

COMMEMORATIVE NOTES BY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

I am so sorry to hear about Werner's unexpected death. He's been such a giant presence in philosophy of biology and biology studies more generally, and will be greatly missed. I remember my trip to KLI last fall, and Werner's generosity and good cheer throughout. It was a wonderful experience, and one of so many Werner made possible.

Many condolences, and best wishes,
Melinda

Melinda Bonnie Fagan
Sterling McMurrin Associate Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
University of Utah

Dearest friend Werner...I will miss you greatly...

Heartfelt condolences to his family, loved ones and KLI friends

luca

Luca Tommasi, PhD
University of Chieti-Pescara
BLOCCO A di Psicologia

Please, accept my condolences for the untimely passing of the Scientific Director of the KLI.

Werner Callebaut was a remarkable scholar, cherished mentor and dearest friend.
Bright personality, full of life, he will be deeply missed.

Nina Atanasova, colleague and friend

I am so sorry to hear of Werner's death and to think of the great loss you must feel. Werner has been a personal friend since 1980 (before I even knew I'd go to the USA to do a PhD) and I will miss the conversations based on intersecting, winding intellectual and cross-national journeys. But you surely miss day to day how Werner has supported the work of countless others in his roles as professor, scientific director of KLI, and editor of the journal Biological Theory.

My condolences,
Peter Taylor

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Prof. Peter Taylor,
University of Massachusetts Boston

I was shocked to hear of Werner's sudden passing. Please accept my condolences. I would be honoured if you would put the following words on Werner's condolence page:

At the University of Maastricht, I got to know Werner Callebaut as a passionate teacher and researcher, with a healthy distrust of academic bureaucracy. He thought I was a postmodern fashionista; I thought he was a romantic positivist. Werner fueled and sparked my love for evolutionary thinking. His teaching changed my view of life, and not just in the biological sense of the word. And he caused my wife and me to fall in love with the city of Liège, where he lived in those days and where we would end up living as well for quite some years.

Intellectually, I owe Werner a lot. His very kind, sometimes complicated but always cheery personality will be missed.

Tom Mulder
University of Twente

On behalf of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at University of Rijeka we wish to express our condolences for the loss of our friend and teacher Werner Callebaut. The news of Werner's decease came as a great shock to all of us, it is hard to imagine that such a kind and warm person is no longer with us.

We have known Werner personally and many of our departmental colleagues have been in contact with him at the IUC Philosophy of science conferences in Dubrovnik. In addition, one of our students has currently been doing research at the KLI under Werners supervision. We will remember with great fondness the time spent with Werner, since he was not just a great scholar but also a genuinely wonderful person with whom we enjoyed collaborating.

Professionally, we admired his passionate approach to philosophy of biology and theoretical biology and his deep commitment in assisting young scholars and students in the region. We will miss Werners sparkling insights into philosophy of biology and equally his joyfull energetic approach to academic life.

Dear Werner, with many thanks from Rijeka, yours,
Predrag, Boran, Nenad, Marko, Zdenka and the rest of the Department of philosophy

Predrag Šustar
Dean
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Rijeka
Sveučilina avenija 4,51000 Rijeka
<http://www.ffri.uniri.hr/>

Werner Callebaut was one of the most intelligent, gracious, humble, kind, and insightful scholars that I have ever met. Although his scientific and philosophical accomplishments were many, he was devoid of any ego or pedantry. Instead he was continually thinking of others, continually excited about new ideas and eager to discuss them. The clear bright light of his goodness and his openness was his clearest trait. From talking biology to enjoying good beer, he lit up conversation, scholarship, and camaraderie. He is impossible to replace. Blessings, Werner. We shall all miss you.

Kristin Shrader-Frechette, Ph.D., O'Neill Family Endowed Professor
Department of Philosophy and Department of Biological Sciences
Director, Center for Environmental Justice and Children's Health
100 Malloy Hall, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556

I'd like to express how shocked I am with Werner's death. So unexpected indeed! Last year when we met in Montpellier he was thriving with life. It is a great loss for the community of history, philosophy, and sociology of biology!

