

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION WILLIAM JOSIAH GOODE

(1917-2003)

William Josiah (Si) Goode, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, died May 4, 2003, in Washington, D.C. He was 85 at the time of his death.

One of the outstanding sociologists of his generation, he made fundamental contributions to understanding a broad array of behavioral and social phenomena. He was most famous for reinventing, reinvigorating, and reshaping sociological study of the family. His pioneering *After Divorce* (1956), famous for the rigor of its theory and method, was one of the first books in the field to focus on single-parent families. His monumental *World Revolution and Family Patterns* (1963), still the most systematic study of world changes in the family and for decades, and probably still, the most cited work in family sociology, set the field's agenda for research for decades. His *The Family* (1982), a systematic, analytic, rigorously comparative perspective on the structure and function of the family world-wide, was a wide-ranging, richly informative, yet concise small summary of the field. His own research in the field culminated in a landmark study of *World Changes in Divorce Patterns* (1993). But his oeuvre engaged many other institutions, from religion to the professions to stratification to political sociology, and many other social processes, from love to force and force threat, from wealth to prestige -- his *Celebration of Heroes* (1978) was a prize-winning book on prestige as a mechanism of social control. (He always argued that prestige was as important as economics and power, that more people are killed for honor, respect, and glory than money.)

His accomplishments were widely recognized and richly rewarded. He was twice awarded prizes for the best book of the year in family sociology by the Family Section of the American Sociological Association, which also gave him its award for lifetime scholarship and, in 1982, named its best-book award after him. He was also awarded the American Sociology Association's own award for the best book in sociology, the MacIver Award, and the Eastern Sociology Association's Merit Award for Lifetime Scholarship. He won two Guggenheim fellowships, the National Institute of Mental Health's Senior Scientist Career Award, an honorary Doctorate in Science from Upsala University, was president of the American Sociological Association, the Eastern Sociological Association, and the Sociological Research Association, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He was born in Houston, Texas, in 1917. His first important mentor – he tended to specialize in mentors of distinction – was his high school debating coach, Lyndon Baines Johnson. He started Rice in 1934, was expelled for violating its dress code in 1936, earned his BA (1938) and MA (1939) from the University of Texas, where his second important mentor was the great institutional economist Clarence Ayers. His education was interrupted by the war, in which he served in the Navy as a radar operator in the Pacific theater, but he earned his PhD from Penn State in 1946, where his third mentor of distinction was the sociologist Kingsley Davis. He taught first at Wayne State University, then at Columbia University (1950-1977), where he was Franklin H. Giddings Professor of Sociology, then at Stanford (1977-1986). Emeritus from Stanford, he retired to Harvard (1986-1991), Hebrew University (1991-2), and finally an honorary appointment at George Mason University (1994 until his death).

Widely recognized internationally, he was a visiting professor not only at Hebrew University, but also the Free University of Berlin in its first year (1954) and Wolfson College, Oxford (1980), lecturing, all-told, in a dozen countries (not only England, Germany, and Israel but also China, where he was distinguished lecturer at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1986, France, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Spain, and Yugoslavia).

Goode was a demanding teacher and a caring mentor in his own right. An early supporter of the woman's movement, he was, for example, a mentor to Betty Friedan, while she was writing *The Feminine Mystique*, and to Cynthia Epstein, with whom he co-edited *The Other Half*, both while still at Columbia. He also crafted two superb undergraduate texts, not only *The Family*, which went through many printings, but also, with Paul Hatt, one of the most famous texts on sociological methods of its generation, *Methods of Social Research* (1952), also re-printed many times and widely used throughout the world.

The range of his interests was extraordinary. He was an intensely engaged amateur painter and sculptor, a gardener, a gourmet chef to who's cooking the New York Times once devoted a whole page, a mycologist and a birder who published articles on both in naturalist journals, a sailor, a scuba diver. Enthusiastic, almost fanatical, about fitness, he medaled in senior tournaments in downhill skiing and tennis into his 80s. Retirement only extended the range of his interests – he was studying Hebrew in his 80s, hiking in Tuscany and Galapagos at 85.

He is survived by his wife, Lenore J. Weitzman, Clarence J. Robinson Professor of Sociology and Law at George Mason University, Fairfax VA; his sister Rosalie Grizzle of Magnolia TX; two sons, Erich, Professor of Sociology

at the University of Maryland–College Park and Andrew Josiah, an architect, of Shingle Springs CA; one daughter, Barbara Goode Baldwin of Washington, D.C.; and 5 grandchildren. Marriages to Josephine Cannizzo of Silver Spring MD and Ruth Rosenbaum of Chapel Hill N.C. ended in divorce.

Goode was a passionate conversationalist, gay, witty, warm, sparkling; like everything else he did, full of zest, vitality, vigor, and a contagious joie de vivre. He was endlessly insightful, he made you more insightful. He was probing, questioning, doubting, ironic, irreverent, iconoclastic, a wildly adventurous thinker with a quirky originality, a different way of looking at things, sought out by students and colleagues alike because the difference in his way of looking at things made you yourself look at things in new ways. But his conversation was also an exercise in rigorous critique. He was always gracious but never allowed politesse to interfere with the criticism of fuzzy thought, whether yours or his own. He was a man of great accomplishments who never rested on them. It was the quest, not the answers, that made his an endlessly creative career.

Committee:  
Morris Zelditch, chair  
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