

Lloyd Irving Rudolph, Ph.D. Bio



Lloyd Irving Rudolph, Ph.D. EHS Class of 1944 - b. November 1, 1927 d. January 16, 2015 age 88 years. From the EHS Yearbook, the Maroon: “*Rudy*”, Tennis, Maroon Staff.

BARNARD, VT, Wednesday, June 22nd, 2016 – This past winter, long-time Barnard residents Susanne Hoeber Rudolph and Lloyd Irving Rudolph passed away. A memorial service will be held for them on June 25 at their home in Barnard at 2:15 p.m. He was a Author, educationist, political thinker and professor emeritus of political science at the University of Chicago.

They first came to Vermont in the 1950s and stayed with Carol F. Miles on Smith Hill. Their ashes will be interred next to Miles in the Barnard cemetery. They bought their house on Silver Lake in 1960 and spent time there every year since. They were active in the Barnard Silver Lake Association for many years. They were also active in protection of Silver Lake, measuring it for water quality for many years.

Lloyd was born in Chicago, Illinois on Nov. 1, 1927. After graduating from Elgin High School, in Elgin Illinois he was appointed a cadet at West Point in 1945, but resigned his appointment after a semester to attend Harvard University, from which he graduated magna cum laude in 1948. From Harvard he also earned a master of public administration degree in 1950 and a Ph.D. in political science in 1956.

Susanne was born in Mannheim, Germany on April 3, 1930. She was the daughter of educated Social Democratic activists who fled Hitler’s Germany just before World War II; Susanne was nine when she came to the United States. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College and earned her Harvard Ph.D. in 1955.

Susanne and Lloyd’s marriage in 1952 launched an exceptional personal and professional partnership that endured for more than six decades. Because they wrote and published together and often taught and lectured together, they were mostly referred to in a single collective noun: “The Rudolphs.” Aside from their academic work, the Rudolphs were revered for their hospitality, which epitomized their thoughtful, caring approach to their students, colleagues, research subjects and friends. They regularly hosted interesting guests over generous meals that ranged from a quiet, elegant French dinner for four at their large, old Chicago house to parties for

Lloyd Irving Rudolph, Ph.D. Bio

more than a hundred featuring fine Indian food or a traditional New England country supper on the lawn of their Vermont summer home. Even more, the Rudolphys were open to conversations with students and colleagues about everything they were doing. They showed endless interest in the research, writing and analysis that others were carrying out. At any visit to their home one was likely to encounter not just academics but also journalists, politicians, and other public figures from India and other countries as well as Americans. A remarkable characteristic of the many tributes published after the Rudolphys died was the number of individuals who felt they had a “special” relationship with the Rudolphys that no one else shared. Prominent individuals in academia and politics from around the world remarked on how the Rudolphys had opened new worlds of study and ideas to them. They were admired for how they lived as well as for how they thought, wrote and taught. They were seen as brilliant and scintillating but also as engaged, warm and compassionate. Between them, they supervised some 300 doctoral dissertations.

The Rudolphys joined the Harvard faculty upon their return from their first trip to India in 1957. They remained there until 1964, when they were appointed to the University of Chicago political science faculty. It was even more unusual then than it would be today for a husband and wife both to be appointed to tenure track positions at the same university, in the same department, at the same time. At the University of Chicago, Lloyd served as chair of the Committee on International Relations and the Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences and as chair of concentrations in political science, public policy, international studies and South Asian studies in the College. In 1999, Lloyd Rudolph received the University’s Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching.

Susanne became the William Benton Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science at the University. She was elected president of the 13,000-member American Political Science Association and the Association for Asian Studies, and was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In recognition of her dedication to her students, she was winner of the Llewellyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

The Rudolphys first travelled to India in 1956 in an adventurous journey, driving overland from Germany to Delhi in a Land Rover. That adventure was recounted in one of their last books, *Destination India* (New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2014). On this first visit to India they spent several months in Jaipur and the surrounding area, developing an interest in and love for Rajasthan that would bring them back frequently. After this 1956-1957 sojourn they returned to India every third or fourth year, bringing their three children with them so they all grew up learning Hindi. After their retirement from active teaching in 2002, the Rudolphys returned to Jaipur each winter for several months of continued research and writing and to renew connections with Indian officials, scholars and friends. In 2014, on their last trip to India, the Rudolphys were both presented the Padma Bhushan award, one of India’s highest civilian honors, by President Pranab Mukherjee. The award recognizes distinguished service of a high order to the nation of India in any field.

