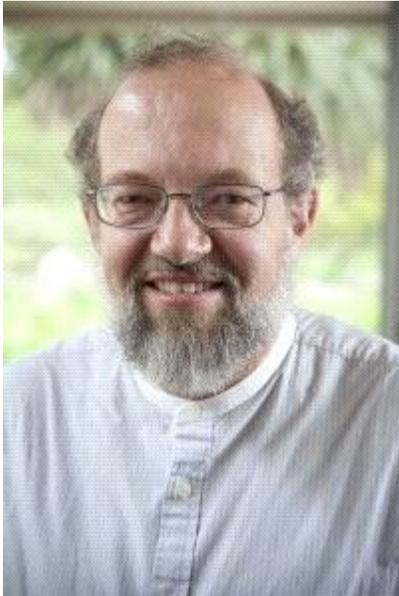


Paul Cilliers

(December 25, 1956 – July 31, 2011)



It is with great sadness and shock that I report here of the sudden passing of our colleague, Paul Cilliers. Paul suffered a massive brain haemorrhage on Sunday July 31st, 2011 and died two hours later in the Chris Barnard Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa.

I had the privilege of knowing Paul for just over ten years. He was one of my PhD supervisors, and it was through my early conversations with him—always punctuated with a wonderful mix of immense profundity, straight-forward good sense, and sharp wit—that my own work, in the field of complexity studies, was inspired.

Paul's philosophical insights and contributions to current debates in the domain of critical complexity thinking represent an important contribution to field of complexity studies. As the author of *Complexity and Postmodernism. Understanding Complex Systems* (1998, Routledge), and a great number of other articles and chapters in which he applied his deep insights to a wide variety of the problems, Paul showed himself to be a truly transdisciplinary thinker, working across both the humanities and the sciences. Over the last few years, Paul focused his research on the ethical aspects of complexity and his co-edited book *Complexity, Difference, Identity. An Ethical Perspective* (2010, Springer) is testament to this later project.

But Paul was not only a brilliant academic. He was also an incredibly kind and funny man, a family man, a wine expert and fine cook, a lover of music, a prolific reader, a book critic and columnists with a passion for ideas and social interaction. His passion for life was a catalyst and inspiration to all who came in contact with him. His untimely death, at age 55, is an immeasurable loss not only to the academic world but to all those

who knew him personally. The University of Stellenbosch, where Paul worked in the philosophy department, has posted an official tribute to him that can be read online under the following link:

<http://blogs.sun.ac.za/news/2011/08/01/stellenbosch-university-mourns-passing-of-top-academic/>

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