

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
HEIDI ANN ROSS
(January 3, 1954 - February 28, 2016)

Heidi Ann Ross passed away at her home on February 28, 2016, from complications of pancreatic cancer. She was a world-renowned professor of comparative and international education who taught at Colgate University (1986-2002) and Indiana University (1986-1987, 2003-2016). Professor Ross earned a BA in Chinese Language and Literature at Oberlin College, an MA in Education/Applied Linguistics at the University of Michigan, and a PhD in Educational Foundations, Policy, and Administration at the University of Michigan. During her distinguished career, she taught and consulted at numerous institutions in East Asia, served as president of the Comparative and International Education Society, and held several editorial positions for the *Comparative Education Review*. At Colgate University Professor Ross was Chair of the Educational Studies Department and Director of the Asian Studies Program. At Indiana University, she served as Director of the East Asian Studies Center and codirected the Australian National University/Indiana University Pan Asia Institute since its founding in 2009.

Professor Ross published extensively on Chinese education, gender and schooling, and qualitative research methodology. Her best known books include: *China Learns English* (Yale: 1993), *The Ethnographic Eye: Interpretive Studies of Education in China* (Garland: 2000), and *Taking Teaching Seriously* (Paradigm: 2007). Her longitudinal study of the Spring Bud Program to promote rural girls' education in China is a landmark in the field of comparative and international education. Her 2002 Comparative and International Education Society Address, "The Space between Us: The Relevance of Relational Theories to Comparative and International Education," has significantly shaped theory and teaching in this field. She received several teaching and service awards at Indiana University, including the prestigious Presidential Award for excellence in teaching and the John W. Ryan Award for Distinguished Contributions to International Programs and Studies.

During her career, Professor Ross obtained several million dollars to support research, teacher training programs, and students. These include annual grants from the Freeman Foundation to support the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, which educates teachers of American middle- and high-schoolers about East Asian studies, and Title VI grants from the US State Department to support student training in languages, student travel grants, and outreach programs about international education. This and other funding initiatives reflected her commitment to support students and to integrate them into her research and teaching. However, global awareness, inequality, and social mobility issues beyond the university were also important to her, and she frequently worked with private, nonprofit organizations to better the lives of young women in rural China.

Professor Ross believed that a university administrator is first and foremost an educator and must strive daily to create with staff, students, and colleagues learning communities with shared missions. She summarized her career: “One of the most important characteristics of my approach to scholarship and teaching is collaboration. The longer I am in academe the more I have felt that living as a scholar, teacher, and occasional administrator demands vigilance about the ends of education, to understand what is crucial to our work—and what we are willing to give up. I realize the two things I can’t give up are collaboration and inter-disciplinary research. Both are crucial to my health as a scholar and human being. Trying to redress problems collaboratively, comparatively, and globally—well, that is a kind of hope in the possibility of taking a journey of solidarity.”

Heidi always lived her life with humility, gratitude, and grace. Her four-year struggle with cancer never displaced her need to walk on the sunny side of life. She continued to embrace life and refused to stop traveling, working, teaching, or mentoring. She loved travel, her gardens, her art, her family, and each of her students. Heidi affirmed life through these daily examples. She will be missed by the scores of students she mentored during her career and by all those who knew her. She is survived by her husband Bill Monaghan, her brother Tim Ross, and many nieces, nephews, and brothers- and sisters-in-law.

In memory of Heidi’s contributions to Indiana University and beyond, be it resolved that this memorial resolution become part of the minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council and that copies be sent to members of Heidi’s family.

G. William Monaghan
Senior Research Scientist, Geological Survey

Robert F. Arnove
Chancellor’s Professor Emeritus
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Barry L. Bull
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