

PROFESSOR RICHARD ANTHONY PRING (1938-2024)- A TRIBUTE

It is with a deep sense of loss and reverence that we honour the memory of Professor Richard Pring who passed away on 6 October 2024. A distinguished scholar of the philosophy of education whose profound influence transcended borders and left an indelible mark on education policies in the UK, Europe, Asia, and beyond, Richard was also a great supporter of the *Journal of International and Comparative Education (JICE)*, flying to Malaysia at the time of its establishment. A man of great intellect, unwavering faith, and unassuming humility, he epitomised the ideals of academia and humanity.

Professor Pring was a scholar of unmatched brilliance and vision. His work in the philosophy of education not only shaped academic thought but also informed policy and practice, fostering impactful change across continents. Yet, what set him apart was not merely the breadth and depth of his scholarship but the heart and soul he infused into his work.

As a devout Catholic, his faith was the foundation of his life and reflected in his professional ethos. Professor Pring lived his faith through actions that exemplified compassion, integrity, and a genuine concern for others. This rare integration of spiritual conviction and academic excellence made him a mentor and guide like no other.

For those of us privileged to be his students and mentees, he was more than a teacher and mentor—he was a pillar of support, a source of inspiration, and a model of intellectual curiosity. He was my lecturer, my internal examiner for my doctoral viva, and a steadfast supporter of my outreach and social impact initiatives in Oxford and beyond. His guidance extended beyond academic discourse to encompass personal, moral, and career development, a testament to his holistic approach to education.

Professor Pring had an extraordinary gift for teaching. His lectures were masterclasses in intellectual engagement, marked by sharp wit, profound insight, and an infectious enthusiasm for learning. He had a rare ability to make the abstract tangible, to challenge without discouraging, and to inspire a love for knowledge that lingered long after the lecture ended.

Despite his global reach and the demands on his time, Professor Pring was remarkably accessible. He never let the weight of his achievements or the scale of his responsibilities overshadow his humility or his willingness to help. Whether it was providing guidance to a struggling student or offering strategic support to establish education faculties worldwide, he gave generously of his time and expertise.

His dedication to the intellectual, moral, and career development of young people was unwavering. His global influence in shaping education and skills development was unparalleled, and his legacy lives on in the countless students, academics, and policymakers whose lives and work were enriched by his mentorship.

Beyond his academic brilliance, Professor Pring was a man of profound humanity. He possessed a unique combination of sharp intellect and warm humour, making his presence both commanding and comforting. He was, in every sense, a scholar of the highest order and a human being of the highest virtue.

The academic community, and indeed the world, has lost an extraordinary figure. Yet, as we grieve his passing, we also celebrate a life that was impactful, meaningful, and truly exemplary. His legacy—of scholarship, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to education—will continue to inspire generations to come.

May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his memory forever guide and inspire us.

Published in honour of Professor Richard Pring, whose life and work will forever remain a beacon of excellence in education and humanity.

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