

Stephan F. Kaliski (11/06/1928 – 08/12/2018)



Stephan F. “Steve” Kaliski, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., died peacefully at the Kingston General Hospital on August 11, 2018 at age 89. Steve is survived by his daughter, Susan, and his brother, Ted; and predeceased by his much loved wife, Marian. Steve will be fondly remembered by his niece Lucy.

Born in Warsaw, Poland in 1928 to Jakub and Ludwiga Kaliski, he and his family fled the country in 1939 just before the Germans invaded and arrived in Vancouver in 1941 after a perilous trip across the Soviet Union. They were among the nearly 6,000 Jews fleeing the Holocaust rescued by a Sugihara visa. In Vancouver as a teenager, he quickly learned English and completed his secondary education. Following a B.A. at the University of British Columbia (1951) and an M.A. at the University of Toronto (1953), Steve completed his Ph.D. at Cambridge in economics (1959). Steve began his academic career as an Assistant Professor at Carleton University in 1959.

And so began a stellar career as a labour economist. Aside from his teaching duties, Steve supervised research performed for the 1966 Report of the Royal Commission on Taxation, published multiple articles over the 1960s on structural unemployment in Canada, and secured a full professorship (1965). In 1969 he was appointed to the faculty of Queen’s University and, following a prolific period of research production, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1978. Steve served as editor of the Canadian Journal of Economics from 1977 to 1979; worked as a consultant to the Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada (1978-1984), and to the Commission of Inquiry on Unemployment Insurance (1985-86); in 1980 he was appointed to the Board of Directors for the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge MA, and became President of the Canadian Economics Association in 1986-1987. His active research extended into the mid-1990s. His breakout article was on the Phillips Curve. He had an encyclopedic knowledge about labour market issues (which was particularly valuable before the era of internet search engines) and he was a demanding critic of the highest standard (which helped build the Queen's Economics Department). In 2008, Steve was one of over 230 signatories to the Open Letter to Leaders of Canada’s Political Parties on the Economics of Climate Change.

Steve was well known for his subtle wit and his soft spoken nature and he was always a self-effacing gentleman. He cherished his family, friends and colleagues and was a person for whom traditions were very important.

Friends and family are welcome to attend a celebration of his life at the home of Mary Smith, at 145 King Street, Kingston, Ontario on Sunday September 16, 2018 from 3 to 5 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Médecins Sans Frontières. Condolences may be made to smkaliski@aol.com.