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Tribute to Julian Conrad Juergensmeyer by Maryse Grandbois

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TRIBUTE TO JULIAN CONRAD JUERGENSMEYER

Maryse Grandbois¹

I met Julian Conrad Juergensmeyer in April 1986, in Limoges, France. We were participating in a seminar on environmental law developments at the Centre international de droit comparé de l'environnement (University of Limoges), a french speaking association of environmental law professors. We were the only North American representatives and the only members teaching environmental law/land use full time in our law schools. Thus, we felt what we called later a North American solidarity: based on our continental closeness, our countries having enacted a full set of environmental laws and regulations, and fed with our common difficulties to cope with European mealtimes and jetlags.

At that time, the only way to practice and develop comparative environmental law was through traveling and organising comparative law seminars. We taught in team in Alicante, Limoges and Gainesville, Florida. We co-organised a seminar in Montreal, and we discussed environmental law issues in Tunis, Fortaleza, Sao Paulo, Lisbon, Rome, Tokyo. Our major concerns were acid rain, toxic wastes movements, pesticides control, debt for nature swaps, right to a healthy environment, impact studies and public participation. The Centre international de droit comparé de l'environnement members also met in Limoges regularly. As the first generation of environmental lawyers, we gradually became friends. We gathered with families and we frequently felt closer to our international colleagues than to our own law school fellows.

When I met Julian, he was already a known writer and a leader in his field. His farsighted vision was attractive and creative to students and to his peers. He was innovative as a professor and as a scholar. He had been engaged at establishing strong international cooperative relationships, giving birth to several comparative law programs. I remember his sense of humor, his kindness to everyone, his way of putting students at ease, encouraging and helping them understand their strengths and progress. Team teaching with him was a fulfilling experience, he was so thoughtful, promoting the others and setting them to their advantage.

At the end of the eighties, he progressively left environmental law and french speaking to continue his full-time career in land use and growth

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management. Twenty five years later, we resumed our friendship and our work. He was at Georgia State University, I had retired from active service at my university to work abroad as a visiting professor in international environmental law. Julian invited me to his comparative law course in 2011.

He was still the same, an innovative and leading professor, dedicated to his work, family and friends, writing and working abroad with the same intensity. I was impressed with his achievements at Georgia State: his courses and publications, the Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth, the *Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy* and the Study Space workshops. His comprehensive approach and pioneering interdisciplinary work were fascinating to students, opening them to new horizons, both in the U.S. and the world over. He leaves an immense legacy.

Over the years, the Study Space workshops have become a landmark event and a tradition, rallying people from different standpoints to explore several aspects of one city. Julian is a grand host, a remarkable facilitator and a generous team player. Every scholar feels at his ease and welcomed in this inner circle. As a result, a new methodology emerged from these brainstormings and subsequent publications.

I was also impressed with Julian's efforts at providing continuity with his work and ensuring effective succession, both at the Center and at the law school. The arrival of John T. Marshall and Ryan Rowberry has provided for the future and brought new life. From the beginning, the enlarged team was a pole.

I will remember Julian's brilliant analysis and deep humanity. As a model to generations of students, he left lasting impressions and fond memories.

Best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.