



Dear Colleagues and Students,

I am very sorry to inform you of the death of Professor Ian Taylor of the School of International Relations. Ian has died aged 52 following a period of illness.

We have lost a friend and colleague who personified our global orientation. Ian served as Professor in International Relations and African Political Economy, with special interest in the political economy of Africa and questions around the continent's underdevelopment. He was also Professor Extraordinary in Political Science at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, a visiting professor at the University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and an Honorary Professor in the Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University, China. His doctorate was earned from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa and an MPhil from the University of Hong Kong. He also held a teaching certificate from the International Language Institute, Cairo, Egypt and a certificate in Theology from the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Ian was a leader in international academic engagement, invited to present his research in 55 different countries, ranging from Estonia to New Zealand, North Korea to Argentina. Prior to joining St Andrews, Ian also taught at the University of Botswana for four years, as well as delivering courses at Ben-Gurion University (Israel); the University of Edinburgh; the University of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia); Dalhousie University (Canada); the University of Hong Kong; Mbarara University (Uganda); Renmin University (China); and Zhejiang Normal University (China).

In the course of his life Ian enjoyed extensive academic adventures including visits to 44 African countries (plus Réunion), and across Europe, Asia, and North America. His work has been cited over 9,500 times globally and translated into Afrikaans, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Ian was always excited to connect with academic projects around the globe, to meet people, and to listen to what they were saying.

Strong values also enriched Ian's contribution to our community. He was as generous in his spiritual life as in his academic life - a committed Christian who served for many years as an elder in the Church of Scotland in St Monans, and latterly was part of the Coastline Community Church. He possessed a deep sense of justice and an abiding interest in promoting justice for people kept down by the self-interest of those in power. He was a champion of inclusion and diversity, committed to acknowledging and understanding colonial baggage, and promoting African authors and sources. He was also passionate about supporting fairness within the organisations to which he belonged. I hope we can all find time to reflect, and challenge ourselves to ensure these values are strengthened rather than diminished by our collective loss.

Students who benefited from his teaching and mentoring remember him for his 'bat cave of books', humble attitude, and encyclopaedic mind. Colleagues describe a loyal and stimulating friend, whose conversation would cover everything from critiques of government policy, obscure 80s psychobilly, the menu at a range of hotels in Addis Ababa, and the theology of John's Gospel, all with plenty of laughter. Ian was witty, compassionate, and enjoyed a great love of music, not least Morrissey.



A limitless curiosity drove him, and only last week he was awarded a DLitt. by the Senatus Academicus at our University.

Our thoughts and sympathy are with Ian's family including his wife Jo and two children, Blythe and Archie.

Although the funeral will be private, given the current restrictions, both the Chaplaincy and Student Services are available to help anyone affected by this news.

Sally Mapstone

Principal and Vice-Chancellor