bloomington and elsewhere.

—Jack Bielasiak, Jeffrey C. Isaac, Jean Robinson, Bill Scheuerman, Indiana University

John W. Winkle III

The Department of Political Science at the University of Mississippi mourns the passing of Professor Emeritus John W. Winkle III after his passing on October 23, 2022. His service to the department spanned almost five decades, from his arrival in 1974 to his retirement in 2013, followed by almost 10 years of active service in his role as an emeritus faculty member.

Winkle earned his masters and doctoral degrees in Political Science at Duke University, with an emphasis in the US court system. After arriving at the University of Mississippi he undertook teaching a range of American Politics courses, but it was Constitutional Law courses that were his specialty. In his time on the faculty, Winkle was recognized for exceptional teaching, including winning the university-wide Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teaching Award. His reputation as an extraordinary teacher was widely known among students, and his classes were always in heavy demand. Many students who passed through his classes went on to top law schools and careers on the judicial bench, as law school faculty members, and in legal practice. Others went on to careers in public service and politics. As an emeritus faculty member, he continued to teach courses that attracted the best students. At the time of his passing, he was teaching a course entitled, "The Supreme Court in a Partisan Age."

While his work in the classroom was something in which he took great pride, Winkle's research and service also had a large impact. He published the definitive text on the Mississippi state constitution (Oxford University Press). He received the University Research Award four times, the Graduate School Research Award four times, the Liberal Arts Excellence Award four times, the state-wide Robert W. Harrison, Jr. Governing Boards Award, and the Thomas Frist Student Service award. He was

involved in the creation of the Mock Trial team on campus and remained involved until his death. He served as chair of the Political Science Department numerous times over his career. He played a crucial role in laying out the intellectual scope of what would become the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. In the Fall of 2022, the John Winkle Reading and Research room in the Honors College building was dedicated in his honor. He also was involved in the state judiciary, serving on the Judicial Advisory Study Committee and on the Mississippi Task Force on Gender Fairness in the Courts.

Whether he was urging a student to think more rigorously or talking with colleagues, Winkle was encouraging and supportive of their development. His positive outlook was visible when he spoke of the accomplishments of his family, just as it was each spring as his beloved Boston Red Sox went to spring training. His activity in the community included significant roles in his church and helping found the Oxford Community Market. He also coached local baseball teams for many years, including sharing coaching duties with John Grisham a few times.

Winkle told others that the greatest compliment he ever received was from a student who had not received a strong secondary education and was struggling in class. After passing the class, the student said, "It was the hardest class I've ever had, but Dr. Winkle never made me feel stupid." His most significant legacy lives on in the many students impacted by his commitment to their individual growth.

John Winkle is survived by his wife, Ellen Meacham, three sons, Johnny (and wife, Amy), Jason (and wife, Felicia), and Will, along with six grandchildren, a brother, a niece, and a nephew. The John W. Winkle III Fund at the University of Mississippi Foundation supports faculty excellence, student scholarships, and the Mock Trial team. ■

—John M. Bruce, University of Mississippi