

January, 2017

ECINEQ members have been deeply saddened by the passing on January 1 2017 of the Society's first President, Sir Anthony Barnes Atkinson. This document provides personal tributes from current and past members of ECINEQ's Executive Committee and Council.

I first got to know Tony Atkinson in 1980 after I talked him into being my PhD supervisor at the LSE; I was knocking on his door almost as soon as he arrived there. I was a brash Australian student, new to economics, and he was the reserved distinguished British professor, though he was remarkably approachable. What attracted me most to Tony was the way he bridged his technical skill as an economist with his commitment to rigorous thinking about distributional policies. He combined scholarship with concern. This is the sort of economist I wanted to be, and it is what I have tried to instill in young economists since. It is a combination that has long made Tony Atkinson the role model for all those who seriously study, and care about, poverty and inequality, and social issues more broadly. The loss is great. The influence will be long lasting.

Martin Ravallion

Edmond D. Villani Professor of Economics, Georgetown University, and current President of ECINEQ

In 1997, Tony entitled his Royal Economic Society presidential address "Bringing Income Distribution In from the Cold". He was right that this was the time the profession started to realize that distribution mattered in all aspects of economics, after decades of neglect. What he didn't say, however, was that he had been the one who had maintained this area of economics alive during all those years since his 1970 seminal Journal of Economic Theory paper. He did so by working with equal success on practically all the issues in the field. Whether on theory, empirics or policy, it is impossible today not to hit his work among key references on inequality and poverty. At the same time, Tony was much more than an exceptionally talented economist He was a fantastic man, deeply attentive to others, whoever they were, fully devoted to social progress and strongly European. He was also a modest and simple man, in love with his family, a carpenter and a sailor in his spare time. I have been lucky enough to work with him and to be his friend for more than 30 years. For a long time to come, I know that I will stop a moment and remember the man each time I will cross one

of the countless references of the economist. I am sure that all of us who met him at some point in their career will do the same.

François Bourguignon

Emeritus professor, Paris School of Economics and former President of ECINEQ 2009-11

Tony Atkinson has been a scientist of the highest calibre. He spent his entire academic life working on income inequality and redistribution, analyzing it from every possible angle. He made major contributions in all the dimensions: models, measurement, data, public policy, public debate... and he excelled in every activity in engaged in, in any project he undertook. But beyond his deep influence in all these domains, he stands as a model for all of us as a scholar who has consistently given purpose to his work. He brings to mind Marx's last dictum on Feuerbach: *The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.* Tony Atkinson is an exceptional example of an economist who tried to change things with his work. I am sure that his contribution to improving the well-being of the poor has to have a lasting impact on our societies.

Joan Esteban,

Institut d'Anàlisi Econòmica CSIC and former President of ECINEQ 2007-09

Tony Atkinson, a real gentleman.

I first met Tony when Julian Le Grand invited me in the early 1980s to give a seminar at LSE and present a paper where I had suggested applying Atkinson's famous 1970 JET paper to the distribution of durations of life. Tony sat in the back but after I finished my talk he came up with evidently very insightful questions, raising some doubts on the parallelism between the distribution of incomes and that of durations of life. We met again over the years and each time I was impressed by the sharpness of his mind and by how gentle a person he was.

I am in fact most thankful to Tony for having twice given a positive answer to requests I had made to him. The first time was when he agreed to write a few pages reviewing the chapters of the Handbook of Income Inequality Measurement which I was editing. I had made the same request to Serge Kolm and Amartya Sen and Tony was the first to send me his comments which appeared as Epilogue to the Handbook. The second time was when I asked him to contribute an article for the

first issue of the Journal of Economic Inequality which I was launching and he came up with a beautiful article on “Multidimensional Deprivation: Contrasting Social Welfare and Counting Approaches”.

Needless to say, when with a few friends we launched around 2005 the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ), those in charge of organizing the meeting unanimously decided that Tony should be the first President of ECINEQ. Tony was after all the one most responsible for the incredible amount of research on inequality that has taken place during the past 45 years. He was a superb researcher, able to write theoretical, empirical as well a policy oriented papers and books. But beyond these contributions and qualities, for me Tony was above all a real gentleman.

