

REINHARDT SEIGBERT GROSSMANN, 1931-2010

Reinhardt Grossmann, a long-time member of the Department of Philosophy at Indiana University, died on 2 July 2010 at a nursing home in Texas where he had lived since suffering a stroke in 2001.

Reinhardt was born in Berlin, Germany on 10 January 1931. Upon completion of his undergraduate studies at the Pädagogische Hochschule, he went to the University of Iowa to study with the psychologist Kurt Levin, but soon came under the influence of Gustav Bergmann, a logical positivist (at the time) of the Vienna Circle who had come to this country to escape persecution by the Nazis. Bergmann's specialty was metaphysics, which became Reinhardt's as well—an area in which today he deservedly enjoys an international reputation.

Upon completion of his Ph.D. in 1958, Reinhardt taught at the University of Illinois. He came to Indiana University in 1962. During his years at Indiana, he was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation and was a Fulbright exchange teacher in Germany.

Reinhardt wrote ten books and numerous articles on ontology, metaphysics, and the theory of knowledge. His books include *The Structure of Mind* (1965), *Reflections on Frege's Philosophy* (1969), *Ontological Reduction* (1973), *Meinong* (1974), *The Categorical Structure of the World* (1983), *Phenomenology and Existentialism: An Introduction* (1984), *The Fourth Way: A Theory of Knowledge* (1990), and *The Existence of the World: An Introduction to Ontology* (1992). He also translated, and wrote an extended and valuable introduction for, Kasimir Twardowski's *On the Content and Object of Presentations* (1977). Reinhardt attributed his productivity to a rigid discipline of writing each day at least three to five pages of any chapter of a book he was working on.

Reinhardt was perhaps most famous at Indiana for his teaching of undergraduates. Thousands of students took his Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Phenomenology and Existentialism, and Elementary Ethics courses. The associate athletic director for academics once remarked that Reinhardt "is a professor that many of the athletes request each semester. It is well known that he makes the subject of philosophy very interesting for students who are not quite sure what the subject involves. His love of teaching and real interest in students are very apparent. Students feel comfortable going to him for additional assistance with the course." Faculty members often tell of meeting former students throughout the

world who remember “Professor Grossmann” as the one professor in particular whose classes they especially enjoyed.

Among his colleagues Reinhardt was well known for his eagerness to discuss philosophical problems and to engage in sustained debate on fundamental positions. In fall 1994, the Indiana University Analytic Philosophy Project and the Department of Philosophy held a celebratory conference, “Grossmania,” in honor of Reinhardt on the occasion of his retirement. David Armstrong of the University of Sydney and Herbert Hochberg of the University of Texas spoke of different aspects of Reinhardt’s philosophy. Discussion was lively, sometimes with stories of Reinhardt’s exploits inserted to make a point. He himself participated extensively in the discussion and explained his positions on some of the more controversial issues. When the conference ended, both students and faculty were heard to say as they departed, “This is what philosophy is all about.”

Reinhardt served the Department of Philosophy in many ways throughout his long career at Indiana. He never hesitated to take a stand on key issues, and he was always more than willing to argue against the latest fad in academia when he thought it was wrong. He was also especially admired by his colleagues for his culinary art and famous parties.

Reinhardt lived his retirement years in and near Austin, Texas which he enjoyed for its climate and proximity to Mexico, his favorite vacation spot.

A book in his honor, *Studies in the Ontology of Reinhardt Grossmann*, was published by Ontos Verlag shortly before his death.

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