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Article

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economic sociology. perspectives and conversations

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Nigel Dodd (1965–2022)

obituary

August 25, 2022

Nigel Dodd passed away in London on August 12, 2022, after a period of illness. Dodd was professor of sociology at the London School of Economics and Political Science, which he joined in 1995. He earned his doctorate in 1991 at the University of Cambridge, with Anthony Giddens as his supervisor. His dissertation was published in 1994 by Polity Press with the title *The Sociology of Money, Economics, Reason and Contemporary Society*. Dodd was the editor of Volume 12 of this publication (2010–2011).

Nigel Dodd belonged to the first generation of economic sociologists in Europe and was among those who actively formed the field. He had a very strong theoretical background. In some ways, the label sociological theory on economic phenomena would have worked equally well to capture the essence of Dodd's work. In an interview, available online, with Riad Azar, Dodd presents his view on theory in general. He wrote two books on money, or better said, on currency and money, a distinction that he felt some failed to draw. In the years between these two books, he published another, *Social Theory and Modernity*. His writing has an interesting and productive blend of sociology, philosophy, and history of ideas. This approach led him to pursue studies of utopian money, which positioned money in the context of society and the larger social movements that aim to reform society. These and other of his works show how well positioned he was not only in economic sociology but in sociology at large. During his editorship of this publication, then called

Economic Sociology: The European Electronic Newsletter, he put a strong emphasis on money and finance but showed great variety in the voices and views he invited to be part of the conversation. Dodd's larger sociological mission must also be seen in his role as editor of the *British Journal of Sociology*, a mission he pursued to the end of his life.

The first time I had the privilege to meet Nigel Dodd was as a doctoral student at a conference in Stockholm more than twenty years ago. A few years later, I was lucky enough to sit in his office during my postdoc at the LSE and have good conversations with him about sociology and life. One issue we talked about, and from which I learned, was the relation between money and markets, a relation that is obvious but hard to theorize. I also worked with him to co-edit a volume, the title of which was Nigel's idea: *Re-Imagining Economic Sociology*, which connects well with his mission to go beyond the tradition and seek inspiration for theory development also from other spheres of life, including literature. Our paths crossed several times, but our interaction has now sadly come to an end, way too soon.

I am certainly not alone in missing him. He will be missed by his family, who were with him at the end, friends, and colleagues. Nigel was a person about whom people always spoke very well. I will personally remember him as a great scholar and a spiritual, positive, and lovely person.

Patrik Aspers, Professor of Sociology, University of St. Gallen