

In Memoriam:  
David F. Hardwick

GUS DIZEREGA

This past May, David Hardwick (1934-2021) died peacefully in his sleep after a few months of family care at his home in Vancouver. I first met David, and his late brother, Walter (1932-2005), in the '90s, when they discovered my theoretical work exploring ideas they had implemented more concretely. Their focus was practical implementation, having been major movers in reforming Vancouver's government along lines Jane Jacobs was later to develop. Their efforts succeeded, and Vancouver was long described as one of the world's most livable cities.

Sometimes a person embodies many achievements, any one of which would have made for an impressive life. David was such a person. With his passing, *Cosmos + Taxis* lost a man crucial for bringing it into existence and, for many of us associated with it, a friend, colleague, and all in all, one of the most remarkable human beings we have been privileged to know. This was certainly true for me.

My own research had been focused on further developing F. A. Hayek's work, while the Hardwicks cast their intellectual net in different waters also dealing with complexity and self-organization. My growing involvement with them deepened my own work and opened avenues for taking it farther.

Although he studied medicine widely in many countries, David was a native of Vancouver, and always returned to the city he loved. As a faculty member of The University of British Columbia, David served as Head of the Department of Pathology and later as Associate Dean, Research and Planning in the Faculty of Medicine Dean's Office. In 'retirement' he became its Special Advisor on Planning. His influence there led to UBC becoming a leader in diverse fields of medical research not by top-down planning but by empowering individual scientists to determine where they thought the most promising avenues of research lay.

Hardwick was a life-long member of the International Academy of Pathology (IAP) serving in many capacities including President from 1992-1994 as Secretary from 2006 to 2015. David believed deeply that science should be based on what is called the gift economy rather than the market, and implemented his vision with the "Knowledge Hub for Pathology." After every annual meeting of the US and Canadian Division of the IAP (USCAP), all research presented was made available world-wide at no cost. Confident as he was of the hubs' merits, he was still amazed at how quickly it grew to become perhaps the world's most important source of information in the field.

Those of us who knew him will remember, and treasure, his offbeat sense of humor: his ubiquitous goofy home-made bow ties, his many puns and jokes, which, in my experience, inevitably began his phone calls. Then there were his 'handshakes,' his hand always moving just fast and far enough away to dodge mine. Increasing years did not slow him down. And then there were memorable antics like David's playing his banjo ukulele at a family gathering on BC's Keats Island, while all around sang wacky songs.

In more serious contexts David's playful side served an important tactical purpose. He had an intuitive sense of how large organizations worked to serve themselves over all else, and how they could be controlled. As he told me once, appearing goofy to a bureaucrat encouraged the latter not to take David seriously, until he had been completely outmaneuvered.

For example, David mobilized alumni support to build the UBC's Medical Student and Alumni Centre (MSAC), which he supported in many other ways, such as cutting the grass, raking leaves and cleaning up. Such centers were often vulnerable to being taken over for 'more important' functions by university administrations and faculties. Hardwick ensured this would not happen to the MSAC by making sure the president of the Medical Undergraduate society for each graduating class sat on its board.

Around 2005 I began working with Richard Cornuelle, attending, and eventually helping organize conferences exploring the relationship of what is called emergent social phenomena with Hayekian concepts such as spontaneous order. Recognizing the compatibilities of David's work with Dick's focus, I arranged for him to be invited to one of our conferences in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. They got on well, and soon David was participating regularly and enriching the perspectives we discussed.

A journal, *Studies in Emergent Order*, grew out of these gatherings. When institutional and ideological politics over which we had no control led to its demise, David and some younger scholars created *Cosmos + Taxis* to carry on the original vision of a journal that put science ahead of ideology. It was safely harbored in Canada, at UBC, and is now 7 years old, with a solid record of refereed articles published in an online, open source, creative commons, format. The gift economy of science at work again. In David's absence this would not have happened, but *Cosmos + Taxis* is now on a solid footing for several more years, at least. Amidst all this, somehow David found time with editing the *Palgrave Studies in Classical Liberalism*. This project has produced a number of insightful volumes deepening our understanding of the subject.

As David passes on to that ultimate mystery we all must someday enter, his work remains powerful and inspiring, while his memory for those of us who knew him remains treasured by us all.



Above Dave's left-hand shoulder is a J. S. Mill quote that Dave took to heart:

“He who knows only his own side of the case knows little of that. His reasons may be good, and no one may have been able to refute them. But if he is equally unable to refute the reasons on the opposite side, if he does not so much as know what they are, he has no ground for preferring either opinion . . . Nor is it enough that he should hear the opinions of adversaries from his own teachers, presented as they state them, and accompanied by what they offer as refutations. He must be able to hear them from persons who actually believe them . . . he must know them in their most plausible and persuasive form.”