

**OBITUARY****Christie Davies (1941–2017)****Ephraim Nissan**

The demise, on 26 August 2017, of Prof. Christie Davies (John Christopher Hughes Davies) is a loss for humour studies in general, for the sociology of humour, and — as his books *Ethnic Humour around the World: A Comparative Analysis* (1990), *Jokes and Their Relation to Society* (1998) and *The Mirth of Nations* (2002) have become classics — for the study of ethnic humour in particular. He was a past president of the International Society for Humour Studies. He also wrote on criminology, and the sociology of morality. Christie Davies also was a good human being, and it is also a personal loss for the present writer, and it is always hard to lose a friend.



Christie Davies was born on Christmas Day 1941 in Cheam, Surrey, into a Welsh family. Both his parents were educators: his mother was a teacher, and they returned to Wlaes once his father became returned to Swansea where his father became an inspector of schools in Swansea. His formation was in political economy at the University of Cambridge, where he graduated in 1967. He also earned there a PhD, granted to him on the basis of his published work. In 1964, he found himself at the University of Adelaide, Australia; he taught there economics to engineering students. He also spent two years as a radio producer on the BBC's Third Programme. He then taught three years at the University of Leeds as a sociology lecturer. He also was a visiting lecturer at universities in India (and later, in Poland and the United States).

In 1972, Christie Davies was appointed a lecturer at the Department of Sociology (established in 1964) at the University of Reading, where he became Professor of Sociology in 1984, and from where he retired in 2002, while remaining an active scholar. His last book, in 2011, was *Jokes and Targets*. His activities as an intellectual

were multifaceted (often as a contrary voice, a libertarian and moralist *vis-à-vis* political views prevalent among sociologists of his generation). For example, he was a regular contributor of columns to *The Daily Telegraph* in the 1970s and 1980s.