My condolences
Charbel El-Hani
Institute of Biology
Federal University of Bahia
Brazil

I just found out that Werner passed away and wanted to let you and everyone at KLI know that I am shocked by the news. While I am confident that the institute is strong enough to absorb this loss, it also will never again be quite the same place without him. In my mind, at least, Werner was in many ways the heart and soul of the institute as I experienced it. He will be missed.

Wishing you all the best,

Jan-Willem Stoelhorst
University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam Business School

I was shocked to learn that Werner Callebaut has passed away. Werner was irreplaceable as a driving force in the philosophy of biology, and his continuing efforts to re-establish the field in the Low Countries and to bridge the gap between the philosophy of biology and theoretical biology will be sorely missed. We all have lost a very good friend and a core figure in the field.

Thomas Reydon

Prof. Dr. Thomas Reydon, Junior Professor of Philosophy of Biology
Leibniz Universität Hannover, Institute of Philosophy
Im Moore 21, 30167 Hannover, Germany

I met Werner at the KLI in 1996, where soon after he became my mentor, teacher and later PhD supervisor. He influenced my professional and philosophical development in uncountable ways, and introduced me to uncountable many future colleagues and friends, not to mention my future partner for life. I haven't yet come to terms with his passing. I will be forever in his debts. – Karola Stotz

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Karola Stotz
TWCF Fellow
Senior Lecturer
Philosophy Department
Macquarie University

Konrad Lorenz once complained that scientists and philosophers feel no obligation to keep themselves informed of what is happening on the other side of the fence. Werner Callebaut was one of the few biologists disposed to overcome the opposition of the two cultures that human self-consciousness relies on. *Biological Theory* will prove to be an unreplaceable cornerstone of this generous and creative way of thinking.

Mit besten Wünschen für das Konrad Lorenz Institut
und freundlichem Gruß aus Münster,
Ferdinand Fellmann

--

Dr. Ferdinand Fellmann
Prof. em. für Philosophie
an der TU Chemnitz

Jean Gayon

"As director of the Institute of History and Philosophy of Sciences and Techniques (Paris), and also as a personal friend, I would like to express my deepest condolences to Werner's colleagues and friends, and to the KLI. I know of nobody in the world who contributed so significantly to the internationalization of philosophy of biology. Werner Callebaut made the KLI a unique institution in that respect. The creation of Biological Theory, was too, a big event: this journal almost immediately became a major journal in the field. But Werner was, too, an incredibly imaginative and productive thinker. From his initial work on Robert Nelson and evolutionary economics, to his last contributions on big data, not to speak of his celebrated Taking the Naturalistic turn, or how real philosophy of science is done (1993), he was unendingly creative and open new routes for philosophy of biology and biological theory."

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Jean Gayon
Professeur à l'Université Paris 1-Panthéon Sorbonne, membre senior de l'IUF
Directeur de l'IHPST

Werner was a great philosopher, and he was one of the few people who put into our field its dynamics and its friendly character. He was exceptionally kind and a very human person. This is a very tragic loss, and I can somehow feel how terrible is this event for you who were working with him more constantly.

I just wanted to tell you how sorry I feel about that, and that I, with many of my friends and colleagues here, share your sorrow.

-- Philippe Huneman

Philippe Huneman
Université Paris 1-Panthéon Sorbonne

Werner was a good friend, a fine gentleman and a brilliant scholar.
I wish to recall, among the several merits he had, the efforts he did to improve the level of both the European philosophy of biosciences and the communications among junior and senior scholars coming from different traditions.

He was a man of peace.