The Rudolphys between them published more than twenty books and dozens of articles. They co-authored or co-edited eight books together, starting with *The Modernity of Tradition* (Chicago,

Lloyd Irving Rudolph, Ph.D. Bio

University of Chicago Press, 1967), a seminal formulation of the problem of tradition and modernity that shaped the study of India past and present over the next 50 years. It turned out to be one of the most enduring interpretations of modernization not just of Indian society but of non-Western nations around the world. At a time when reigning theories of the 1950s blamed the “backwardness” of India on the tenacity of her “traditional” institutions like caste, the Rudolphs showed how traditional-seeming institutions had actually changed through the colonial period to take on functions similar to political parties that one could only see as “modern.”

He had a long and distinguished career at University of Chicago almost entirely in collaboration with his wife, Prof. Susanne Hoeber Rudolph who died in December 2015. In 2014 the Rudolphs jointly received the Padma Bhushan Award one of India’s highest civilian honors. The award recognizes distinguished service of a high order to the nation of India in any field.

Related Content

Susanne Hoeber Rudolph renowned scholar of India 1930-2015

Two University of Chicago faculty members win India’s prestigious Padma Bhushan Award

University of Chicago Magazine: ‘A passage to India’

“When it comes to thinking about contemporary India one misses political analysts of the caliber of Lloyd and Susanne” said colleague Dipesh Chakrabarty the Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor in History and South Asian Languages and Civilizations.

The Rudolphs had the capacity to express academic criticism of Indian politics in a way that communicated their concerns for the country—a trait that Chakrabarty said he admired.

“They undertook their scholarly work in a true spirit of generosity” Chakrabarty said. “They were almost proud of what they saw as the achievements of Indian democracy while being critical of what they saw as its shortcomings. They unlike many other external observers did not make Indians feel defensive about their nation and that was one reason why they were deeply respected by Indian leaders and scholars” Chakrabarty said.

The Rudolphs also were known for encouraging other South Asian scholars in a variety of disciplines and sought to integrate into their work the insights provided by social science scholarship from outside political science.

“I was often surprised to find that they had actually read some of my historical essays and wanted to discuss them with me” Chakrabarty said.

Rudolph’s research and teaching focused on institutional political economy state formation South Asian comparative politics and Gandhian thought and practice. The Rudolphs co-authored or co-edited eight books together starting with *The Modernity of Tradition* (1967) a seminal formulation of the problem of tradition and modernity that has shaped the study of India past and present over the last 50 years.

“*The Modernity of Tradition* turned out to be one of the most enduring interpretations of modernization of Indian society” Chakrabarty said. “At a time when reigning theories of the

Lloyd Irving Rudolph, Ph.D. Bio

1950s blamed the so-called backwardness of India on the tenacity of her 'traditional' institutions like caste the Rudolph's showed how traditional-seeming institutions had actually morphed through the colonial period to take on functions that one could only see as 'modern.'"

Their later work on Indian capitalism Gandhi and other topics were similarly informed by a deep sensitivity to India's specific history and culture he said.

Their other books include Education and Politics in India (co-editors 1972) The Regional Imperative: The Administration of U.S. Foreign Policy Towards South Asian States (co-editors and contributing authors 1980 reissued in 2007) Gandhi: The Traditional Roots of Charisma (1983) Essays on Rajputana (1984) and In Pursuit of Lakshmi: The Political Economy of the Indian State (1987).

More recently they published Reversing the Gaze: The Amar Singh Diarya Colonial Subject's Narrative of Imperial India (2000 2005) and Postmodern Gandhi and Other Essays (2006).

In 2008 the Oxford University Press published a three-volume career-spanning collection of the Rudolph's writings entitled Explaining Indian Democracy: A Fifty-Year Perspective.

Lloyd Rudolph also edited or co-edited and contributed to Cultural Politics in India (1984) The Idea of Rajasthan (1994) and Experiencing the State (2006).

In 2002 the Rudolph's co-delivered the University's Nora and Edward Ryerson Lecture during which they reflected on their intellectual lives and work together. The faculty selects each Ryerson Lecturer based on a consensus that a particular scholar has made research contributions of lasting significance.