Jacques Silber,

Professor Emeritus, Bar-Ilan University, and former President of ECINEQ 2011-2013.

Tony Atkinson

Tony was a brilliant economist, and he was a man of modesty, kindness and integrity, with a passion for social justice.

I first came across Tony’s work when, as a student, I read two of his works. The first was *Poverty in Britain and the Reform of Social Security*, which had been published in 1969. The conceptual clarity combined with empirical detail, motivated by and leading to passionate policy advocacy for social justice, has been a model that many of us try to emulate. It is amazing how much I find myself repeating the basic arguments in that analysis in the current policy discourse on universalism, targeting, and transfer policies.

The second work, which had been published in 1970, also hit me like a bolt and created a channel for my own work in the years to come. This was the classic theoretical piece “On the Measurement of Inequality.” Technical and mathematical virtuosity were put to the service of answering a question whose historical roots were traced back to Hugh Dalton and before—what do we mean when we say “inequality has gone up?” Tony argued that the question is deeply normative and requires a specification of value judgements. He showed a way in which such specification could lead to interpretations of standard inequality measures, and indeed developed a measure now known as the Atkinson Index of Inequality.

Frank Cowell and I organized a conference at Cornell University to mark the 40th anniversary of the inequality paper, and the presentations were sufficiently distinguished and sufficiently

numerous to warrant a symposium covering two issues of the Journal of Economic Inequality in 2011. Tony himself contributed a characteristically searching piece entitled “On Lateral Thinking”, asking how insights from one area of analysis (for example income inequality) did or did not translate to other areas (such as health inequality).

Tony’s analytical interest in inequality and poverty was always in the broad frame of public economics. He was a founding editor of the Journal of Public Economics and like many others, I learnt my public economics from his book with Joseph Stiglitz, Lectures in Public Economics. I see this book as essentially advancing the analytical agenda of the great Cambridge economist Arthur Pigou, who argued that equity had to be treated on par with efficiency in public policy. The public economics frame, with rigorous weighing up of social cost and social benefit with equity concerns to the fore, provided a structure to thinking and analysis which Tony demonstrated in his theoretical excursions, but also in his empirical and policy contributions.

My most recent interaction with Tony was on one of his final projects. Tony chaired the World Bank’s Commission on Global Poverty, of which I was a member and whose report was published in September, 2016. While commission members gave their advice, Tony was the sole author of the report, Monitoring Global Poverty. The report is already recognized to be a landmark document which will frame the work of the World Bank and other agencies in the years to come. Characteristically, while Tony presented detailed technical critiques and recommendations on income based measures of poverty, he also highlighted and emphasized that poverty was multidimensional and that monitoring non-income deprivation was a central task for international agencies.

Tony wore his stellar professional achievements lightly. He was Sir Tony Atkinson, a Knight; a Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur; Fellow of the British Academy; former President of the Econometric Society, the Royal Economic Society, the European Economic Association, the International Economic Association, Society for the Study of Economic Inequality, the Human Development and Capability Association, among many other honors and accolades. But we were all struck by his modest and soft spoken manner. And he listened more than he spoke.

I mourn Tony’s passing even as I am inspired by his analytical and policy contributions to fighting inequality and poverty, and even as I am guided by his example of how to bring rigorous thinking to the service of social justice.

Ravi Kanbur,

T. H. Lee Professor of World Affairs, International Professor of Applied Economics and Management, and Professor of Economics, Cornell University; and former President of ECINEQ, 2013-2015.

I don't know where to start and I don't know where to stop in a tribute to Tony Atkinson. Let me just say that, since my undergraduate days, his example has influenced what I have wanted to research, why I have wanted to teach and how I have wanted to be as a person in the academic world. "Thank you" is not enough.

Frank A. Cowell

Professor at STICERD and Economics Department, London School of Economics and Political Science and current President Elect of ECINEQ

Tony Atkinson, the most Human of Beings.

What could I possibly add to the foregoing thoughts? I first met Tony in 1980 as a rookie lecturer at Southampton University where I was seated next to him at a conference dinner. He shook my hand and congratulated me on the Applied Statistics prize I'd just received for my PhD thesis. I was surprised (I'd only received notification that morning and didn't think it was public knowledge), "How did you know?" I asked, he smiled and winked at me "I was the adjudicator!" he replied. I was now really surprised (it was a Macro/Time Series thesis) "It was the best by far" he went on, and could obviously see my smugness "on the other hand there was not much competition!" he finished and we both laughed.

