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## In Memoriam

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In Memoriam

*The International Journal of Human Rights Education honors the lives and contributions of the following scholars and human rights advocates who recently passed away: Betty Reardon, Ian Harris, Johan Galtung, and J. Paul Martin.*





## **Betty Reardon (1929–2023)**

By Nancy Flowers\*

Human rights and peace education recently lost one of its earliest and most influential champions, Betty Reardon. Perhaps best known as a founder of the field of peace education, she regarded “Human rights education [to be] as fundamental and constitutive to peace education as human rights are to peace.” Her book *Educating for Human Dignity: Learning about Rights and Responsibilities* (University of Pennsylvania, 1995) was one of the first resources offering both guidance and materials for teaching human rights in schools.

Dr. Reardon held prominent roles in the establishment of key institutions in the field of peace studies, including founding the Peace Education Center and Program at Teachers College, Columbia University and the International Institute on Peace Education. She was also an accomplished scholar with numerous publications not only on peace education, but also on the intersection of peace with human rights and gender.

Betty Reardon believed in education as the key to a just and peaceful world. A beloved teacher, she inspired a generation of educators and activists. She herself never stopped learning, continuing to research, write, and teach well into her last decade.



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\* **Nancy Flowers** is a writer and consultant for human rights education. She has worked to develop Amnesty International’s education program and is a co-founder of Human Rights Educators USA. As a consultant to governments, NGOs, and UN agencies, she has helped establish networks of educators, develop materials, and train activists and professionals in many countries.  
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### **Ian Harris (1943–2023)**

By Edward J. Brantmeier\*\*

Ian Harris, influential scholar and co-leader in developing the field of peace education, passed away in May of 2023. Ian was born in New York City in the middle of World War II. He started his educational career as a biology, chemistry, and physics teacher at an alternative school in Philadelphia. He served on faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee from 1976-2007. As Chair, he helped create gateway opportunities for nontraditional students to matriculate and earn college education for their life experiences and through coursework.

In the early 2000s, Dr. Harris served as the President of the International Peace Research Association Foundation; he was also pivotal in launching the *Journal of Peace Education* in 2004. Ian published eight books, including *Peace Education* (2013); *Messages Men Hear: Constructing Masculinities* (1995); and *Peace Education from the Grassroots* (2013). He served as a peace education book series co-editor for Information Age Publishing from 2006-20016. He won multiple awards, including Peace Educator of the Year from the Consortium of Peace Research.

Ian lived a life of selfless service to others, dedicating time and effort to social justice causes in his local community and through his mentoring of countless graduate students, and junior faculty, in the field of peace education. In his retirement, he worked with incarcerated youth on peacebuilding efforts.



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\*\* **Edward J. Brantmeier** is a Professor in the Learning, Technology, and Leadership Education Department at James Madison University (JMU). He has worked in teacher education, educational leadership preparation, and university faculty development for over 20 years. His research interests include contemplative pedagogies, cultural competency, critical peace education, innovation, and future studies. Ed has co-learned alongside adult learners in his leadership, foundations, multicultural, and peace education courses for decades. [brantmej@jmu.edu](mailto:brantmej@jmu.edu)



## Johan Galtung (1930–2024)

By Monisha Bajaj<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

Johan Galtung, known as the “father of peace studies,” recently passed away at the age of 93. Galtung was 12 years old during World War II and saw his father arrested by Nazis in Norway; he committed his life to advancing peace and non-violence through his work. His first published book in 1955 was entitled “Gandhi’s Political Ethics.” Galtung founded the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) in 1959 and served as its director until 1970. In 1964, he helped found the International Peace Research Association and, in the same year, established the first academic journal in the field of peace studies, the *Journal of Peace Research*. In a seminal and widely-cited article in that journal, Galtung elaborated his concept of the “Conflict Triangle,” distinguishing between distinct forms of cultural, structural, and direct violence. He theorized the differences between ‘negative peace’ (the absence of war or direct violence) and ‘positive peace’ (the structures, policies and institutions that address injustices resulting from cultural and structural forms of violence). He also is credited with coining the term “peacebuilding.” Such concepts have become the core of peace and conflict studies and peace education, and have also been utilized by scholars and practitioners in many other fields.

Galtung was generous with his time and mentorship of scholars around the globe. He received the Right Livelihood Award (known as the Alternative or People’s Nobel Prize) in 1987. In 1993, he founded the

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<sup>\*\*\*</sup> **Monisha Bajaj** is Professor of International and Multicultural Education at the University of San Francisco as well as a Visiting Professor at Nelson Mandela University in South Africa. She is the editor and author of eight books and numerous articles on issues of peace, human rights, migration, and education. Dr. Bajaj has developed curriculum and teacher training materials—particularly related to human rights, racial justice, ethnic studies, and sustainability—for non-profit and national advocacy organizations as well as inter-governmental organizations, such as UNICEF and UNESCO. In 2015, she received the Ella Baker/Septima Clark Human Rights Award (2015) from Division B of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). [mibajaj@usfca.edu](mailto:mibajaj@usfca.edu)

TRANSCEND International, a training center and entity involved in advancing peace and reconciliation in conflicts around the globe; TRANSCEND believes that “to prevent violence and develop the creative potential of a conflict, there has to be transformation” (TRANSCEND, n.d.).<sup>1</sup> Galtung’s legacy will live on among new generations that encounter his rich conceptual contributions to the field and in those who take inspiration from his engaged efforts for peacebuilding across the globe.



### **J. Paul Martin (1936–2024)**

By Frances Vavrus<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>

Professor J. Paul Martin had a distinguished career at Columbia University and left an indelible mark on the interdisciplinary field of human rights. He served as the first executive director of Columbia University’s Center for the Study of Human Rights from 1978 until 2007, after which he directed the human rights program at Barnard College. Besides teaching human rights courses at those institutions, he developed training programs for experienced human rights advocates from and in developing countries, including in 1989 the ongoing annual Human Rights Advocates Program at Columbia.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2017/11/conflict-transformation-by-peaceful-means-the-transcend-method>

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup> **Frances Vavrus** is Vice Provost and Dean of the International Division at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She began her career as a professor at Teachers College, Columbia University followed by 15 years at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She has published numerous books and articles on secondary and teacher education in sub-Saharan Africa, and has advised more than 30 doctoral and 70 master's students. [fvavrus@wisc.edu](mailto:fvavrus@wisc.edu)

Paul had a particular passion for human rights education and African studies, informed by his years as Dean of Students at the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. His scholarship on human rights education and religious rights is well known, and it brought together theory and practical training in a manner that helped to set the stage for many subsequent scholar-practitioners in the field. When I was still a relatively new professor at Teachers College, I sought Paul's advice on the development of a course on human rights education in Africa. His enthusiasm and support for this proposal were critical to its success as it drew students from across the Columbia campus. Paul was a generous colleague who, in this case, offered readings, advice on the course structure, and volunteered as a guest speaker.

Paul's numerous publications, including a recent article, "[Evaluating the Past and Charting the Future of Human Rights Education](#),"<sup>2</sup> in this journal, cover human rights education as well as religions and human rights. His legacy of scholarly excellence, practical sensibility, and commitment to human rights around the world will not be forgotten.



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<sup>2</sup> See: <https://repository.usfca.edu/ijhre/vol7/iss1/6>