Lloyd Irving Rudolph was born in Chicago on Nov. 1 1927 and grew up in Chicago and Elgin. His mother Bertha M. Rudolph was co-operator of the Allied Shoe Company and a leading Hyde Park real estate owner and manager. After graduating from Elgin High School in 1944 he was appointed a cadet at West Point in 1945 but resigned his commission to attend Harvard University from which he graduated magna cum laude in 1948. From Harvard he also earned a master of public administration degree in 1950 and a Ph.D. in political science in 1956. He married Susanne Hoeber Rudolph in 1952.

In 1956 the Rudolph's drove a Land Rover from Austria to New Delhi their first trip to India launching an almost 60-year partnership studying the country. In 2014 they published an account of that journey Destination India.

Rudolph joined the Harvard faculty with Susanne in 1957 where they remained until their appointment to the U Chicago political science faculty in 1964. At the University he served as chair of the Committee on International Relations and the Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences and as chair of concentrations in political science public policy international studies and South Asian studies in the College. In 1999 Rudolph received U Chicago's Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching. He retired as professor emeritus in 2002 along with Susanne.

The Rudolph's were famous for co-teaching courses and they often lectured together. "They have been so deeply entwined with each other's thinking and work that it becomes impossible to separate them even though they each wrote and thought separately" said Philip Oldenburg

Lloyd Irving Rudolph, Ph.D. Bio

PhD'74 an adjunct associate professor of political science at Columbia University. Oldenburg said that Lloyd was his mentor but treated him as a junior colleague from his first year in graduate school.

He recalled that the Rudolph's would often invite world-famous scholars tenured colleagues and selected graduate students to social events at their home. "These were gatherings where conversation flowed across the reputation/experience barriers and where serious discussions melded with conviviality" Oldenburg said.

Together the Rudolph's served on the defense committees of approximately 300 students. "The Rudolph's were generous with their time ideas and resources" said Kamal Sadiq PhD'03 an associate professor of political science at University of California Irvine who had both Lloyd and Susanne as his advisors. Sadiq remembers fondly how a 15-minute meeting with Susanne would frequently flow into an extended meeting with Lloyd in the neighboring office.

"Soon both the Rudolph's were in an animated exchange over my dissertation. A multitude of concepts and facts were examined and I would emerge smiling and enthused about the research ahead" Sadiq said.

Lloyd Rudolph's family had strong U Chicago ties. Both of his brothers attended the University. His older brother Robert X'46 MBA'54 died in 2012. His younger brother Wallace (EHS '47) AB'50 JD'53 was a professor and dean at two law schools. He practices law in Florida.

"As a University of Chicago PhD myself I always felt inspired by both Lloyd and Susanne" said nephew Alexander L. Rudolph PhD'88 professor of physics and astronomy at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona. "I saw them as the model of what an academic can be in a very old-school way meaning that as a compliment. I also feel a certain pride in having received my PhD from their institution albeit in a different field."

The Rudolph's were active in the "Perestroika" movement in political science a movement that challenged the idea that objective truth had to be divorced from time place and circumstances. The Rudolph's vigorously promoted the value of area studies to scholarship.

In 2003 the Rudolph's' colleagues convened a three-day U Chicago conference in their honor titled "Area Studies Redux: Situating Knowledge in a Globalizing World." The conference coming less than two years after the 9/11 tragedy focused on the need to better understand other cultures the role regions play in world politics and the significance of "local knowledge" and area studies.

Rudolph received grants or fellowships from the MacArthur Foundation Ford Foundation National Science Foundation Guggenheim Foundation the American Institute of Indian Studies National Endowment for the Humanities and the Fulbright program.

Rudolph published in scholarly journals such as the American Political Science Review World Politics Journal of Asian Studies Modern Asian Studies and Daedalus. He also wrote opinion pieces for outlets such as Foreign Affairs New Republic New York Times Magazine New York Times Book Review Christian Science Monitor and The Nation.

Lloyd Irving Rudolph, Ph.D. Bio

Rudolph is survived by his three children: Jenny, who serves on the faculty at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School Amelia artistic director of Bandalooan Oakland Calif.-based aerial dance company and Matthew a political scientist teaching at San Francisco State University his three grandchildren: Gia (19) Maya (9) and Ry (4) and his younger brother Wallace Rudolph.

Arrangements for a memorial service are pending. Memorials may be made in honor of Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph to the American Institute for Indian Studies.

Global India Lloyd Rudolph South Asia Susanne Hoeber Rudolph