After my interests moved on to wellbeing measurement, Tony's work was a beacon for me, a quality of analytical insight and application to strive for, he was always happy to give advice and support when sought and ever happy to promote other peoples' ideas. But for me, within academia, he was one of the most human of beings I was privileged to know. His concern for social justice was expressed in deeds as well as words. In those early days a mutual acquaintance asked me if I knew that Tony worked at the food bank on weekends – there is the mark of the man. The discipline has lost a great friend and protagonist, he will be sorely missed.

Gordon Anderson

University of Toronto

Although I did not know Tony as well, or for as long, as many of those writing on these pages, I too was struck by the fact that he combined, to a most unusual extent, a tremendous intellect and the kindest, most decent and generous soul. He was a true academic giant, whose impact on the fields of inequality and poverty analysis – not to mention public economics more generally – is hard to overstate. Yet, somehow he displayed no evidence at all of a large ego, and was always ready to engage with and help those of us who were much younger, and utterly undistinguished. I was lucky to have him as external examiner for my PhD thesis at the LSE, some twenty years ago, and was very fortunate to benefit from his insight and ideas, both by reading his work and by talking to him over a number of occasions since. Most recently, I had the opportunity of working alongside him in the World Bank's Commission on Global Poverty, to which Ravi Kanbur referred above. A brief comment on his enormous contribution to that endeavor can be found [here](#). His is a tremendous loss for all of us, both for his academic contributions and for his remarkable human qualities.

Francisco Ferreira,

World Bank and IZA. Former editor of the Journal of Economic Inequality.

Sir Tony Atkinson, An Idol, A Pioneer, An Inspiration

Sir Anthony Barnes Atkinson, or more popularly known as Tony Atkinson had, is and forever will remain an eminent figure in the field of economics. He had devoted his entire life to rigorous study of income inequality and redistribution, with major contributions in every possible dimension like models, data, policies et al. Every single work of his is marked with unparalleled uniqueness, leaving an impression on economists from around the globe.

This brings the question, why have I been asked to pen a few words dedicated to this amazing personality. The answer, is quite academic. Like most others, Tony has been a huge influence on my work as well dating back to 1979, when I was only 24, working on my doctorate. I had written to him sharing a few of my ideas closely associated with my work and his reply was filled with highly suggestive comments, bountiful praises and strong words of inspiration. This opened the doors to our regular interaction for years to follow and every one of his letters were never short of encouragement, inspirational words and praises for my published books, further fueling my incentive for future work.

Speaking of fuel, it would be highly unjust on my part to not mention his 1970 JET article enveloping his pioneering contribution in measurement of inequality which motivated me to indulge in the topic itself.

A brilliant economist, an equally magnificent individual of highest caliber, reflected by his humility, modesty and integrity, Tony Atkinson has been nothing less than a role model for me and my fellow economists and shall always be remembered as one of the biggest influences in economics for generations to come.

Satya R. Chakravarty,

Professor of Economics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India, and a past member of ECINEQ Council.

Tony Atkinson, my hero

In April 2015 I completed an appreciation of Tony's contributions to Economics. The opening paragraphs state:

It is an honour to write about Tony Atkinson's contributions to Economics ... From a personal point of view, I owe Tony a huge amount for his exemplary supervision of my doctoral thesis, his friendly but incisive comments on later research, and his ever-present general encouragement, support, and inspiration. For more than thirty-five years, answering the "What would Tony think?" question has been a means by which I and many of my contemporaries have assessed our own research. (Our salutes to him are collected in Jenkins and Micklewright 2007) These personal benefits are of course separate from the immense contributions to economics that Tony has made ...

Tony Atkinson has made fundamental and original theoretical contributions to economics in general, and to public economics and the analysis of economic inequality in particular. He has also undertaken original and innovative empirical analysis of economic inequalities, and of their relationship to economic institutions such as the welfare state. His work has brought the analysis of distributional issues back to a central position in economics, arguably a position that it has not had since the period of the Classical economists of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It is no overstatement to say that the modern analysis of economic inequality started with Tony's 1970 paper in the Journal of Economic Theory. ...

