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Lifelong Learning

Contributions to this issue of the *EUI Review* focus on the many dimensions of 'Lifelong Learning'. In the opening article, Odile Quintin, former Director General of DG Education and Culture and now Special Advisor to the European Commission, lays out the conditions which gave rise to the notion, and elaborates the aim, scope and prospects of the European Lifelong Learning strategy. Sacha Garben in turn takes a hard look at the conflicting economic and social goals present in European education policy, and discusses the consequences for the European public. Inequalities in educational outcomes and opportunities are the respective foci of sociologists Fabrizio Bernardi and Stan van Alphen, who discuss recent research on the topic. In two separate articles on innovative professional training activities at the EUI, Ernesto Bonafé and Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga from the Florence School of Regulation and Silvia Dell'Acqua from the Global

Governance Academy discuss lifelong learning curriculae in the fields of energy regulation and global governance. This issue also relates the stories of a number of EUI 'lifelong learners'. Leigh Hancher and Peter van den Bossche discuss the many directions this has meant for their respective career paths, and EUI researchers Sebastian van de Scheur and Igor Chabrowski recount their experiences away from the Institute as participants in the Erasmus programme. In a new set of features in the alumni section, Julian Lindley-French, Síofra O'Leary, and Martin Westlake discuss their careers 'Out of the Tower'.

Finally, we bid a sad farewell to Peter Mair, our friend and colleague, who died tragically this summer. Peter was associated with the EUI almost from the very beginning, and recently took on the challenging role of Dean of Graduate Studies. His passing is a huge loss both to the Institute and to European political science. ■

In Memoriam

In Remembrance of Professor Peter Mair (1951 - 2011)

The sudden news of the untimely loss of Peter Mair in August reached me, like everyone, with immense shock. We have lost a wonderful father and husband, a close friend and exceptional person, a superb supervisor and an outstanding academic. Both personally and professionally, it will be impossible to fill the gap that Peter left and his professional and human qualities will be sadly missed at the Institute. I was however comforted by the fact that Peter passed away in Ireland, where he spent a beautiful vacation surrounded by his beloved family, enveloped in the nature of his Western Irish roots, to which he clung so tightly whilst also branching out as far as his ambition and academia could take him.

Having first come to the EUI in 1979, when he acted as Assistant Professor in Political Science, Peter knew the Institute inside out. Since then, he worked at the Universities of Leiden, Limerick, Strathclyde and Manchester before returning to the EUI in 2005 as Professor of Comparative Politics. From 2007 until 2010, Peter was Head of the Department of Political and Social Sciences and Dean of Graduate Studies thereafter. When I arrived at the Institute and I met Peter for the first time, I was immediately impressed by his leading role at the EUI as one of the most respected personalities and professors, a reputation that he fully deserved for his outstanding academic work and engagement in being a reference point for both researchers and colleagues. I was, and still remain, greatly appreciative of his experience and willingness to offer guidance and opinion on the Institute's operation. Professionally speaking, I fully trusted his judgement with the academic functioning of the Institute and I also completely trusted him on a personal level.

The loss of Peter Mair is a loss for all. In his various appointments at the Institute, he touched upon the lives of everyone across all levels of the EUI community, from experienced Heads of Department and senior management to new researchers settling into life and study at the EUI. When he was appointed as Dean of Graduate Studies, I had no doubt of his absolute ability in fulfilling the demanding requirements and responsibilities of this role, such as steering the entire structured doctoral programme, chairing the Admissions and the Doctoral Programme Committee and providing orientation for researchers to ensure their academic and social wellbeing. In all of these tasks Peter exceeded my high expectations and it is difficult to imagine anybody else who is as able to fulfil this position to the standard that Peter did.

Furthermore, losing such a brilliant scholar will have a strong impact on the academic community far beyond the EUI. Peter was a principal scholar on the study of political parties and representation as well as an academic reference point in the field of comparative politics in which he published extensively, such as the seminal book *Identity, Competition and Electoral*

Availability, written with Stefano Bartolini, which was awarded the ISSC/Unesco Stein Rokkan Prize. We can say, without exaggeration, that we have lost one of Europe's leading political scientists, who was an internationally highly significant scholar of immense reputation.

But most of all, of course, his loss will be imprinted on his family, with whom the thoughts of the EUI community are and whose inconceivable sorrow we share. ■

-Josep Borrell
President of the EUI

Colleague and Friend

The last time I spoke to Peter was at the end of July before his departure for Ireland. I made my usual joke with him about the fact that he was working only during the holidays, the kind of bad joke that you can make only with the persons like him who are hard workers without being workaholics. He was happy to finish the academic year with a thesis defense and to fly to his favorite spot, the place where he had grown up in the West of Ireland. He was like many of us a lover of Italy to the point that he often mentioned to me his desire to buy a place in Florence. But he could not forget his Irish roots, the beauty of the light and of the sea, those incredible colours that can only be found in Ireland. He passed away in a place where nature provides you with happiness but also a kind of nostalgia so peculiar to the Celtic fringes.

