



In Memory of Assoc. Prof. Laurence Raw (1959-2018)

Laurence Raw completed his undergraduate education in Britain at the University of Exeter, received his PhD in Renaissance studies from the University of Sussex, and began his professional career at Bilkent University in 1989. He was employed as a lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature, where he was a young, enthusiastic lecturer. He also worked at the British Council in Ankara as a British Studies manager until 1999. Between 1990 -1999 he taught at Hacettepe University's Department of English Language and Literature. During this period, British Cultural Studies was established in Turkey and Laurence Raw's contribution to this development was very important. He taught both drama and cultural studies courses at Hacettepe University, helping with the launching of the first MA programme in 1993 and three years later the PhD programme. He also organized cultural studies certificate programmes and evening courses at the British Council.

Dr. Raw's teaching was always out of the ordinary, inventive and enthusiastic. His colorful and student-centered methods made these courses very popular and helped this new field of study to be acknowledged in Turkey in a very short while. He was also instrumental in establishing and contributing to the development of the Cultural Studies Conference hosted by Ege University in İzmir. He coedited two of the proceedings of the conference and presented numerous papers.

Laurence was always very enthusiastic about teaching, devoting himself to students and their development, which he continued until his

very last days in the hospital, teaching and keeping in contact via Skype. During this arduous journey, he maintained his British character and what he defined as “keeping the head held high, with a stiff upper lip,” always “putting his best foot forward.” He was a living example of wry British humor in the departments in which he worked and did not hesitate to illustrate the British character, even sometimes going to eccentric lengths to bring this culture to Turkish students, colleagues and audiences.

He later moved on to Bařkent University’s Department of American Culture and Literature, followed by the Department of English Language Teaching. He also extended his field of interest to embrace film and adaptation studies. He enthusiastically devoted himself to the field, publishing articles and books in this field and encouraging young academics to take up research in this area. Meanwhile, between the years 2013 and 2016 he became the editor of JAST. With his energetic and dedicated approach, he brought this prestigious journal up to date.

Laurence Raw was always through and through British in his colorful personality, gestures and mimics as well as his studies, but he also became a true, accepted member of the Turkish departments in which he worked. True to his drama and theatre studies, he also undertook work on Turkish drama and films.

Laurence Raw was always quite a character of his own. It was not always possible to agree with him but he brought energy, innovation and enthusiasm wherever he went. He contributed to the development of new areas of study and research and helped to establish them in Turkey, actively taking part, every step of the way. Turkish departments and scholarship benefited tremendously from his contributions. Students cherished his lively and original teaching methods. Even during his long struggle with his illness, he gave many talks and presentations, always putting up a brave face.

Laurence Raw definitely left a mark in the lives of everyone he came into contact with, as an instructor, as an academic, as a colleague and as a friend. His influence and contributions are still evident in the institutions he worked. His memory will be cherished by those who got to know him. May he rest in peace.

Prof. Dr. Burin Erol