A publisher's restrictions mean that I cannot post the essay online, but I would be pleased to email a personal copy to anyone who wishes to have one.

The sentences above do not communicate enough about Tony's personal qualities – he was a role model in those as with everything else. He was sagacious in so many fields and yet so modest and kind, and the epitome of decency, humanity, and collegiality. Despite being very busy, Tony found time for so many of us. He was a continuing source of encouragement, support, and inspiration. He will be sorely missed. Tony is and will remain my hero.

Stephen P. Jenkins (email: s.jenkins@lse.ac.uk)

Professor of Economic and Social Policy, LSE

Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Economic Inequality, 2014–17

Former Council member of ECINEQ

A tribute to Tony Atkinson

It is with great sadness that I learned about Tony's untimely death. I only started having professional interactions with Tony when he was already a world famous scholar (while I was a young academic). What was amazing about him was not only his incredible breadth of knowledge and the wealth of his contributions on the economics of inequality, but also his openness, friendliness, humility, and willingness to engage with young people on an equal footing. He regularly commented on my work and we had many fruitful and engaging discussions on his work, my work and related policy issues. What impressed me also was his willingness to engage in policy debates, leaving the comfort zone of the academic world. I very much hope that his ideas, nicely summarized in his 2015 book, will continue to be debated and hopefully implemented to address the unacceptably high inequality in just about every country in the world.

Stephan Klasen

Professor of Economics, University of Göttingen.

In the Argentina of the hyperinflations of the late 1980s all young students of Economics wanted to be macroeconomists. I was one such student, until the day I read Tony Atkinson's paper on the measurement of inequality in the *Journal of Economic Theory*. The paper generated a dramatic shift in my interests, and its impact on me has continued to this day. It would be difficult to overemphasize the influence Tony has had on my career, thoughts, and view of Economics as a social science. His

profound influence is perhaps all the more remarkable considering that he lived on the other side of the world and we never had the opportunity to meet.

Leonardo Gasparini

Director of CEDLAS (Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies at Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina).

A sad way to start this New Year, Professor Antony Atkinson passed away 1st January 2017. All the community of economists mourns the loss of this great economist who initiated and left a deep mark on the study of economic inequalities from his famous article in *Journal of Economic Theory* in 1970 until his last book “Inequality: What can be done” which was viewed by many as a testament on policies of reducing inequalities. Our community of economists in Aix-Marseille is also losing a friend who did us the honor of attending the launching day of AMSE, of being a member of our research council, and of having accepted to be Doctor Honoris Causa of Aix-Marseille University. Beyond the scientific legacy which will go on, we will keep the image of a modest and simple man who accepted to talk to anyone whatever his status, and this behavior makes him an example for all of us. Our gratitude and sympathy goes to his wife Judith and his children. <https://www.amse-aixmarseille.fr/en/news/anthony-atkinson-passed-away>

Alain Trannoy,

Director of Aix-Marseille School of Economics, on behalf of AMSE and GREQAM

I met Tony Atkinson in 1993 when I was starting my PhD. I wanted to work on growth and thought it could be interesting to look at the effect of income inequality on long-run growth.

In that first meeting Tony was, as I later discovered, his usual self: accessible to an unknown student, enthusiastic, inspirational. After a long discussion he told me that although he found the topic fascinating and he was himself trying to ‘bring income distribution in from the cold’, he should warn me that it was a topic that was likely to remain a niche in the profession and would not attract great attention from the general public. I am glad to say that for once, and to a large extent due to his own contributions, Tony was wrong.

Cecilia García-Peñalosa,

Aix Marseille School of Economics, associate editor of the Journal of Economic Inequality.

Tony Atkinson's writings on public economic and inequality have inspired many to pursue work on distributional matters. He insisted that researchers had to take moral stands in their analysis; there was no neutral position or value-free approach to measuring inequality. He was a brilliant economist and will continue to influence many generations to come. I was, however, most affected by his personal qualities. As a thesis examiner, he was insightful and fair. As a mentor, he was patient and generous with his time. And as a co-author, he was humble, rigorous and exceptional. He was role model and an inspiration to all. He will be sorely missed.