He was a good friend
Giovanni Boniolo

Dipartimento di Scienze della Salute
University of Milano
&
Department of Experimental Oncology
European Institute of Oncology (IEO)
via Adamello 16-20139 Milano- Italy
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Werner Callebaut was a unique intellectual, whose inexhaustible vitality, passion, incisiveness and open-mindedness contributed enormously to the successful development of philosophy of biology world-wide. As many younger scholars in this field, I met him in the first days of my PhD training, and he proved to be an inspiring mentor, colleague and friend, and a steadfast source of support and inspiration, ever since. His mentorship and guidance has benefitted the intellectual and personal development of countless philosophers and scientists over the last twenty years, and contributed greatly to making sure that our field does not lose contact with the science which it analyses, but rather that philosophical and scientific work evolve in constructive dialogue and reciprocal respect. His ability to reach across fields of relevance to the philosophical understanding of biology (comprising areas as far removed as economics, evolutionary biology, history, sociology and cognitive science), as well as across national cultures, languages and traditions (most notably the 'continental-analytic' divide among philosophers of science), made him into a perfect ambassador and scientific director for the KLI. He was also a shrewd organiser, with the rare ability not only to produce ideas, but to transform them into reality in ways that were inclusive and transformative for others — among his many achievements in this respect, aside from the wonderful community he created at the KLI, are his creation of the journal Biological Theory and his many initiatives fostering the training of young philosophers, such as the creation of

a European Advanced School in the Philosophy of Biology, whose latest session took place two months ago at the KLI, and his support for the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology, of which he was currently President. Adding to this background and vision, Werner was an inventive, ebullient thinker, able to intervene in and shape several crucial debates within and outside of the life sciences. He was due to take part in a project on data-intensive biology that is starting at Egenis this coming month, and he will be very dearly missed both as a contributor and as a friend. His untimely death is a serious blow to our field, and leaves us with an immensely rich legacy for the future.

Sabina Leonelli

Associate Director of the Exeter Centre for the Study of the Life Sciences (Egenis)

Associate Professor in Philosophy and History of Science at the University of Exeter, UK

I was deeply saddened by the news of Werner Callebaut's passing. I would like to offer my sympathy to his family and loved ones, and to his friends and colleagues at the KLI and elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Antoine C. Dussault

Université de Montréal, Collège Lionel-Groulx

I was greatly saddened last month to be informed of the death of Werner Callebaut, Scientific Director of the Konrad Lorenz Institute, Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Biological Theory* published by Springer, Co-editor of the Vienna book series in *Theoretical Biology* published by MIT Press, and at the time of his death, President of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology.

I have been trying to remember when I first met Werner. I clearly remember the actual conversation and I believe it probably was at the ISHPSSB (ishkakibble to insiders) meetings at Oaxaca, Mexico in 1999. At a coffee break he came up to me and said "you're Marion Blute" and to my astonishment he began talking about a paper I had published on "Sociocultural Evolution: An Untried Theory" in *Behavioral Science* in 1979 based on part of my PhD thesis! I looked down at his name tag and exclaimed "Ah, Callebaut", your book is my favourite book in the philosophy of science" and it was. The book was Werner's "Taking the Naturalistic Turn: How Real Philosophy of Science is Done" (1993). As a sociologist I had loved the way he studied the philosophy of science (specifically of biology) by interviewing theorists (the subtitle of his book had been a playful reference to debates over realism and relativism in philosophy and the title as a whole drew attention to the fact that he was studying science studies empirically - i.e. doing "real" philosophy.) I long had the idea of replicating something of Werner's study and finally got around to it a decade later with a graduate student, Paul Armstrong. We interviewed some philosophers and others who had put forward general theories of the scientific process and published it in *Perspectives on Science* in 2011. One of my great satisfactions as an academic was the pleasure I gave Werner in talking about some extensions of that work at the ISH meeting in Cleveland in 2011. He sat in the front row with a big grin on his face - so pleased that his classic continued to bear fruit.

We had many interactions over the years both in person and via e-mail. We disagreed about systems theory but were both admirers of Donald Campbell. I remarked to him once that a lot of the conceptual analyses that philosophers of science engage in at ISH and elsewhere are scientifically useful and important and he agreed, adding that was why he was attempting to start a journal. I helped him out with *Biological Theory*, particularly in the early days, with some refereeing and other things, published a few pieces in the journal, and have remained on the editorial board and later the editorial advisory board to this day. I spent a pleasant afternoon at KLI after the Vienna meetings in 2003. In 2008 he wanted me to come and finish my book there, but with the books and papers I had accumulated for the work over the years, I decided it was impossible. In 2010 we discussed organizing a colloquia on the evolution of anisogamy (the foundations of the biological theory of gender differences and relations) which his board quickly approved but then we caught wind of a book to be published including articles by most of the people we would have invited so decided to scrap the project. Instead, I wrote an article on the topic and published it in *Biological Theory* in 2013.

