

IN MEMORIAM

CHRISTIE DAVIES

25.12.1941 – 26.08.2017

The field of humour research has experienced a painful loss with the death of Christie Davies, the distinguished Welsh sociologist, one of the best specialists of ethnic humour, Professor Emeritus of the University of Reading. His main research interests were in the areas of criminology, sociology of morality, censorship, and humour. He published 13 books, including *Ethnic Humor around the World* (1990), *Jokes and Their Relation to Society* (1998), *The Mirth of Nations* (2002), and *Jokes and Targets* (2011), as well as numerous articles, one of which, titled “Jokes as the Truth about Soviet Socialism” was published in *Folklore: Electronic Journal of Folklore* (<http://folklore.ee/folklore/vol46/davies.pdf>) in 2010.



He was a visiting scholar in India and the United States, and gave lectures and presentations on humour in many European countries. Christie’s lectures were always greatly anticipated and offered intriguing viewpoints. In his work about jokes and society he stressed the possibilities and necessity of humour research, showing that jokes can point to great sociological changes, just as they did with the fall of the Soviet Union.

He was well connected with the Estonian folklorists, giving lectures at the University of Tartu and taking part in conferences organised in Estonia, as well as writing articles for collections edited here.

We have lost a good friend and a kindred spirit.

Piret Voolaid