Maria Ana Lugo,

Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank

I met Tony Atkinson just once, I believe, many years ago. On that occasion I was giving a seminar at Oxford. After the talk he spent a long time discussing the paper with me. By the time we had finished our conversation, and after several of the gentlest nudges in this direction or that, I had a much deeper idea of what I was doing — and that on a project which had already occupied me for some years. Given the reactions here from scholars who knew Tony Atkinson far better than I did, this story comes as no surprise, but reiteration is often more valuable than surprise.

I read Atkinson's 1970 paper as a starting graduate student. It was the first to transparently and elegantly make the connection between inequality measurement and the comparison of risky lotteries. It is a beautiful paper, and it inspired me. Much of my subsequent work reflects (or indirectly draws on) the ideas in this paper, and for this gift alone my gratitude is unbounded.

Debraj Ray,

New York University, Co-Editor, American Economic Review

There are people who leave a lasting impact both on one's mind and one's heart. Tony Atkinson was one of them. Unlike many of you, I met him only recently, when I joined the World Bank's Commission on Global Poverty. What a delightful experience! For the first time I had the opportunity to discuss my ever present questions with the man who I had admired from afar for so many years. A brilliant and thoughtful man. Respectful of other people's views but firm in his convictions. Ready to listen and learn. An inspiring, courageous gentleman. With insightful and

bold ideas. *Inequality. What Can Be Done?* Among other things, Tony said, governments should offer guaranteed public employment and there should be a minimum inheritance paid to all at adulthood. With his death, the world not only lost one of his most brilliant thinkers but one of the finest champions for social justice.

Nora Lustig

Samuel Z. Stone Professor of Latin American Economics and Director of the Commitment to Equity Institute, Tulane University



Paris, July 2015. First meeting of the Global Poverty Commission chaired by Tony Atkinson.

I have been inspired by Atkinson work since I was an undergraduate student. I have always associated him to the word “Social Justice”, I suppose that this could be due also to the imprinting effect from his book *Social Justice and Public Policy*. I first met Tony Atkinson in 2000 in Oxford at a conference, I hesitated to approach him, but I could not miss this opportunity. I introduced myself and then, with my surprise, we sat down and started to talk about inequality. I have always

been impressed by the researcher, but in that occasion I came to equally appreciate the man, his humanity and openness, his natural gentleness and his curiosity.

Since then we had the opportunity to discuss in various occasions, I still remember with emotion all these moments.

We should be grateful to those that have open the way before us, and certainly Tony work has open so many important avenues, but for his case it is much more than this, he is a person that has motivated my research and academic life with his work and his personal example.

Claudio Zoli

Professor of Public Economics at University of Verona and current Secretary of ECINEQ

Tony Atkinson: friend, mentor and so much more

In my copy of *Inequality* (see picture below), Tony wrote “We go back along way”, and indeed that is true, some 32 years. I met Tony in 1985 when he came to the first Luxembourg Income Study conference—the one where we held our breath, as depending on what Tony and others said, the project would grow or die. Tony was immediately a strong supporter of LIS and helped the project in many ways from that day forward, including eventually being the President of the Board of Directors for LIS from 2011 until his death.

In 1993, when OECD asked me to write “Income distribution in OECD countries: evidence from the Luxembourg Income Study”, I asked myself, who would I want to write this book with, and of course Tony was the one and he jumped at the chance. Together with Lee Rainwater, we worked hard for a year, learning much from each other. One example, Tony wrote chapter 2 which linked the income distribution micro-data literature to the national income accounts macroeconomic concepts. The chapter remains the clearest and most useful explanation of the linkages that I can find. And now linkages like this are the rage. The OECD income distribution data project and book effectively began with this volume, which also established LIS as the ‘gold standard’ for cross-national comparisons of income inequality.

Tony was a constant source of both constructive comment and inspiration for so many of us that it is hard to underestimate his effects on all of our lives. When ECINEQ was founded in 2005, the members of the Scientific Council and Executive Committee had an easy choice for who we would ask to become the first president and of course it was Tony who immediately established the credibility and stature of the ECINEQ.

