

His Editor's Personal Obituary:
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Klaus von Beyme
(3 July 1934 – 6 December 2021)

*„O es ist ein seltsames Gemische von Seligkeit und Schwermut,
wenn es so sich offenbart, dass wir auf immer heraus sind
aus dem gewöhnlichen Dasein.“*

Friedrich Hölderlin

Selbstbestimmt bis zum Schluss.
In großer Liebe, Trauer und Dankbarkeit.

Prof. Dr. phil. Dr. hc. Prof. hc.
Klaus von Beyme

* 3. 7. 1934 Saarau (Schlesien) † 6. 12. 2021 Heidelberg

Maja von Beyme geb. von Oertzen
Maximilian und Heidi
Katharina und Robert mit Helena und Lucius
Gisela von Oertzen geb. von Beyme
Jutta Freifrau zu Inn- und Knyphausen geb. von Beyme
Nadia und Igor mit Linda und Elise-Charlotte

Die Beerdigung findet, coronabedingt,
im engsten Familienkreis statt.

Auf Wiedersehen, mein Freund, wortlos und ohne Händedruck.
Trauere nicht, und nimm es nicht so schwer:
In diesem Leben ist der Tod nichts Neues,
und auch das Leben bringt nichts Neues mehr.

Sergei Jessenin, zit. nach Klaus von Beyme

PROF. DR. KLAUS VON BEYME

* 3.7.1934 † 6.12.2021

Als überragender Lehrer und Gelehrter hat er über Jahrzehnte die deutsche Politikwissenschaft in ungewöhnlicher Breite vertreten und beeinflusst.

Uns Schüler hat er durch seine Persönlichkeit fasziniert.

Unseren Blick auf die Politik und Politikwissenschaft hat er für immer geprägt.

In Dankbarkeit und Verehrung

Seine Schülerinnen und Schüler

Christine Althaus, Klaus Armingeon, Helge Batt, Timm Beichelt, Hans-Günter Brauch, Andreas Busch, Giovanni Capoccia, Dirk Gerdes, Stefanie Gerlach, Yvette Gerner, Michael Haus, Micha Hörnle, Christoph Hüttig, Michael Kreile, Christine Landfried, Ulrike Liebert, Wolfgang Merkel, Helga Michalsky, Michael Minkenberg, Arno Mohr, Ferdinand Müller-Rommel, Dieter Nohlen, Nico Siegel, Rolf Steltemeier, Jörg Ueltzhöffer, Ute Wachendorfer-Schmidt, Barbara Waldkirch, Tim Walleyo, Andreas Wüst, Klaus Ziemer, Reimut Zohlnhöfer



Hans Günter Brauch's Obituary on Klaus von Beyme

Prof. Dr. Klaus von Beyme, one of the globally most influential and most cited German political scientists and a major German public intellectual, has died on 6 December 2021 in the age of 87. He was one of my university professors in political science, the first adviser of my PhD thesis at Heidelberg University and my key examiner in political science during my oral PhD examination on 30 June 1976.

In 2013 he became one of my most distinguished authors of whom I published two English books on the occasion of his 80th birthday and two additional books that were translated from German in 2018 and 2019. We had considered to translate additional books, especially one of his key publications on political theory (1789 - 1945) focusing on liberalism, conservatism and socialism but I failed to raise the money for its translation. I still hope to publish an English translation of a biography of his comprehensive academic work by a young scholar.



Klaus von Beyme

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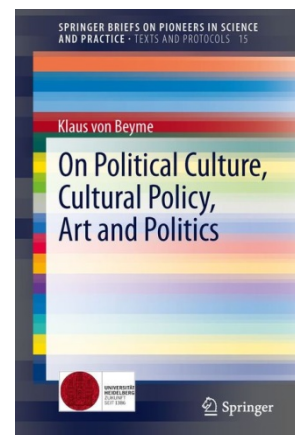
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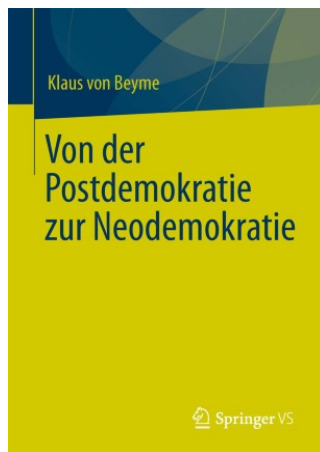
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[Maximilian von Beyme](#)





Klaus von Beyme

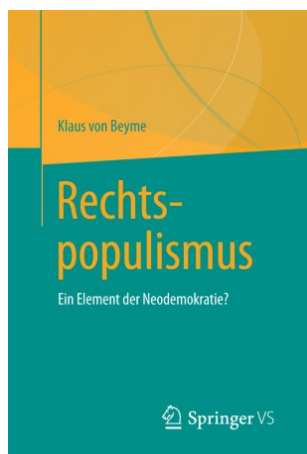
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Since 2013 we met regularly several times a year both in his office in his Institute of Political Science (IPW) and in his home in the Landfriedstraße in the centre of the old town of Heidelberg where his wife Maja von Beyme often invited me for lunch, afternoon coffee with cake or for dinner. Klaus and Maja von Beyme were guests at my 70th birthday party in Mosbach, close to Heidelberg, where he presented a poem he had composed in my honour. Already during the pandemic he attended on 13 July 2020 together with the second adviser of my thesis, Prof. Hartmut Soell, a ceremony when I was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit on Ribbon of the German Federal President by the lord major of Mosbach. My last visit in his apartment was on 6 November 2021 a month before he passed away peacefully in his home in the presence of his family,

During these eight years (2013-2021) he often told me episodes of his life, his family, of his career and of his present new academic interests and books he was writing. Until his mid-eighties he taught seminars at Heidelberg University, gave lectures and wrote each year a new book among them two for which I could raise funds for language editing and translation into English.