This spring in the course of communicating about a book review he wanted me to do, he sent me a long e-mail about all the things he had been up to. He was so pleased that the new KLI building was more or less complete - at least the large, noisy crane had finally been dismantled! I read his article on scientific perspectivism that he sent with pleasure and true to his habit, which he said he had inherited from Donald Campbell, whatever I sent him he broadcast to anyone he thought would be interested. I was on the ISH nominations committee when Werner was nominated as President. Although enthusiastic, I wondered whether anyone could really handle managing KLI, the journal and the society all at once. But sure enough he assembled the biggest group of people to work on various committees for ISH that we have ever had. And this is the point. Werner was not only an accomplished intellectual in the traditional sense of broad-ranging interests, but also a great colleague and a superb networker. It is going to take a minimum of at least three people to replace him functionally, but he will never be replaced to his friends.

Marion Blute, Emeritus Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto.

I have delayed writing this for far too long. It was a terrible and traumatic shock, and I simply didn't know how to deal with it. I have known Werner for over 30 years, from the first year he came to the US, to come see me and Don Campbell, and have counted him as one of my closest friends. He returned to Chicago another 2 or 3 times for extended periods while writing his book, which was basically the brilliant construction of a new literary form, and I sympathized with him thru his juggling of multiple jobs until he landed at the KLI, which was as ideally suited to him as he was to it.

Barb remembers returning from school, several times, to see Werner and I sitting out on our back porch in Chicago (he just arrived from the airport) drinking the selection of Belgian beers he had brought (often in the glasses he had liberated from various Bierhallen. These we still have and treasure!)

Werner was an intellectual omnivore, and knew more about more diverse topics than virtually anyone I know. He was superb at bringing people together. And a truly original

thinker. The idea of taking the interviews he did for Belgian public radio, intertwining them as conversations on the topics covered in the various interviews, rather than as transcripts from the interviewees, was an inspiration, but then sending the conversations to all of us and asking whether we had anything to add was truly inspired, and his beautifully synthesized product stands as the most penetrating vision of the philosophical and scientific side of the new movement that became ISHPSSB in existence. It is a fitting tribute that he was voted president in this last year.

Werner also stands out for his support of younger scholars, which suited him ideally to the KLI, and it to him. A generation of philosophers, biologists and cognitive scientists, historians, and sociologists of science benefitted from his counsel and support, as did the many KLI conferences that took place in Altenberg from 1996 on. The conception of our scaffolding book was significantly scaffolded by his interaction and support, and I wish that we could dedicate it to him retroactively.

We will all miss his cheery presence and memories of lunches at the KLI and beers elsewhere as long as we live, but thankfully he has left his salutary marks on our discipline in many ways. We and our intellectual children will continue to benefit for many years to come.

Sadly, and in warm memories of our common friend,

William C. Wimsatt
Winton Chair, College of Liberal Arts
751 Heller Hall
Minnesota Center for the Philosophy of Science
University of Minnesota
773-454-1225
wwim@umn.edu

Werner Callebaut was an inspired and acute scholar, covering philosophy and epistemology as well as biology. At the same time he was a great lover of, and authority on jazz, a master of the anecdote, displaying a wonderful sense of understatement and absurdity.

Together we have made a number of safari tours through Belgium: Werner led us to landscapes of industrial decay, through idyllic hills still engraved by all those wars, and to surrealistic quarters of forgotten towns. We mourn for this erudite and melancholic friend and remember the marvellous time we were allowed to share with him.

Prof dr Tannelie Blom
Prof dr Maarten Doorman
Prof dr Ton Nijhuis
Dr. Joseph Wachelder

Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam
Universiteit van Amsterdam Prins Hendrikkade 189B 1011 TD Amsterdam

I am sorry for your loss. Werner was a genuinely kind, sociable and funny person. I'm glad to have met him. He will be sadly missed.

