
OBITUARY

Jean E. Hampton
1954–1996

Jean Hampton passed away on 2 April 1996 in Paris, where she was a visiting scholar at CREA, Ecole Polytechnique. A member of this journal's editorial board since 1989, Hampton was professor of philosophy at the University of Arizona. A graduate of Wellesley College, she studied at Harvard under John Rawls and did research at Cambridge, completing her doctorate in four years. She held positions at UCLA, the University of California at Davis, and at the University of Pittsburgh, lectured frequently in North America and Europe, and was known widely for her work.

The author of four books and over forty articles, Hampton was remarkably prolific. Her path-breaking *Hobbes and the Social Contract Tradition*, published by Cambridge in 1986, reinvigorated Hobbes studies. *Forgiveness and Mercy* (written with Jeffrie Murphy) appeared two years later, also with Cambridge. Along with several important essays, it resurrected educative and retributive accounts of punishment. Readers of this journal will know her papers, 'Free-rider problems in the production of collective goods' (Volume 3, 1987) and 'The failure of expected-utility theory as a theory of reason' (Volume 10, 1994). Characteristic of her philosophic temperament, these bold and controversial essays challenged central orthodoxies. The second of these pieces is one of several essays attacking instrumentalist and subjectivist accounts of reason. They, along with some other papers, initiated reflections that will appear posthumously in *The Authority of Reason*, to be brought out by Cambridge next year. A textbook, *Political Philosophy*, to be published soon by Westview Press, is an engaging and distinctive treatment of the central questions of political theory, with feminist concerns and themes woven throughout. During her tragically short career, Hampton established herself as a leading political philosopher of her generation.

Much more would have been forthcoming. Hampton was to write a

short book on nationalism; she leaves behind drafts and notes on a number of topics; she had interests in Kant and Aristotle; and she would undoubtedly have turned to new subjects and challenged other orthodoxies. We cannot complete this work or initiate these new projects, at least not with her unique voice and style. But we can continue our conversations and arguments with her, as she once told me she did with others long gone: 'Some of my best philosophical discussions have been with dead thinkers – Hobbes, for instance'.

As engaging and vibrant a person as she was a thinker, Hampton will be remembered by all who knew her as an extraordinary philosopher, devoted parent, faithful companion and wife, loyal friend, partisan of Jesus, companion to animals, lover of the American West.

A memorial fund has been established in her name (Jean Hampton Fund, Department of Philosophy, University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210027, Tucson, AZ 85721–0027).

Christopher W. Morris

Jean Hampton was a good friend of this journal and gave us her time unstintingly. We shall miss her as a friend and a colleague.

John Broome and Philippe Mongin