When I was hospitalised four times in a university clinic in 2019 he cared about my health and often called me to send me his best wishes for a full recuperation. As we experienced the same disease he asked me about my own experience and how I succeeded to become healthy again and to continue my editorial hobby as an independent external academic editor with Springer Nature.

In 2021 when he stopped writing and completing his last book on social democracy and when he told me that modern medicine could not help him anymore I became aware that when he had to give up what he had learned and knew best to write academic books and articles that his life was coming to an end. Between July and November 2021 his health situation declined rapidly but his mind remained fresh and he was still interested in my health

situation, in my editorial hobby and my most recent publications on a peace ecology and on the Anthropocene that started between 1940 and 1950 the decade of American policy I had analysed in my thesis on global structural change and the US leadership role of which he was the first adviser.

During these many private conversations I observed one of the most adored professors of generations of students in political science as a very polite, modest and caring person with principles of social justice he did not only address in his lectures and publications but practiced them towards his students avoiding both any favouritism or discrimination due to social classes and status. Being born into a noble family he practiced the goals and values of social democracy, a party of which he had been a member since 1958 for 63 years.

My distinguished author Klaus von Beyme gradually became a fatherly friend who gave me hope when I was struggling for my life not to give up and to look with confidence into the future. I followed his advice and have continued my editorial hobby once my own health situation had improved.

Klaus von Beyme has been both a highly respected, adored and hard-working, well organised, reliable, modest, amiable and focused public intellectual who participated in many discourses within his discipline of political science but who also shared his assessments in many policy debates. As one of the last geniuses and academic giants in political science he could read the literature in a majority European languages and integrate the results in his more than 50 monographs and more than 500 academic articles.

But he also analysed new issues areas of architecture, cultural policy and of the arts from a social science perspective. My fatherly friend Klaus who inspired many of his 100 PhD candidates, including myself, may rest in peace. I am both saddened about his death losing with him one of my most distinguished authors and a fatherly caring friend.

Cuernavaca (Mexico), 20 December 2021

PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch
Chairman, AFES-PRESS e.V.

Chairman, Board, Hans Günter Brauch Foundation on Peace and Ecology in the Anthropocene
Editor of five English book series (Hexagon, ESDP, PSP, PAHSEP, APESS) with Springer Nature
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Photo Gallery of Photos of Klaus von Beyme

The Editor's 70th Birthday Party in Mosbach, 1 June 2017



Prof. Dr. Klaus von Beyme (Heidelberg), PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch (Mosbach), Prof. Dr. Ursula Oswald Spring (Cuernavaca, Mexico), Ms. Maja von Beyme (Heidelberg)



Prof. Dr. Klaus von Beyme and his former PhD student and editor Dr. Hans Günter Brauch



Ms. Ludivine Guillaume, Dr. Omar Serrano Oswald welcome Prof. Dr. Klaus von Beyme



Dr. Omar Serrano (now Technical University of Munich), Prof. Dr. Klaus von Beyme (Em. Heidelberg University) and PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch, OSI, Free University of Berlin (ret.)



Prof. von Beyme and Dr. Brauch at the buffet



Maja von Beyme and Prof. Dr. Serrena Erendira Serrano Oswald (Cuernavaca, Mexico)



The guests reading the menu and listening to the music



In conversation Prof. Dr. Klaus von Beyme (Em., Univ. Heidelberg) and Prof. Dr. Egbert Jahn (Em., Univ. Mannheim and Frankfurt)

Dinner after the Award Ceremony of the Federal Cross of Merit on Ribbon to Hans Günter Brauch in Mosbach, 13 July 2020



Prof. Dr. Klaus von Beyme and Dr. H.G. Brauch during the reception



Prof. Dr. Hartmut Soell and Prof. Dr. Klaus von Beyme, Dr. Hans Günter Brauch and Dr. Hans Happes, former headmaster of the Nicolaus-Kistner high school, Mosbach during dinner



Prof. Dr. Hartmut Soell, Prof. Dr. Klaus von Beyme and Dr. Hans Günter Brauch



Prof. Dr. Lothar Brock (Em., Goethe Univ., Frankfurt) Prof. Dr. Hartmut Soell and Prof. Dr. Klaus von Beyme (Em., Heidelberg Univ.), PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch and Dr. Hans Happes (both board members of the HGB Foundation on Peace and Ecology in the Anthropocene) and Prof. Dr. Czeslaw Mesjasz (Cracow Economic University, Poland) in conversation

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