

teacher, advisor and friend. We are grateful to her close colleague and friend, Professor Bill Roche, for providing the following most fitting tribute to Teresa.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

Edel Conway

Jonathan Lavelle

TRIBUTE TO DR TERESA BRANNICK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
IRISH JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT
By Professor Bill Roche, University College Dublin
Delivered at Teresa Brannick's Funeral in December 2012

How can I do justice to this remarkable woman and dear friend? Let me try to do so by adopting a solid empirical approach, as I think Teresa would have wished. Teresa was born and grew up in New Inn in east Galway – the hurling side of the county, as she would often remind me. After boarding school she went to UCG, where she studied Maths and Maths Physics through Irish. After UCG she came to UCD to study for a postgraduate diploma in Social Science. There she met and soon married the love of her life, Eddie McIllduff. At UCD Teresa completed a master's degree in Sociology, using ethnographic methods – unusual perhaps for somebody trained in mathematics, but providing a glimpse of the extraordinary intellectual versatility that was to become a hallmark of her professional career. After a time as a research assistant in Sociology at UCD, Teresa conducted epidemiological research at the Medico-Social Research Board. She returned to UCD and worked on a research programme in the Department of Industrial Relations, conducting seminal research on changing patterns of industrial conflict with her long-time colleague and friend Aidan Kelly. She also continued to work on research on access to higher education with Pat Clancy. She also became active as a lecturer, particularly in research methodology in Commerce and in Social Science. She then became a Newman Scholar and completed a PhD in Marketing. She edited *Irish Business and Administrative Research* (IBAR) with Aidan Kelly and oversaw its development into the *Irish Journal of Management*, of which she was Editor-in-Chief. She was the first person to be elected a Fellow of the Irish Academy of Management, and the most deserving of the accolade.

Teresa's published work spans the disciplines of sociology, epidemiology, industrial relations, marketing, management and research methods. She edited and co-wrote a number of books, perhaps her most important being her book on action research, written with David Coughlan. More recently, Teresa contributed her methodological expertise to the research undertaken for Judge Yvonne Murphy's *Commission of Investigation into the Dublin Archdiocese*.

Such an extraordinary range and level of versatility is simply remarkable. Technically brilliant, she had a quite unique ability to read test statistics and with lightning speed be able to identify the patterning in the underlying data or the features of the analysis that produced these results. But Teresa was more than that. She could also put herself into the mind of a colleague or a student with a methodological conundrum and help them clarify what specifically they wanted to investigate – even when, as was often the case, they had not themselves known this at the outset of the process. Countless PhD students owe her a debt in applying these gifts to helping them to progress and complete their dissertations.

But Teresa was more than that also. She was unfailingly kind and supportive and understood how a few words of encouragement could help a student or a research colleague to suspend their doubts and anxieties and move forward. But she could also be tough; woe betide the person seeking her advice possessed of too much self-regard or confidence beyond their measure of talent. Teresa would not waste her time on persons such as this. But for people with enough self-understanding to know where they stood, she would devote any amount of time, however faltering their steps or seemingly hopeless their quest for knowledge through research.

Teresa was great fun. She had a wicked sense of humour, which was never cruel. She had a wonderful welcoming smile, which stayed with her until the very end of her life. Those who knew Teresa will have their own stories of working with her or being in her company at events or of musings among friends. Even book launches with Teresa could be exciting and fun. I recall one involving a senior political figure of Teresa's acquaintance, who should remain nameless, so let's give him the alias Mícheál. Mícheál fancied he knew something about the methods used in the book to which Teresa had contributed and, no doubt, intent on impressing the company, asked, 'Teresa, are those parametric or non-parametric statistics?', to which Teresa replied with a smile, 'Mícheál, you stick to what you do best and let me worry about the statistics.' The methodologically precocious politician knew he had been bested and asked no further questions.

Teresa had a talent for friendship. Friends gathered round her and remained steadfast and assured of her support. I recall a group of us singing carols around Teresa's bedside in St Vincent's on Christmas Eve three years ago. Teresa organised for her friends to sing with her to celebrate the season. While we were not an accomplished ensemble, true to form, she insisted on her full measure of song and fun, demanding and receiving many encores of her favourite carols. In spite of her own long illness, she unfailingly supported others who had personal or health-related problems; she celebrated their achievements and always wanted to hear news of their goings-on, their work and their travels. Until her final illness, visits to Teresa and Eddie at their home, in hospital, or over lunches in Coman's pub, became lively seminars on politics, education, religion, culture and on the general ways of the world. Teresa valued everybody equally. She was strongly committed to equality and social justice, and part of her legacy at UCD was her work towards the recognition of these fields of study in the college in collaboration with her friend Kathleen Lynch.

Teresa was wise and insightful. She was humble in all her dealings with people and was unfailingly courteous. She bore her long illness with enormous dignity and courage.

She never complained about her pain and discomfort, or dwelled on the hand that fate had dealt her. Her love for Eddie, and his for her, shone brightly before all, and his care for her throughout her illness was inspirational.

Though all who knew and loved her are diminished by her passing and will miss her greatly, she would want us to celebrate her life and to remain steadfast to the causes and values she held dear: the honest pursuit of inquiry, the craft of research, valuing everybody the same and keeping alive the gift of friendship.

We say goodbye today to our dear friend. To have known her has been a joy, a privilege and a blessing for us all.

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