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Memorial - Simon Goodchild (1950-2024)

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Abstract: Raymond Bjuland's tribute to Simon Goodchild.

Keyword: Simon Goodchild

Simon was born on the 21st of July 1950 in Witham, a small village in the county of Essex, situated in the south-east part of England. Simon started school at the age of five, and he was attending public schools from five to eighteen. Simon gained a bachelor's degree in pure mathematics and education from the University of Wales followed by a one-year post-graduate teaching qualification in 1972. Through spare time study, he subsequently gained a Master of Science degree in mathematics, statistics and computing education from the University of London. Inspired by his brother Colin who finished his PhD in the early 1990s, Simon was eager to begin this scientific journey. He finished his PhD in mathematics education at the University of Exeter in 1997. His supervisor, Paul Ernest expressed the following from Simon's PhD research: *"This is an original and groundbreaking ethnographic study of a classroom. It develops a complex and persuasive theorization... the results, methodology, and theoretical underpinnings all offer important and valuable lessons... I (Paul Ernest) consider this work to be among the most significant pieces of research I have seen in the past decade."*

Simon's experience included teaching in schools (grades 7 to 13), secondary mathematics teacher education, and university teaching and research. He held positions in Africa, the UK and from 2004 in Norway. Simon was particularly excited when he told us about the three great years when he was a teacher in Malawi in the 1970s (1972-1975). Simon's professional work also included several international consultancies and evaluations of educational provision in Africa, Asia and Scandinavia. Until summer 2020, Simon was Director of MatRIC, Centre for Research,

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Innovation and Coordination of Mathematics Teaching, which is a Norwegian Centre for Excellence in (Higher) Education that was established in 2014 under his leadership at the University of Agder. Simon's research since joining the University of Agder in 2004 has focused on mathematics teaching development, and since the founding of MatRIC this has been especially directed at teaching and learning mathematics in higher education. From 2007, Simon became professor in Mathematics Education at the University of Agder.

Simon was a recognized academic and scientific researcher, but he was also a good brother, brother-in-law, teacher, supervisor, colleague, friend, research fellow and so on. He had always great respect to other people and their opinions. Simon followed the precepts of the Christian faith. He died early, Monday morning, 04:15, on the 25th of March, 2024 very peacefully and relaxed. We bless the memory of Simon Goodchild.