Peter embodied at their very best the qualities and virtues that are sometimes considered distinctively Irish. First of all, simplicity. His manners were deeply marked by this easy, direct approach in human relations not only with his peers but also with students and all those who were working with him. There are places where simplicity goes hand in hand with a somewhat offhand approach but this was not Peter's style. He was unfailingly courteous with others and capable of saying no or disagreeing without giving offense. He was fundamentally what we would call a good man, extremely generous with his time, always trying to find the positive side of things where it might have been easier to see the negative. He also had an excellent sense of humor, a characteristic easier to find in his native land than on the Continent and which allows its possessor to deliver messages or to break the ice more easily than those who take things too seriously. During the six years we worked together, not only can I not remember a single conflict between us but this period was a time of profound friendship and cooperation. This did not happen accidentally. The motives for antagonism and conflict are never absent in an academic institution especially when the protagonists are structurally in opposite situations: the head of department represents the

views, ideals, interests of his constituency while the Principal might have divergent views, prejudices or strategies. Happily enough this never resulted in a frontal collision between us. Obviously we might have had different analyses or interpretations but frequently this dialectic exchange made us stronger. Sometimes I could convince him but, other times, particularly when he had failed to convince me, his final and decisive word was 'Don't do it.' In that situation, I knew that I should think twice before taking the course of action I had foreseen.

Peter had another rare combination of qualities: he was both a man of principles and a man of compromise. This might sound impossible or contradictory but in his case it was not. Peter was by nature a mediator but he was not afraid of conflict. Simply put, he knew when the search for a decent compromise was the best option but also when he had to stand firm because an infringement of values or principles would be unacceptable. Such a combination in one individual is a rare occurrence. Compromise might be the easy way out for the shy and the coward. To stand up and fight require courage and strength and Peter had both.

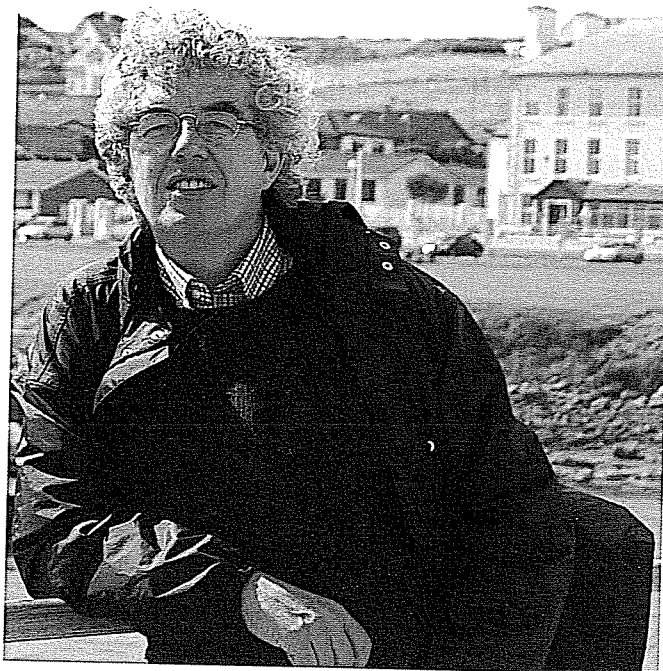
Peter has left us with our problems, difficulties and sadness. We have however a way to remember him which is to remain faithful to his ambitions and aspirations by trying to make real and alive his dreams, in particular for the Institute. I was grateful that the Institute posted his photograph for one week on the web site. Every day when opening my computer I had Peter smiling at me in his unique mix of generosity, kindness and nostalgia as if he had anticipated this premature farewell. Peter himself may have left us but his spirit, his example and his dedication will remain. ■

- Yves Mény
Former President of the EUI

*Cast a cold eye
On life, on death.
Horseman, pass by!*

With these enigmatic lines, Yeats ends his last great poem *Under Ben Bulbin*. On Friday, 19th August, our friend and colleague, Peter Mair was laid to rest in the graveyard of St. Columba's Church in County Sligo, near the famous table mountain of Ben Bulbin on Ireland's west coast. This summer, like any other, he had returned with his family to his home town of Rosses Point where they had a cottage. But then on August 15th, during a trip to nearby Connemara, Peter suffered a massive and unexpected heart attack. Suddenly he was no more.

As the news began to filter across Europe, the first reaction was everywhere the same: complete disbelief. How could someone so young, in such apparent good health, at the peak of his intellectual powers, at the height of his career, blessed with the happiest of families, held in affectionate regard by his



colleagues and loved by his friends be so cruelly and suddenly removed? There is no answer to that question: it happened and we must accept the fact, sooner or later, but what will be most difficult of all to accept is the gap left by Peter, as a husband, a father, a friend and a colleague.

