

**JOHN HUMPHREY MURRAY PINDER, OBE**  
**SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

Professor Richard G. Whitman, Professor of Politics and International Relations, University of Kent

Professor Pinder, John, was – as we will hear others recall when speaking on other aspects of his life – a thinker, writer and activist who had a remarkable influence on those who encountered him.

As an academic John was a pioneer in the study of European integration – and this is all the more remarkable for somebody who spent most of his working life outside the world of Universities.

His early academic study of the integration of Europe was conducted in a context in which political scientists and scholars of international relations had not yet embarked on the systematic study of Europe. It was a field of study without a vocabulary and without a sense of how the study of Europe could fit into existing frames of reference.

John's great strength in his research and writing was that he was what we would today call a normative scholar: he knew how Europe *ought* to be organised and this provided him with his critical faculties.

John was not a navel gazing theorist but he was the most wonderful spotter of areas that needed to be studied before they had been stamped by the herd. This was exemplified by his extensive work on the UK and European integration, but also illustrated by work on trans-national political party behaviour and the EC/EU's relationship with Eastern Europe (including Russia). And in many more areas to which others in this audience can attest.

He was also stalwart in his support of the academic study of federalism – a disgracefully neglected field of study in the UK – carefully demonstrating the Britishness of the idea in invention and implementation.

He could also out-academic most academics. He is the only person I have ever met who read academic journals literally from cover-to-cover. I remember popping round to Bloomfield Terrace for a quick chat and we spent three hours discussing the contents of the latest issue of the *Journal of Common Market Studies*, of which he had read every word.

John was a forebear of that the species of academic that contemporary Universities are now most desperate to cultivate: those who seek engagement and impact outside the academy. He never took rooms in the ivory tower. I think he would have a good claim to be one of the godfathers of the UK think tank scene through his leading role at PEP (Political and Economic Planning) and most especially as the founding Director of the Policy Studies Institute, as well as, of course, his pioneering work with the Federal Trust.

Being an internationally engaged scholar was integral to both his over 100 pieces of published writing and research collaborations but also as a member of the International Political Science Association's Research Committee on European Integration and his leading role in the establishment of the Trans European Policy Studies Association.

An indication of the respect and regard with which John was held was that when the University Association for Contemporary European Studies, the learned society for the study of Europe, instituted its *Lifetime Achievement Award* John was its first recipient and, to note, for all that he had done both as an academic and as a practitioner.

One of John's greatest influences (and perhaps one that he did not fully appreciate himself) was as a highly influential teacher. Talking to his former students at the College of Europe, where he taught for almost 20 years, his generosity with time and ideas shines through: always encouraging and stimulating, never imposing his own judgements.

Like very many thousands of other undergraduates around the world Professor Pinder provided me with my intellectual introduction to the European Union through his book *European Community: The building of a Union*. In his writing he introduced a different Europe to the one of which many of us thought we knew. It was a Europe that was pregnant with possibilities for study and with promise for the future. I cannot think of a stronger legacy than his embedding that thinking in the minds of so many.