Tony's many students have become my good friends and co-authors. When I wrote Angus Deaton of the loss early on January first, he immediately wrote back "A voice we cannot bear to lose". And indeed this is true. There is no one else to take up his mantle. I will remember him fondly, but I do and will miss him terribly.

Timothy M. (Tim) Smeeding

Lee Rainwater Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics, University of Wisconsin

Member of the Scientific Council and Executive Committee of ECINEQ: 2005

This lovely picture is of a very special lunch in Manchester in 2015, where Tony gave us our autographed copies of his 77 day wonder book--*Inequality*. Here you see a lot of wonderful people who Tony first introduced me to—Stephen Jenkins, Andrea Brandolini, François Bourguignon and Sabine Alkire , along with Tony and his lovely wife Judith.



For many years, and despite his insistence, I found it difficult to call him "Tony"; calling him "Professor Atkinson" seemed to do greater justice to his remarkable combination of scholarship

and gentlemanliness. That combination will leave a lasting and dear imprint on many of us who have had the privilege to know him personally. His imprint will also be considerable on many others through the breadth and the depth of his scientific legacy and through the passion for social justice that is so evident in his writings.

He was one of the most important motivations for my decision to leave North America and come to the LSE in the late 1980s to do an M.Sc. in Economics and subsequently a Ph.D. on welfare and applied economics. His abundant and continued advice has since had an influence on my own work and thinking that is second to none. In my current capacity as member of the Canadian Parliament and government, I also benefit every day from and am grateful for the insights on equity, inequality, poverty and public policy that he so generously shared with many of us.

Thank you, Professor Atkinson, for all that you brought to our profession and, Tony, for all that you brought to us as friends and colleagues.

Jean-Yves Duclos

Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Economic Inequality, 2007–12

Professor, Université Laval

Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Government of Canada

Tony Atkinson's pathbreaking paper "On the Measurement of Inequality" was fundamental in showing the path forward toward a rigorous analysis of distributional issues. I had the privilege of hearing him present his follow-up paper "More on the Measurement of Inequality" when I was on the faculty at Yale in 1973 and discussing it and other issues with him. "More" included what Tony called "A Guide for the Practical Man," the importance of which Tony stressed then to me; for a young economist just getting started, this was a valuable lesson indeed. Of course, I knew from his writings that Tony was brilliant and socially concerned, but until then I had not known what a fine and caring person he was. The following decades reinforced both impressions. All of us in the profession and all of his friends mourn his untimely passing.

Gary Fields

John P. Windmuller Professor of International and Comparative Labor

Professor of Economics, Cornell University

Tony Atkinson: A great and generous mind

Tony Atkinson was a spectacular economist whose influence on the profession has been tremendous.

Tony was not only a great mind, but he was also a generous and passionate person ready to share the benefits of his outstanding intellectual capacities with all of us. For me, that was best illustrated at my first meeting with him. This happened when he was visiting DELTA for a couple of weeks in Paris. I was doing my dissertation at that time and Tony had his office door open nearby the "stacking room" for students. Every day Tony was spending some time interacting with people and discussing their work. Very much impressed by his reputation, I was myself quite hesitant to engage and talk to him. One day however he saw me passing by and gently asked me about my research. I gave him a preliminary draft of one of my papers on "Political economy, Education and Inequality" that I was writing with Gilles Saint Paul. The next day Tony came back with the paper full of annotations, corrections, suggestions and comments, and we had a long discussion that greatly improved our work. I was stunned by the way an economist of his intellectual stature could give so much of his time to discuss in detail the rough draft of an unknown student. It became for me a model not only of intellectual excellence, but also of profound humanity: A great and generous mind. We will miss him!

Thierry Verdier

Professor of Economics Paris School of Economics,

ParisTech-Ecole des Ponts, EHESS and PUC-Rio de Janeiro

I can't remember when I met Tony Atkinson the first time, neither I remember how much time we spent talking about this or that paper. The only thing I remember is that Tony has been always a Good Man.

Descansa en paz Tony.