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Sincerely,
Katinka Quintelier

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nl.linkedin.com/in/katinkaquintelier/

Im Gedenken an einen großartigen, mutigen Menschen – Werner Callebaut – frei nach Rainer Maria Rilke:

Der Tod ist groß (zu groß?).

Wenn wir uns mitten im Leben meinen,

wagt er zu weinen

mitten in uns.

Maria Kronfeldner, Central European University, Budapest

Prof. Werner Callebaut has taught for many years the course 'Philosophy of Science' to the students of our faculty of Sciences at Universiteit Hasselt (Belgium). In honour of Prof. Callebaut, a symposium has been organized at Universiteit Hasselt on February 16th 2011 with as title 'The Future of Freedom in Science'. This honorary symposium – with the collaboration of Prof. Artois, Prof. Van Bendegem, Prof. Van Kerkhove and the rector of Universiteit Hasselt, Prof. De Schepper - grew out to a wonderful, mindshifting and exciting event. It was also the last time that I had the good fortune to encounter Prof. Callebaut.

Our sincere condolences to the family and colleagues. We remember him with lots of affection and esteem.

Prof.dr. Jean Manca

Former Dean of the Faculty of Sciences – Universiteit Hasselt - Belgium

Dear Prof. dr. Müller and all at KLI,

grieved by the sudden passing of our most valuable colleague Werner Callebaut, I kindly ask you to hereby accept my sincerest condolences

- on behalf of the Centre National de Recherches de Logique / Nationaal Centrum voor Navorsingen in de Logica, its president Prof. dr. Marcel Crabbé and all fellows
(www.logic-center.be)

- on behalf of the Centre for Logic and Philosophy of Science at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, its president Prof. dr. Jean Paul Van Bendegem and all members (www.clwf.be)

- personally, as Werner's successor as a lecturer in philosophy of science at Universiteit Hasselt (www.uhasselt.be)

I am very sorry to be unable to attend the burial ceremony, but will certainly take a future opportunity to visit Werner's remains near the place where he has been professionally active for so long, and moreover to such considerable success.

I salute a great philosopher and friend.

Prof. dr. Bart Van Kerkhove

Werner was a polymath and a brilliant mind, but much more important for the KLI – he was an outstanding mentor who poured his soul into the support of the many fellows and visitors to the KLI. In a highly competitive profession where young scholars struggle to establish themselves, Werner was a port in the storm. I know that many feel like they lost a father. And speaking for myself, Werner's support was essential in my carrying through my book project (not done yet, but in sight). I will always be in his debt, and I like so many will miss his friendship.

Stuart Glennan

Professor of Philosophy & Associate Dean, Butler University, Indianapolis

I am extremely sad to learn the death of Werner Callebaut and I want to send you all my sympathy and courage for this difficult moment of the loss of a friend and a colleague.

Less than a year ago, Werner came as a member of the jury for my PhD defense in Paris and he gave me really good advices. I still was in touch with him, I saw him twice during the summer and I cannot realize that he has passed away.

Antonine Nicoglo

Université Paris 1-Panthéon Sorbonne

Werner and I have known each other since 1984. We could go a year or two without talking, but immediately start a conversation where we left off. It was a relationship with its own tensions, yet firmly grounded in a confidence in each other.

With sympathy and affection,

Linnda Caporael

Department of Science & Technology Studies. Sage Laboratory, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Troy, NY

I'm terribly sorry. It was so unexpected. Werner helped so much, and I was looking forward meeting him again in Chicago. It is a terrible loss.

Tudor Baetu

Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos (UNISINOS), Brazil

We would like to take this opportunity to convey our condolences to Dr. Callebaut's friends and relatives, and to the many colleagues in all parts of the world who held him in esteem.

Anya Plutynski

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

I have been very sad when reading this terrible news. I did not know Werner very well but I had the opportunity to meet him twice: once in Paris for a seminar at IHPST, and more recently in Klosterneuburg for the last EASPLS. These moments were short, but long enough for me to appreciate Werner's great work, great kindness and remarkable sense of hospitality.

