
Not Only Words

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Professor Susan Haack is one of the top philosophers in the world. It is a great good fortune for legal evidence scholars that at some point she took an epistemological interest in legal philosophy. Today, the impact of Haack's epistemological lessons for the law exceeds the frontiers of the common-law tradition; and I feel honored and privileged to have contributed to the dissemination of these ideas.

I first met Professor Haack in 2007, in São Leopoldo, Brazil. She was scheduled to present the plenary lecture of the 1st Meeting of the Brazilian Analytic Philosophy Association. Before the event, I sent her an e-mail introducing myself and my research, and expressing my hope of working with her. I was a legal scholar writing a Ph.D. dissertation on the evolution of Charles Sanders Peirce's thought about the normative sciences. After exchanging a couple of messages, she asked me if I could translate a short hand-out for her coming talk. I said yes, of course; and next thing I was in São Leopoldo, a small city in Southern Brazil, spontaneously greeting Professor Haack with a kiss on her cheek—something that would never happen again. Upon getting to know her, I realized that the traditional, exuberant Brazilian kiss on the cheek wasn't compatible with her moderate, more sober English style.

The encounter above marked the beginning of a long and prosperous relationship. Professor Haack supervised my doctorate research abroad, and in the years that followed I translated some of her philosophical and legal work into Portuguese—two articles, an interview, and perhaps her most sharp and engaging book, *Manifesto of a Passionate Moderate: Unfashionable Essays*. In supervising my doctoral research and in revising my translation of her work, Professor Haack educated me.

In 2008 I received a scholarship that allowed me to spend the academic year as a visiting researcher at the University of Miami School of Law. Professor Haack's willingness to take an active part in my philosophical research surprised me. After all, I was just a visiting international researcher, not formally registered with her institution. Despite her numerous academic responsibilities, Professor Haack received me in her office every Friday at 3pm. We would talk about my research and her current projects; and gossip about academic life. She encouraged me to send her drafts with my work in progress and returned them with several corrections in the margin in pen. This is not something you see very often in the academia. Senior professors often stand on an inaccessible pedestal. I wasn't expecting to receive that kind of special attention. For the first time, I

learned, with the most distinguished professor I had ever interacted with, that philosophical research and writing shouldn't be a lonely job.

When I returned to Brazil, I started to work on the translation of *Manifesto*. It was 2009, more than a decade after its publication in 1998. Professor Haack wanted me to translate *Defending Science—Within Reason*, which had been recently published. *Defending Science* continued to denounce a host of fashionable projects that undermined the legitimacy of the epistemological enterprise as a whole, and it also advanced Haack's thoughts about the interactions between science and the law. But *Manifesto* was (and still is) for me a special book. It's a statement against a popular form of doing philosophy all too common in the academia; and, besides that, Haack included a sarcastic and fascinating chapter displaying Peirce's and Rorty's philosophical texts in conversation and disagreement. Translating *Manifesto* was a hard job, for I had not only to deal with technical, philosophical language, but also to be faithful to Haack's sharp prose and humorous style. Once more, Professor Haack's willingness to help me was surprising: she read every single word I translated and correctly identified typos, syntactical errors, and even idiomatic problems in Portuguese.

Today, I recognize that perhaps the most important lesson Professor Haack taught me is how to conduct myself in academic life. You don't need to be pedantic if you want to be a serious philosopher. I feel lucky to have worked so close to Professor Haack; it was an extraordinary opportunity to appreciate her academic qualities and (pragmatically) understand what it means to exercise those virtues of intellectual integrity she so often requires from us. Professor Haack educated me with actions, not only words.