

CSES Dinner at the University of Manchester Honours Richard Rose's Lifetime Achievement in Electoral Studies

The Comparative Study of Electoral Systems project has recognized Richard Rose's lifetime achievement in the field of electoral studies. Beginning with a workshop on the afternoon of 9 December organised by the Democracy, Citizens and Elections Research Network (DCERN) at the University of Manchester, Professor Rose along with CSES and Manchester colleagues presented ongoing research on electoral behaviour in Europe, the UK and internationally. After the workshop a dinner was hosted by the School of Social Sciences and was attended by CSES members and former students and colleagues of Richard's. A number of speakers paid special tribute to Richard Rose's seminal contributions to the field and their own work covering half a century including David Farrell, Head of Social Sciences at the University of Manchester, Ian McAllister (ANU and Chair of the CSES Planning Committee), Michael Marsh (Trinity College Dublin), Stephen White (University of Glasgow) and Bill Mishler (University of Arizona).

The University of Manchester was a particularly appropriate venue to hold the event as Richard Rose took up a lecturing appointment there in 1961 after completing his DPhil at the LSE. He lectured at Manchester until 1966, before taking up the chair at the University of Strathclyde, replacing John P. Mackintosh who had been elected to Parliament in the 1966 general election.

Richard Rose's work spans many areas of political science, but his contribution to electoral studies has been especially innovative. He produced early and important work on British voting, notably his study of the 1959 general election with David Butler, his 1960 book with Mark Abrams, *Must Labour Lose?* and his 1967 study, *Influencing Voters: A Study in Campaign Rationality*.

His work on comparative electoral behaviour is no less path-breaking. His 1974 edited book, *Electoral Behavior: a Comparative Handbook*, was the first systematic cross-national study of electoral behaviour. His work in the 1960s and early 1970s on social cleavages, parties and electoral systems generated much research and debate and remain important benchmark studies to this day. Numerous articles and books on parties, electoral systems and voting followed.

Less well known is Richard Rose's key role in establishing many of the international bodies in political science that we now take for granted. He was a co-founder of the European Consortium for Political Research, and between 1970 and 1985 he was Secretary of the Committee on Political Sociology of the International Political Science Association. He co-founded the British Politics Group, the largest organized section of the American Political Science Association, and remained on the Executive Committee for 22 years.

Also less well known is Richard Rose's mentoring of generations of political scientists, many of whom studied under him at the University of Strathclyde during his tenure there from 1966 until 2005. He also gave generously of his time to many visiting scholars and academics from around the world, providing much advice and encouragement. Scholars now spread across the world owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

The speakers at the dinner paid tribute to Richard Rose's perennial curiosity, his youthfulness, his immense knowledge and his legendary ability 'to get things done.' These were his distinctive contributions over the last 50 years, and everyone looked forward to yet more work in the future. It looks like they will not be disappointed. During 2008 alone he has published seven articles in peer review journals with a new book, *Understanding Post-Communist Transformation: A Bottom Up Approach*—his 39th book—appearing in January 2009.