Amedeo Spadaro

Universitat de les Illes Balears

The 1970 JET paper was my first encounter with Tony. It made an indelible impression, not least due to the paper's combination of mathematical rigorousness and precise language. The 1970 paper dealt with the conceptual problems involved in the measurement of inequality and offered a convincing justification for constructing measures of inequality on the basis of "expected utility" type of social welfare functions. The 1970 paper also provided new insight on the Gini coefficient by demonstrating that the Gini is particularly sensitive to changes that take place in the central part of typical income distributions. This result anticipates Kolm's (1976) principle of diminishing transfers. My original distant admiration of the author of the 1970 paper turned later into a broader admiration of Tony when we over some years collaborated on the book chapter on top incomes in Norway. This project turned out to be the start of a long-term cooperation, which gave me the opportunity to become better acquainted with both his professional and human qualities. One of our joint projects proposed by Tony was "Putting people first: Policy and economic welfare". Putting people first is an appropriate description of Tony's ethical concern, attitude and behavior, which also finds expression in his final statement of the acknowledgement in *Inequality*: "Royalties received for this book before 2020 will be donated to the following charities: Oxfam, Tools for Self Reliance, Emmas UK, and the Quaker Housing Trust".

Tony was exceptional in a number of ways, which makes the loss even heavier. But pleasant memories from the collaboration and many happy social gatherings give some comfort.

Rolf Aaberge,

Research Department, Statistics Norway and ESOP, Department of Economics, University of Oslo

As students we associated Tony Atkinson's name with the pathbreaking work on inequality. But his 2003 paper on counting and multidimensional poverty measurement set my mind alight. It combined rigour and practicality and invited others to do likewise. Rather to our shy surprise he agreed to be an advisor to our research group, OPHI, from its start ten years ago. Our interactions took the form of a cup of tea (black) every year or so. But they were immensely rich. As my notes reveal, he made a great number of very practical suggestions as well as observing problems for research. Beyond advice, his intellectual generosity was evident with us as with so many – for example despite his illness he alone read our entire book manuscript, giving very helpful comments indeed at the right time. Yet the most striking, as others too have said, was his kindness, humanity and dignity. He was ever a gentleman. And his work unfolded from a determination and care that it be both right and useful. His launch of the Atkinson Commission Report in November 2016 was a very moving

example of this, as was his request that the speakers include Oxfam, in order to have a grounding on the subject of a different kind. We have lost one who was truly worthy of the respect and affection with which he was held by so many.

Sabina Alkire

Director, Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI)

Unlike most scholars contributing to this tribute, I did not get to know Tony Atkinson. In spite of this, when reading the many personal tributes of other scholars, I feel that we all have been very lucky to have such a generous and privileged scholar amongst us. Also in my case, ever since I started working on horizontal inequality and economic mobility for my thesis, his work has always had a great impact on my research, and I am sure his long standing influence will still shape the research agenda of many scholars to come.

Xavier Ramos

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and current Treasurer of ECINEQ

The last time I heard from Tony was a few days before this Christmas. I had invited him to give a lecture in the series we organize at the University of Luxembourg "Inequality and...?". His lecture was scheduled for January 18. The January meeting was supposed to be "the All Star concert", as a colleague said when he heard that both Tony and François Bourguignon were going to give a lecture one after the other. We were so lucky that they accepted to be with us, what an honor, and as happens for the concerts of big stars, people were lining up to register for the event. I had sent Tony and François the posters I prepared for announcing their lectures. Tony was nice as usual, gentle and caring about the economic situation of his country. He was hoping that the New Year would bring better things. That 2017 will be a good year for child poverty and for all of those in need, concerns which were so close to Tony's heart. We will all miss Tony terribly.

Conchita D'Ambrosio,

FNR PEARL Chair, University of Luxembourg

I have been very fortunate to have had Tony as my DPhil supervisor. Before our first meeting in Nuffield College, I was quite anxious over meeting such a distinguished academic (it took me a while to get used to calling him “Tony”), and was worried whether he would take me on as a student. But Tony has been so kind, modest and generous with his time (as many others have written in their tributes). I was one of the last DPhil students he supervised, and he always gave very extensive and timely feedback, even though he was already battling cancer. He will be sorely missed as a teacher, for his academic contributions and as a wonderful person.

Christoph Lakner,

World Bank