Peter was born and raised in Co. Sligo but he was a Sligo man by accident. His father, Moray Mair, was a Scot from St. Andrews who was working in India when the Second World War broke out. His mother, Dorothy Kenny, (known as Billie) was from Co. Longford, and like many Irish women of her generation, had trained to be a nurse in England. On the outbreak of war she joined the British army's nursing corps and was in Egypt when she met her husband-to-be. They married in Ireland in 1949 and while on honeymoon on the west coast of Ireland found they liked Rosses Point so much, that they decided to settle there. Peter was educated at the local primary school, and was then sent as a boarder to Castleknock College near Dublin. After school he studied History and Politics at University College Dublin graduating with an MA in Politics in 1973. His first job was at the newly opened University of Limerick before moving on to a job in his father's homeland at the University of Strathclyde.

Participation in early ECPR events had brought him to the notice of some of the leaders of the organisation, and when the EUI was established it was natural that Peter should gravitate towards this new centre of comparative West European politics. He originally arrived as a researcher in 1979 but quickly became a junior member of faculty working alongside Stefano Bartolini in close association with Hans Daalder who was directing a major project called *Recent Changes in West European Party Systems*. The EUI was the beginning of Peter's interna-

tional academic career. In 1984, he moved to the University of Manchester and from there to the Netherlands. He continued to collaborate with Bartolini and their prize winning book *Identity, Competition and Electoral Availability* was published by Cambridge University Press in 1990.

Here is not the place to attempt an evaluation of Peter's extensive academic legacy. In good time there will be symposia, conferences and *festschriften*. His career bore all the hallmarks of success: editorships of prestigious journals and monograph series; four authored or co-authored books; sixteen edited books; close to two hundred articles, book-chapters and substantive book reviews; translations of his work into Italian, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, German, French, Danish, Hungarian and Russian; more than twenty supervised dissertations; numerous visiting fellowships and professorships; positions of increasing institutional responsibility especially at the EUI where he was chair of the SPS department from 2007-2010 and where he had recently been appointed Dean of Graduate Studies.

Peter was, from one point of view, the epitome of the globe-trotting academic. During his career he worked for lengthy periods in Ireland, Scotland, England, the Netherlands and Italy and who knows how many countries and continents he was taken to by visiting professorships, guest lectureships, and conference keynote speakerships? Yet fundamentally he was a rooted man: rooted in his family life, his work, his nationality and his values. And as these were always with him, he felt at home wherever he happened to be and was the same person to everyone he met. As a political scientist he was trained to cast a cold and objective eye on social reality but he was also a committed public intellectual and defender of democratic values. He was a person of authority who could be approached by anyone to be given not just a sympathetic ear but also shrewdly realistic advice. Whenever a sensible compromise was needed, Peter was frequently the one to make the most acceptable proposal because he knew that while life might mean conflict between different values, a well-lived life meant reasonable compromise not only between the values a single person holds within himself but also between the values that

different people embody. When he spoke, people listened because he spoke calmly and with humour.

The say of the funeral began as what Irish people call 'a soft day': nothing wild or extreme, a bit dull and grey with some drizzle. The funeral mass was celebrated by a priest who had been to school with both Peter and his brother. Following the coffin from the church to the graveyard, the mourners found that the weather had changed dramatically. A tempest was blowing across the bay from Ben Bulbin bringing squalls of wind and pelting rain, soaking the mourners as they struggled with their collapsing umbrellas. The grave-diggers were forced to hold on to the temporary structure over the grave supposed to provide protection from the usual showers and the words of the priest could hardly be heard in the howling wind. It was difficult not to imagine Peter smiling down on this quintessentially Irish scene and quoting wisely from Yeats:

*And ancient Ireland knew it all.
Whether man die in his bed
Or the rifle knocks him dead,
A brief parting from those dear
Is the worst man has to fear.*

—Peter Kennealy
EUI Library

A Memorial Service to honour the life of Peter Mair, Professor of Comparative Politics and Dean of Graduate Studies of the EUI, will be held in the church of the Badia Fiesolana on Wednesday, 5 October, at 4pm. After the service a reception will be held in the Lower Loggia. All of Peter's friends, colleagues and students are invited to attend.



Ana Maria Liturri, known to the EUI community as **Francesca**, passed away on 15 July.

Francesca dedicated more than twenty years to the Institute's catering services, and she will be long remembered by those who knew her. For many of us, for many years, she was the first 'buon giorno' of the day, serving up *cappucini* in the Badia café. She was appreciated by staff and researchers alike, and kind mention of her can be found in the acknowledgements of several doctoral theses over the last two decades.

The EUI extends its deepest sympathy to her family and friends.