

**Obituary for my Good Friend, Research Partner and Editor
PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch**

At a certain point in our lives, we begin to see more frequently that our family members, friends and acquaintances are leaving us and embarking on their journeys into the Unknown. Too often it is still premature.

The information of the 15th of July 2026 that my Good Friend, Hans Günter Brauch, had passed away, received from Prof. Úrsula Oswald Spring, was for me shocking, surprising, and the source of a multitude of reflections on the life of the Researcher, Peace Activist, Author, and Editor whom I have known since 1985.

In recent years, despite health problems, Hans Günter was very deeply involved in research, writing, and editing books for Springer Nature, not only in the series “The Anthropocene: Politik—Economics—Society—Science (APESS). He was also deeply intellectually, organizationally, and emotionally engaged in the activities of the Foundation for Peace and Ecology in the Anthropocene that he established in 2020, and in the International Science Prize on Peace and Ecology in the Anthropocene, initiated in 2023.

The achievements of Hans Günter in all fields, his social activities, and his passions are described in detail in the Obituary prepared by Prof. Úrsula Oswald-Spring. I would like to briefly expose our professional and non-professional contacts.

In 1985, as a Research and Teaching Assistant at the Krakow University of Economics, interested in multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary studies associated with applications of systems thinking in management theory and practice, and in the social sciences, I discovered that many Founding Fathers of systems thinking, such as Anatol Rapoport and Kenneth Boulding, were associated with peace research.

Thanks to assistance from an excellent scholar in peace research, who later became another Good Friend, Professor Håkan Wiberg, I contacted Hans Günter, who encouraged me to submit a paper on systems thinking theory for presentation at the International Peace Research Association Conference in Brighton in 1986. Since then, our contacts with Hans Günter have become more frequent, especially after 1989. In the 1990s and in the 21st century, we met several times in Mosbach, once in Kraków, and during multiple IPRA and ISA meetings.

Our cooperation included several areas. Hans Günter edited the books with my chapters. I was also a co-editor of some of the books edited by Him and our Good Friends and Colleagues. Unfortunately, due to my professional and personal commitments, we couldn't finish my book project.

The meeting with Paul Crutzen in Mosbach in 2017, which resulted in a highly influential book published in 2025, is one of the most representative examples of his research. There were many more books edited by Hans Günter.

At the beginning of our contact, we realized we shared a very important common feature. We are both the only sons of soldiers of the Second World War. They never stood directly opposite each other, but the symbolic significance of that fact was extremely important to both of us. Both in intellectual and emotional terms.

This fact had a special importance in the academic community studying peace, security and international cooperation.

My second remark concerns Hans Günter as a highly ethically motivated, engaged intellectual. I was very much impressed by the passion he put into his research. Initially focused on peace and security in a classical sense, and later extended to environmental problems, particularly the challenges of the Anthropocene. He was undoubtedly one of the leading world specialists in the study of the consequences of the Anthropocene. He was a passionate idealist with very high analytical skills. Hard-working but at the same time admiring art, music, and the beauty of Nature.

His devotion to peace, cooperation, and protection of the environment was perfectly reflected in the establishment and activities of the Foundation for Peace and Ecology in the Anthropocene and the associated Science Prize.

Hans Günter loved books. He owned, if not the largest, at least one of the largest private libraries on international relations in Europe. His love for books included not only interest in and admiration for the content but also appreciation of the books as artifacts. It was a kind of inherited love since, as far as I know, his Father was a bookbinder.

And the last remark.

Despite his health problems, Hans Günter remained professionally active. His work agenda was full of new issues and plans. This also confirms his professional engagement, passion, and devotion to His ideas.

Unfortunately, due to my current health problems, I am not able to be in Mosbach on the 24th of July 2026.

Dear Hans Günter, You will remain in my memories as an important, wonderful Friend who had a great impact on my professional life, my worldview, and, in part, my daily life.

Together with my wife Lidzia we will miss You, my Dear Friend!

Rest in peace!