Gaëlle Pontarotti

Université Paris 1-Panthéon Sorbonne

I'm very sorry, a big loss for all of us. Please, transmit my condolences to the people in the KLI, I'm with you all in these moments.

Maria José Frapolli

University of Granada, Spain

What an incredibly sad message to read. I didn't know Werner before I arrived in Vienna but even to me this comes as a shock, so I can't imagine how painful it must be for those who were friends with him for years. The KLI must feel very empty without him. My deepest sympathy to all.

Eveline Seghers

Ghent University, Belgium

I've learned yesterday about the disparition of Werner with sadness and consternation. Although I didn't know him very well, he appeared to me as a very gentle and sympathetic person and since I suppose that you were good friends, I wanted to tell you my sincere regrets and condoleance. I don't know anything about his family but if you have the opportunity to tell them the regrets of the whole philosophy of science community, I will be a part of it.

Guilliaume Schlaepfer

Département de Philosophie, Université de Genève, CH

I write to pass on our many condolences from Dominique and I to you, Gerd and Eva. I am deeply sorry to hear of Werner's sudden passing. He and I had some great times together, and he generously helped me establish myself in this career. I will definitely miss him.

Miles Macleod

TINT, Academy of Finland, Centre of Excellence in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences

I am still reeling from the shock, sadness, pain, and disbelief of our loss. This is too hard to accept. I cannot imagine how terrible things are for you all over there. Please take care of yourselves. I am so sorry. He will be missed so dearly.

Lynn Chiu

Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri

I learned something new from every encounter I ever had with Werner. After my talk at the recent workshop he asked me if I was in fact rejecting the "Malthusian assumption" implicit in standard evolutionary theory. That was precisely what I had been doing, but I never put a name for it, so did not appreciate its ramifications. When I got home I did a search, which led me to Werner's wonderful 2007 Biological Theory article on Herbert Simon, which I had missed, where he laid out the whole issue in elegant detail. I wrote to Werner with some comments and questions and was greatly looking forward to continuing the conversation. He also always made me laugh. The loss is terrible.

Stuart Newman

New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY

Elisa and I have been in total shock ever since we heard the devastating news about Werner yesterday. We can only begin to imagine how you must be feeling. In truth, we are still finding it hard to believe what has happened.... Our thoughts are with you in this difficult time.

Daniel Nicholson

University of Exeter, GB

May I express my deepest sympathy to the KLI family.

Werner will be remembered.

Marcel Weber

Département de Philosophie, Université de Genève, CH

Even though I did not know Werner very well, I am touched and I share your profound sadness.

Thibault Racovski

University of Exeter, GB

Werner Callebaut's contributions to science will be praised by many of his colleagues, who are better placed to do so. At Hasselt University, we will remember Werner as a lecturer who had the somewhat difficult task of teaching philosophy of science to scientists-to-be. Difficult at least at the start of a semester because many physicists, chemists and biologist start out considering philosophy to be a petty intellectual pursuit that has no bearing on the real world.

However, throughout his course, many students came to see the relevance of studying the processes that create "science". They became fascinated with the evolution of how science was perceived throughout history and how the scientific process ought to operate according to leading thinkers of the era. He inspired many to reconsider their preconceptions of science. It is probably safe to assert that Werner has made a significant difference in how a generation of scientists thinks about their day to day work and methodology.

Some of those students later became his friends and colleagues. Many of us fondly remember long conversations with Werner over a glass of wine, or at the table of a good restaurant. It was nice talking to him, with his warm and cordial personality, his self-deprecating air and modesty. He will be greatly missed.

For the Hasselt University community:

Prof. dr. Tom Artois

Prof. dr. Geert-Jan Bex

Prof. dr. Paul Janssen

This is terrible news and a great shock. Veena and I find it difficult to believe it. Our stay at KLI was such that both of us feel we have lost a member of our household. To all of you at KLI, the absence of Werner will be felt every day. We join you in your sorrow.

