

In Memoriam

ALFRED DIAMANT

September 25, 1917–May 11, 2012



Alfred Diamant, the Viennese son of a Jewish merchant couple, lost most of his family during the Holocaust. Forced to flee in 1940, Diamant became a lieutenant for the 82nd Airborne Division, only to be captured and shot behind enemy lines during the D-Day invasion. Denied the right to attend university in Austria, he made up for lost time, completing two degrees at Indiana University and a Ph.D. at Yale, concentrating on French public administration.

“Freddy” co-founded the Conference Group on German Politics, which became the model for other specialist groups affiliated with the American Political Science Association. The CGGP served as the primary vehicle for pulling together papers and panels for fledgling regional and national political science associations. Its core channel of communication was a newsletter containing short articles and book reviews, which the next generation converted into a peer-reviewed journal, *German Politics & Society*. Renamed the German Politics Association, the CGGP later merged with its UK counterpart as the International Association for the Study of German Politics. Freddy was also one of a handful of scholars who worked with Glenda Rosenthal to hold small but intense interdisciplinary meetings every other year, known as the Conference of Europeanists. Today thousands of CES members convene annually; its younger sibling, the European Union Studies Association (EUSA), is just as large.

Freddy was a *Doktorvater* in a figurative and literal sense. He was part of a unique cohort of émigré scholars who were passionately devoted to infusing the study of institutions, public policies and administrative processes with democratic values. Unlike so many academics today, scholars of Freddy’s ilk engaged in deep contemplation over ways to improve the human condition. Diamant’s four-page article, “From ‘Holocaust’ to ‘Rational Choice’—Generational Change in Political Science,” counts among the most profound essays I have ever read. Wise beyond his years, kind, and funny, Freddy Diamant never showed a trace of bitterness regarding the fate that had befallen his family—but he made sure that none of his students would ever allow it to happen again. As a member of the small but thoughtful group of people committed to changing the world, Freddy offered a clear moral compass for those of us lucky enough to be trained by “the Great Generation.”

Joyce Marie Mushaben,
University of Missouri-St. Louis.



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