

Eric both interviewed me for the Course and was my personal tutor. He was therefore influential in my career for reasons other than those I have documented in *Qualitative Social Work* (QSW). It was not until after I qualified I realised that his own background in Theology meant that the connections he made for me were so pertinent (my own degree was in Biblical Studies).

Apart from his intellect and charm Eric always showed interest and concern for all students on the course – which is probably why we nicknamed him 'Uncle Eric'! He always seemed slightly exotic with his winning smile and lectures that felt like conversations rather than 'teaching' – while all the while smoking cigarillos! We were a small group of only 12 students and the sense of being a family was heightened by the generosity Eric and Audrey showed by inviting us to their delightful home, giving us delicious food and engaging in stimulating conversation. They were truly caring.

When I was asked by QSW to do a piece on who had influenced me in my Social Work career I thought immediately of Eric. Not just because of my positive experiences in Sheffield but also because of my awareness of the contribution of his scholarship to Social Work. I am proud to have been associated with him and realise how fortunate I was to have had the honour of being educated by him. I have been in touch with a number of fellow students from my course (1968-70) and all express the same warmth towards him and sadness at his death.

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