Vidyanand Nanjundiah and Veena Rao

Centre for Human Genetics, Bangalore, IN

Ich bin erschüttert und traurig.... Ich kann mir nicht vorstellen, dass Werner nicht mehr ist. Ich habe ihn nicht so gut gekannt, aber die Zeit, die ich mit ihm verbracht habe, war wahnsinng inspirierend, anregend und lustig. Ich werde ihn vermissen.

Verena Halsmayer

Universität Wien

Ich bin sprachlos zu hören, dass Werner nicht mehr da ist. Mein aufrichtiges Beileid. Beim EASPLS im September haben wir noch gemeinsam über die 'alten' KLI-Zeiten geplaudert und gelacht. Ich kann mir kaum vorstellen das KLI zu betreten ohne Werner wieder zu treffen. Ich werde ihn vermissen.

Joeri Witteveen

Utrecht University, NL

When I first met Werner, at the Modularity Workshop in 2000, his was a species I hadn't encountered before: a philosopher engaged in biology. And frankly, I was a bit skeptical of what exactly he did. By the time I submitted my chapter for the book, and Werner told me, "This is exactly what we were looking for", I realized that we were perhaps from the same unnamed tribe, and that perhaps he was exactly the philosopher I had been looking for.

When I arrived at the new KLI in April, the first thing I heard is that Werner had stories for every corner and street in Vienna. How I looked forward to hearing all of those stories. That Werner was the "go to guy" for cultural historical knowledge was something he seemed to be unaware of, as when I asked him some arcane historical question, he said, "Why are you asking me?"

In the brief 6 months I got to know Werner, I came to realize he was not simply the editor of the journal and scientific director, he was an anchor --- his deep knowledge of the past 2500 years of scientific endeavor gave us all a firm anchor amidst the trending seas of scientific fashion, a groundedness that reassured me my work was of value even when it wasn't "the latest thing." Alas, we are without that anchor, Werner.

We were enjoying tapas at a Spanish cafe near Schwedenplatz last spring, and the subject of health came up, and Werner said, "I am pretty robust." I truly believed him. And so, when I got the e-mail while I was thousands of miles away, it was quite incomprehensible--it was a combination of words that could not be understood.

Werner's ontogeny was far too brief. I count it as a blessing I was able to know him far as long as I did. But I wanted so much more --- I wanted to hear those stories of Vienna, I wanted to hear him say again of my next paper, "This is exactly what we were looking for." Werner could find things to be indescribably funny. I want to hear that laugh again.

Lee Altenberg

The KLI Institute, Klosterneuburg

Really sorry --and still shocked-- after hearing the sad news today.

A big hug to all the KLI family.

Kepa Ruiz Mirazo

Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, San Sebastián

This is obviously a complete shock and extremely sad.

Brian McLoone

University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI

How tragic, with all those plans Werner still had in mind. With sympathy,

Maarten Boudry

University of Ghent

Your news is really a shock. I've known Werner for 30 years or more. This is truly sad.

Bob Richards

University of Chicago, IL

My sympathies and thoughts are with you all.

Rachel Ankeny

University of Adelaide

A TERRIBLE SURPRISE. AND A GREAT LOSS. How very sad.

Richard and Katherine Nelson

Columbia University, NY

What a shock! I am deeply saddened -- it is a great loss to the community.

Evelyne Fox Keller

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

I am so so sorry. I cannot tell you what a blow this is. It is devastating.

You have my sincere condolences.

Jim Griesemer

University of California, Davis, CA

Oh my god. That is terrible news. My condolences to everyone.

Jeffrey H. Schwartz

University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

I'm deeply sorry, and shocked about these news. This is a big lost for friends and science.

Piera Filippi

Center for Brain, Mind, and Cognitive Evolution, Bochum

Ich bin fassungslos...das tut mir so leid! Und wieder mal zeigt sich, wie wichtig es ist, Zeit mit den Menschen, die einem lieb und wichtig sind, zu verbringen, da's so schnell vorbei sein kann... Mein aufrichtiges Beileid an Euch alle!

Elisabeth Zimmermann

Universität Wien

This is such devastatingly sad news. I'm so sorry. I want you to know how much I admired Werner, and how much I appreciate how kind he has been to me.

