



OBITUARY

RONAN PADDISON (1945-2019) – A GREAT GEOGRAPHER IN URBAN STUDIES, A GREAT LOSS FOR THE WORLD OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

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On the 8th of July 2019, Professor Ronan Paddison passed away. His unexpected death has saddened the entire world community of geographers and urban geography is confronted with a huge loss in the academic field of urban research.

Ronan Paddison was an Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of Glasgow, UK and developed an outstanding career spanning for decades. He made an important scientific contribution in Human Geography, in particular in urban studies and in such different but related fields as urban and economic changes, social justice for the cities, urban planning and political issues connected to urban development.

Professor Paddison authored numerous scientific articles included in top ranked academic journals and published a large number of books addressing the issues of justice for the cities. Moreover, he was an editor-in-chief and member of multiple boards of academic journals (e.g. *Urban Studies*, *Space and Polity*, *Journal of Urban and Regional Analysis* etc) and developed outstanding work in academic research.

Ronan Paddison has greatly contributed to urban geography thought and knowledge, setting key concepts and influencing the critical thought applied in the geographical research of the last decades. Among his excellent contribution as a publisher in urban geography, some of his latest works remain emblematic. Books such as *Cities and Economic Change* and *Cities and Social Change* will remain a synthesis of Paddison's academic work, presenting the most important visions on the current problems of contemporary cities in both social and economic terms.

During his academic career, he developed multiple collaborative relationships with many universities and research institutes, being visiting professor and keynote speaker at different universities and conferences around the world. Among such collaborative relationships, Romania was privileged and honoured to host Professor Paddison on different academic occasions, to share his knowledge and experience with geographers and researchers. In this context, Professor Paddison developed a fortunate relationship with the Department of Geography from the West University of Timișoara.

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In 2017, the *British Geographical Seminars* held by the Department of Geography had Professor Paddison as a visiting professor, lecturing in front of the academic community and students about hot topics connected to global cities.

His passion for cities research and for human and urban geography was obvious. Professor Paddison was always striving for academic excellence. Considering Romanian cities as a fertile background for research in tourism culture and urban regeneration, his geographic inspiration has been transposed in an international conference entitled 'Building urban tourism through place-making and urban regeneration' organized by the Department of Geography from the West University of Timișoara in May 2017. He was both a member of the organizing committee of the conference and a worthy reviewer for the conference papers. He took part together with Duncan Light, Ryan Powell, Remus Crețan, Sorina Voiculescu and Sebastian Ioan Jucu in a selection of the conference papers and completed a critical and rigorous review. Six articles were proposed and accepted for a special issue in an area studies journal.

As an emeritus scholar Professor Paddison was always a huge inspiration for all those academics interested in urban studies and a worthy scientific advisor whose ideas and knowledge will continue to guide the scientific thought of present researchers in urban research. Always striving for excellence in academic research in urban studies, Professor Paddison and his academic work will always continue to guide and inspire the contemporary visions on the cities' destiny and their further evolutions.

Professor Paddison passing away is certainly a huge loss for the world of human and urban geographies but his excellent academic contribution will remain as an outstanding gain for researchers in urban and human geographies from now on.