

Ted Tapper Ted Tapper, who died in October 2022, was a stalwart and longstanding supporter of the Society for Research into Higher Education, known not only for his influential writings but also his generous support for so many colleagues in the field. His colleague, former SRHE Treasurer David Palfreyman (Oxford), says Ted was “a true scholar whose productivity in retirement over the past twenty years or so that I have known him has been astonishing - we collaborated on 4 books and several articles plus various book chapters, and Ted was very much the lead Series Editor for the 27 (sic!) volumes in the Routledge *Comparative International Studies in Higher Education Policy* series. It was a privilege to know and work with Ted.” Gareth Parry (Sheffield) remembered “how endlessly encouraging, nudging and reassuring he was to a novice academic like me. As a professor of politics he was a welcome outsider-insider to the world of UK research on higher education.”

Ron Barnett (UCL) was very sad to hear the news: “I have several reflections and memories of Ted. First, above all, Ted was enthusiastic about issues and their understanding, and could be counted on to make his characteristic and energetic contributions to seminars and other events. It was ideas and frames of interpretation that mattered, and needed to be clarified, even if that meant running somewhat against the mainstream, and disturbing a taken-for-granted consensus. We knew that, if Ted was present at a seminar, one of the earliest questions would come from him and in provocative and challenging form! Second, Ted - especially in his partnerships (while at Sussex) with Brian Salter, and then later with David Palfreyman - brought a much-needed political science perspective to bear in the study of higher education. And in this, Ted saw the political context in the broadest way, searching out the historical, ideological and social-theoretical angles. Ted brought also a meticulous quality to his research, imparting much rigour to his studies. Third, Ted was a marvellous editor. David Palfreyman mentions the book series that Ted and he edited for Routledge and David confirms that the greater part of the honours on that front go to Ted. It was an absolutely heroic and indefatigable

Martin Gough (Liverpool) captured Ted’s love of debate: “My introduction to Ted Tapper was at an invitation seminar my erstwhile institution's group organised just over 10 years ago. He, with others, gave an engaging talk on where higher education had been and may yet go. It prompted me to look closely at an item of what is an impressive corpus of his on educational, especially higher education, issues. I found that I had much to disagree with in that writing and I would hope that he would have found that knowledge most satisfying. What I find particularly impressive is, unlike many such as myself, his firm discipline-based foundation not in higher education studies or practice (institutionally speaking), his being Political Studies (although students of politics should certainly not have the **main** say about higher education, not even about policy regarding it). There is, generally out there, far too much assumption to find common ground and agreement in the exercise of education-focussed debate, especially at conferences. May proper debate reign, even if proper debate needs to stretch the limits of 'normal' politeness!”

Andrew Gunn (Manchester) encapsulated Ted’s generosity towards young scholars: “As a doctoral student attending the annual SRHE conference, I was introduced to Ted by a helpful Rob Cuthbert, who knew I was a follower of his work. Ted’s research was influential to me, as he also came to higher education studies from a background in political science. In the years that followed, Ted was always genuinely interested in what I was doing and forthcoming in offering knowledgeable advice. Following his retirement from the University of Sussex in 2003, Ted was able to dedicate his time to publishing. Although his life after Sussex was not to be a real retirement at all; as he started a new career, producing a succession of books including *The governance of British higher education: The struggle for policy control*. Ted enjoyed documenting the changes in post war higher education in the UK. This work is now his legacy; there to remind us of the lessons to be learnt from that period. The political analysis underpinning his work is still of relevance today.”

effort on Ted's part, enlisting and encouraging authors, and even gently twisting their arms. It was not just the number of volumes (27) but their extraordinary range and the way in which they addressed so many key matters of higher education worldwide. But, and lastly, Ted was a warm and lively friend and colleague, at once a true scholar and academic citizen in the fullest sense. I miss him."