

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

ALLEN DAY GRIMSHAW

(December 16, 1929 – June 15, 2011)

Allen Day Grimshaw was born December 16, 1929, in New York City. He attended high school in Auburn, Indiana, and began his undergraduate studies in engineering at Purdue University. He completed the AB degree in anthropology and sociology in 1950 at the University of Missouri and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. After service in the Air Force, Allen took his PhD at the University in Pennsylvania in 1959 with a dissertation on urban race riots. He joined the faculty at Indiana University-Bloomington in 1959 as Instructor and retired as Professor of Sociology in 1994.

Allen was a prolific writer, authoring or editing eight books and publishing more than ninety scholarly articles, anchored by the broad themes of peace and justice. Early in his career, Allen's research centered on social conflict and violence, leading to the volume *Racial Violence in the United States* (Aldine, 1969). His work later took a cross-cultural turn after fieldwork in India, culminating in a co-edited book, *Comparative Social Research* (Wiley, 1973).

Allen's international fieldwork experiences were the genesis of his keen appreciation of the importance of language for social life—and thus for social research. As co-chair of the Social Science Research Council's Committee on Sociolinguistics, he took on the challenge of educating sociologists, linguists, and linguistic anthropologists about what they could learn from each other. Allen saw language as a critical but often taken-for-granted resource for studies of inequality, conflict resolution, and social interaction. His papers on these subjects were published in *Language as Social Resource* (Stanford, 1981). Allen combined his interests in social conflict and language in his widely cited, edited volume *Conflict Talk* (Cambridge, 1990).

Later, Allen turned his attention to professional discourse, and embarked on an influential research project in which scholars from different disciplines were asked to analyze the same transcript of a doctoral dissertation defense. The result was publication of the monograph *Collegial Discourse: Professional Conversation Among Peers* (Ablex, 1989) and the edited volume *What's Going on Here? Complementary Studies of Professional Talk* (Ablex, 1994), which continue to be major contributions to the field of sociolinguistics.

Allen taught undergraduate or graduate courses on language, social conflict, social psychology, cross-cultural research methods, the city in India, and war as a social problem. He was named a Lilly Foundation Teaching Fellow in 1983-84. Katherine O'Donnell, whose PhD thesis was directed by Allen, noted, "Allen was an exacting but supportive mentor to graduate students. He was a real ally. He loved hearing our tales from the field and regaled us with his stories, holding court at the ASA and AAA conferences. His disdain for injustice and fascination with language and culture were palpable."

Allen was honored with election to the Sociological Research Association, and was a fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Anthropological Association. He received the Noel P. Gist Distinguished Alumnus Awards for Outstanding Scholarship and Service from the Department of Sociology at the University of Missouri. He chaired numerous committees of the American Sociological Association and served as editor of the *American Sociologist* and as associate editor of the *American Sociological Review* and *Sociometry*.

Allen was deeply involved in building the Department of Sociology at Indiana University to one of the best in the country. He took very seriously the cultivation and evaluation of junior faculty. His deep and imposing voice brought faculty meetings to order, and he was usually the first to ask penetrating and challenging questions to job candidates and visiting speakers. Allen was an avid raconteur with a rapier wit that was best appreciated when it was not aimed in your direction.

Allen and his wife, Polly, a Librarian in the University Library and a valued subject specialist in, the fields of anthropology folklore, women's studies, and sociology, were generous in their support of Indiana's Department of Sociology, providing the means to create an endowed professorship and a lecture series that bear their names. Allen remained an active participant in the intellectual and social life of the department even in the face of his long illness and the loss of his dearly loved wife, Polly. Allen was also extremely generous in providing service to Indiana University and to his profession.

In recognition of his commitment to the Department of Sociology, Indiana University and the profession, be it resolved that this resolution be a part of the minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council, and that copies be sent to his sons, Andrew S. Grimshaw and Adam T. Grimshaw.

William A. Corsaro, with help from Katherine O'Donnell, Hartwick College and Eliza K. Pavalko, Department of Sociology, Indiana University