It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Professor Colin Brock on 30th December 2016 following a short battle with his illness. Colin was a key figure in helping to establish the Centre for Research in International and Comparative Education (CRICE) at the University of Malaya and this journal, the Journal of International and Comparative Education (JICE). From the outset he was the Chair of the International Advisory Board and his wise counsel will be sorely missed.

In many ways Colin Brock was a larger than life figure both physically, as well as professionally in the field of Comparative and International Education, simply because of his prodigious output of papers, books, monographs and reports and his impact on so many students over 40 years. During his academic career he supervised 72 doctoral theses, 250 Masters Dissertations and examined over 60 Masters and Doctoral students in different universities. He was still writing until a few weeks before his death.

In some ways it is impossible to place Colin Brock in any particular genre of Comparative and International Education apart from the Geography of Education which was his first love. He did his Masters degree by research at the University of Durham between 1962 and 1965 in the field of urban geography and his PhD on the impact of geography on education at the University of Hull between 1986 and 1992. He was not associated with any particular geographical region such as Africa or Southeast Asia, though his short period in the Caribbean led him to develop an interest in Small States, and he was willing to undertake almost any task or subject. As a result he was at home writing about teacher education in Sub-Saharan Africa as he was about Education in the Muslim World of the Middle East and North Africa or Education in Europe. His edited works covered just about every part of the world and on a very wide range of subjects.

Colin was born in London in September 1939, soon after the outbreak of the Second World War. He was educated at Rutlish School in Merton, South West London between 1950 and 1958. He proved his academic ability by gaining both a State Scholarship [1957] and a John Innes Scholarship [1958] both of which enabled him to go to University College at Durham University [1958-61] where he read Geography and Anthropology for his BA degree [1961]. He later took a Masters degree there [1962-65] and after his retirement he was given an Honorary Professorship in Education in 2014.

On leaving university he went into teaching at three highly regarded grammar schools in the south of England - Alleyns in Dulwich, Windsor Grammar School and Henley-on-Thames Grammar School - from 1961 to 1969 during which time he took an MEd part-time in Comparative Education at the University of Reading [1970]. He decided to move on from school teaching and go into teacher training. Between 1969 and 1974 he was first a Lecturer and then a Senior Lecturer in Geography at Bulmershe College of Higher Education, Reading. [This was later absorbed into the Faculty of Education and Community Studies in the University of Reading.]

For two of these years he was seconded as an Education Adviser to the Caribbean Development Division of the then United Kingdom’s Overseas Development Agency (ODA), now the Department for International Development (DFID), based in St. Lucia. It was his experience in that post that was to lead to a change of career. Thereafter he was to devote his career to Education in Developing Countries.

His first post was as a Lecturer in Education (Overseas Education) at the University of Leeds [1974-77]. He then moved on to become Head of International Education at the University of Hull [1979-92]. He left Hull to take up an appointment as Chief Education Adviser to the Universities of England Consortium for International Activities (UNECIA), which was based at the University of Sheffield. He held this position until 1995. At the same time, from 1992-94 he was appointed a Farmington Fellow/Senior Research Associate in the Department of Education, University of Oxford. He decided that this was his real interest and he spent the rest of his academic career at Oxford, first as a Lecturer in Comparative and International Education [1994-2005]; then as a holder of a UNESCO Chair in Education as a Humanitarian Response [2005-12]; finally as a Senior Research
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