Denis Walsh

University of Toronto

This is shocking news. I was looking forward to see him in a few weeks in Rovereto! Sad, very sad.

Liliana Albertazzi

Center for Mind/Brain Sciences (CIMEC) and Trento University

I am very saddened and shocked by this newsmy deepest condolences.

Ehab and Ruba Abouheif

McGill University, Montréal

What a !!!! loss :-)

I'm truly sorry for all of us missing such a good academic, for you losing the KLI irremplazable rock, but specially for we sadly losing such a nice and close friend.

Paola Hernández Chávez

Centro Lombardo, Ciudad de México, D.F.

Please accept my deep condolences.

Naomi Oreskes

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

I am so sorry for the great loss.

Federica Turriziani Colonna

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

I am so deeply shocked to hear this news! I honestly cannot believe this terrible news, and I feel very sorry for the loss to the community. Please pass my condolences to Werner's family and to everyone at the institute.

Michela Massimi

The University of Edinburgh

I'd say that we've had a good time at the KLI: a wonderful environment, great working conditions and such freedom for doing our own projects! This was mostly thanks to Werner. He was the soul of the KLI.

I remember Werner as a jolly grumpy hypermnesic, with a lust for life expressed in crazy working habits and possibly too much drinking and smoking. He had a fascinating personality! It was incredibly enriching to talk with him, especially if you could distract him from his focus on the problems of the KLI. Trains, jazz, philosophy of science, evolutionary theory, the history of belgium and europe, ... How knowledgeable and enthusiastic he was!

We know that Werner was instrumental in the theoretical research on evolutionary theory. With his role as editor of Biological Theory, president of ISHPSSB and director of the KLI, he was a sort of contemporary Mersenne of evolutionary theory. He knew everybody and everybody's work. He helped me to think of evolutionary theory in a much more subtle way than I initially did. In my view, Werner was among the subtlest thinkers of the extended synthesis--away from some of its marketing claims yet eager to support it for its great potential.

Werner was often judgemental. He would categorize people and their work as good or bad in a rather Manichean way. Yet, he was always surprisingly supportive of 'his' fellows. He liked us all in a fatherly way. As Joeri points out, we, fellows and past fellows, were really his family. Myself, I sincerely regret that I have not been more in touch with him lately.

Christophe Heintz

Central European University, Budapest

In the bookcases above his desk, Werner Callebaut put a couple of books on display, as he liked to do, before he disappeared. They are still there as I write, lodged between a collector's jazz EP and the national flag of Belgium. The latest addition was a book titled 'La raison gourmande', by Michel Onfray. I haven't read the book, and probably won't. (In fact, I suspect that Werner impishly put it there because he knew my dislike for the author.) Yet, thinking back on Werner, that phrase comes back. *La raison gourmande*

could translate (liberally) as “the sweet tooth of reason” or “a craving for reason”. That, to me, was Werner: a larger-than-life appetite for new ideas, new arguments, new languages, new people. An open mind, and with an open mouth to voice it too: he liked to remark that the name Callebaut came from a phrase meaning “speak out loud and bold”.

One thing about Werner that impressed every one of his friend was how many things he knew that nobody else did. I don’t just mean academic facts and trivia, of which he was an undisputed master. He knew the words of every French song from 1940 to 1980. He was the kind of person who could tell you that the “Tram 33” in Brussels (of Jacques Brel fame) had, in fact, never existed. And so the Friterie Chez Eugène was probably a myth too. (Or was it? The inference was a matter of endless philosophical debate.)

Beyond all that, though, he was an old-fashioned polyglot European intellectual, and quite self-conscious about this too. He saw himself as a member of a dying breed. Just like he lamented the fragmentation of Belgium, or Europe, he lamented the trend toward specialisation in today’s Academia. He longed for a revival of Vienna or Budapest’s old café culture. He tried to recreate that atmosphere at the KLI. In many ways, he succeeded.

Generous, extreme, laugh-out-loud funny, always curious, always searching: Werner. We miss you.

Olivier Morin

The KLI Institute, Klosterneuburg
