

In Memoriam: E. Lisa Panayotidis, 1960–2016

I met Lisa in our very first graduate history seminar at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, the University of Toronto (OISE/UT) in the fall of 1991. What struck me in class was how well informed, quick, well read, and intelligent (and pretty—she used to be a model for period costumes at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design [NSCAD]) she was, and how she quickly took over the seminar with cogent, penetrative, and enthusiastic comments and questions. Even by the first class, her peers looked up to her, and followed her intellectual lead. After class, we met at the elevator, and ended up spending the rest of the evening at the local pub (almost closing it down), talking about the seminar, our other courses, and our passion for history and cultural theory. She had already made plans to present at disciplinary and interdisciplinary conferences and to apply for national and international scholarships and fellowships—an ambition that was foreign to many doctoral students at this early stage. We had numerous academic and other interests in common, and I was lottery-lucky enough that she accepted my proposal and we soon entered into a marriage that got stronger with every day (it was so obvious that even others commented on this). Our steps throughout life since then were synchronous and so seamless that no “seam” even existed, from co-editing and publishing, to being co-investigators on each other’s SSHRCs, to coordinating everything from our teaching timetables to what to have for dinner and which movies to watch. She was an exceptionally creative and perceptive critical and lateral thinker and a dynamic, kind, thoughtful, beautiful, and intimidatingly intelligent companion.



This of course is E. Lisa Panayotidis, professor at the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary, who passed away in December 2016 after a brief illness. She was a highly regarded researcher and scholar in history, education, and interdisciplinary studies. She joined the Faculty of Education in Calgary in 1997 as a Post-Doctoral Fellow after completing her doctoral degree in Toronto. Prior to this, she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in art history at NSCAD in Halifax and a Master of Arts in art history at York University.

Lisa’s interdisciplinary research in part focused on examining the past and present social and cultural functions and positions of art and artists as well as the impact of

the nineteenth-century arts and crafts movement in schools and educational systems. This led Lisa to collaborate with numerous professional and community stakeholders concerned with improving critical art pedagogies and curricula in the classroom in light of historical developments. As a result of Lisa's extraordinary reputation as a cultural and educational historian and theorist, she was often asked to give guest lectures to university and community audiences nationally and internationally, including at Boston College in Dublin, Ireland, Oxford University, and in June 2014 at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, Germany where as guest instructor she ran the weekend section of a graduate course on the international history of universities.

Combining her degrees in history of art and education, and passionate interest in visual culture theory, her published work of over 50 articles and book chapters delved into the socio-cultural histories of students, professors, and the built, natural, and intellectual space of historical university campuses in dialogue with one another. Throughout her career, based on numerous SSHRC-funded grants, she received several research awards including: the CAFE (Canadian Association for Foundations in Education) Publication Award for her co-authored book *Provoking Conversations on Inquiry in Teacher Education* (2012); national and international awards for best English-Language article in the history of education, "The Mythic Campus and the Professorial Life: A. Scott Carter's Pictorial Map of the University of Toronto, 1937," *History of Education Review* (Australia, 2011); and research excellence honourable mention for "Intellectual Space, Image, and Identities in the Historical Campus: Helen Kemp's Map of the University of Toronto, 1932," *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* (2004). Lisa's other work included the co-edited collections: *Historical Identities: The Professoriate in Canada* (2008); *Cultures, Communities and Conflict: Histories of Universities and War* (2012); and *Women in Higher Education, 1850–1970: International Perspectives* (2016). Having an intense interest in encouraging rigorous interdisciplinary historical research, she was also editor-in-chief of the international open-access peer-reviewed academic journal, *History of Intellectual Culture*.

Lisa was extremely popular and influential with undergraduate and graduate students alike. She was deeply involved as a supervisor and mentor in her students' research and personal, professional, and scholarly advancement. She was nominated for several University of Calgary teaching excellence awards, and in 2004, as president of the Canadian History of Education Association/Association canadienne d'histoire de l'éducation, she ensured that graduate students were well represented on associated committees and encouraged them to submit their on-going research for the biennial conference held in Calgary.

Lisa was my muse, confidante, sounding board, partner, mentor, and best friend. Her passing is a huge personal, academic, and scholarly loss, and she will be greatly missed by community and university members, colleagues, students, her numerous close friends, and family.

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