In Memoriam – EMERITUS PROFESSOR ELIA ZUREIK – Department of Sociology, Queen’s University

I call the attention of Faculty Board to the death on Sunday, January 15th, of Elia Zureik, an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Sociology. He was 84.

Elia was born in Akka, Palestine, in 1939, moved to the US and received a BA in Political Science from San Francisco University, an MA in Sociology from Simon Fraser University in Canada, and a PhD in Political Sociology from Essex University in the UK. He was Professor of Sociology here at Queen’s University since 1971, retiring in 2005, and winning the Prize for Excellence in Research. Between 2014-16 he was Head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies in Qatar.

Elia is remembered as an energetic and committed colleague and teacher, and a prolific author of numerous books and articles, including three highly influential texts: The Palestinians in Israel: A Study in Internal Colonialism (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1979), Palestinian Refugees and the Peace Process (1996), and Israel’s Colonial Project in Palestine: Brutal Pursuit (Routledge, 2016). Despite claiming to have retired, Elia never stopped researching and publishing, with several articles appearing in 2022. His influence in this field is further consolidated by a forthcoming festschrift with Bloomsbury in July this year, entitled Decolonizing the Study of Palestine: Indigenous Perspectives and Settler Colonialism after Elia Zureik.

Along with his highly influential work on Palestine, Elia was well ahead of the game and a major figure in the Sociology of Information and Communication Technologies, including work on surveillance. In the Department of Sociology here at Queen’s, Elia worked closely with David Lyon when he moved to Queen’s, first in SCIT (Studies in Communication and Information Technologies, a seminar program he’d been catalysing for a number of years) and then in the Surveillance Project from 1999, which would become the Surveillance Studies Centre in 2009.

In addition to this intellectual work, Elia was a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Refugee Working Group of the Multilateral Talks of the Middle East peace process since 1992, and served as a consultant for the Canadian Government, UNESCO, and the UN on the Question of Palestine, the Norwegian Institute for Applied Social Science, and the Ontario Human Rights Commission; he was a Board of Trustees member of Shaml, the Palestinian Diaspora and Refugee Center in Ramallah; he received the Palestine National Award in Sociology; he was appointed by the Sharjah Women’s Higher College of Technology as the first holder of the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research in Education in early 2005.

We also remember Elia as a friend and colleague, always serving as a pivotal mentor to new faculty, with a combination of mischievous humour - often directed toward the absurdities of bureaucratic administration - and a fierce intelligence and work ethic that was truly inspirational. Elia was both very serious and great fun, equally in his element discussing complex social and political theory as The Sopranos and Trailer Park Boys.

We mourn the loss of our friend and colleague and honour his continued intellectual legacy, which, as all colleagues have emphasized, will continue to be felt for a very long time. He will be missed.

I would like to move that this tribute be lodged in the Minutes of Faculty Board and that a copy be
sent to Dr. Zureik's family.

Moved: M. Hand
Seconded: S. Lord Carried

Consent Agenda:
1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Approval of the Minutes
   Moved: J. Morelli
   Seconded: S. MacKenzie Carried

3. Arts and Science Undergraduate Society Report (Yara Hussein)
   - Last meeting before the new team is elected. Elections are underway.
   - Exchange buddies (upper year students pair with exchange students)
   - ArtSci basketball charity game February 11

   Q. S. Majumdar: In the previous meeting you indicated that ASUS was developing a course in Excel. What do you mean?
   A. We are beginning to work on it. It will be for first year students, and is inspired by Engineering. It will be in the summer before classes begin.
   Q. S. Majumdar: This course already exists. We can touch base offline, share material and help

4. Reports
   1. Dean’s Report
      - Written report is on the FAS website
      - Teaching awards
      - Black mentorship
      - Meet and Greet
      - Post-doctoral fellowships
      - Thank you for the diverse consultation on the BFA program
      - Buddies for domestic and international students
      - Life after ArtSci will be in Ottawa
      - ARC small businesses

   Q. A. MacLean: Re: BFA. What is the next step on the checklist? When will we be receiving the alternate suggestions?
   A. J. Stephenson: I will direct you to the meeting of December 9. There was a 9-10 page report. Please look at those materials. The next step is the consultation with Senate.
   Q. J. Morelli: Can we discuss the process now?
   A. J. Rose: Yes.

   2. Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) Report
      - Chat GPT
         - Departure from Academic Integrity
         - Current policies cover this but there will be some changes in policy wording.
         - How does one detect it? Working with other faculties to determine this.
         - How do we begin to rethink assessments to do this.
         - How do we teach best practice and move to this in courses?
      - Recording policies in the classroom
3. Associate Dean (Academic) Report

- Department visits to talk about accommodations and course design. We are looking at the next steps and how we support instructors in course and assignment design, structures to help instructors
- Admissions applications are in, very strong numbers. Offers have been going out. Deadline for acceptance is June 1.

Q. J. Morelli: The window to apply has been closed. Does that apply to the BFA program?
A. J. Stephenson: Yes, applications have been strong, as was the case last year.
Q. J. Morelli: They dropped from 30-20 last year. Are they strong or not?
A. J. Stephenson: They are consistent.
Q. J. Morelli: We are not allowing students to finish applications pending the decision. This is not transparent. When will the decision be made? We need clear, honest answers.
A. J. Stephenson: We can’t give a date, but it will be soon. When there is a decision.
Q. J. Morelli: Can I have a personal privilege?
A. J. Rose: Okay.
Q. J. Morelli: This meeting agenda is skeletal. We are trying to have full discussions on this issue. Member Rose has been very disruptive throughout, curtailing discussion. I am expressing my frustration with the chairing of these meetings.
Q. A McLean: Please read the following into minutes:

In regards to the motion brought forward by member Morelli at the last Faculty board (which was carried) that says “that the Faculty Board opposes the making of a final decision by the Dean regarding the temporary suspension of admissions in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program at this time without further meaningful consultation...” will these items be addressed any further or will faculty board be given any idea of where the Dean is leaning in terms of any alternatives that were presented in the alternatives/impact report in December? Will it be presented at the Senate meeting that the Faculty board is not satisfied with the process of consultation that has been undertaken?

A. J. Stephenson: I want to speak to the motion that Member McLean is referencing. The points of that motion were enacted through the alternatives and impact reports that was submitted. It is not part of the process that the Dean pre-announce which way she was leaning.
Q. J. Rose: Are there any other questions for Member Stephenson for her report? Seeing none we will move on to the next report.

4. Associate Dean (Research) Report

- Black Politics Mentorship Awards: It is time to nominate, the application information and eligibility criteria are: https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/fas-funds-and-awards/black-scholars-excellence-in-mentorship-award
- Research: Quantum Computing and nano fabrication was in the news in January 13.
- Shout out to Dr. Achmed from the School of Computing
- French author Chloe Savoie Bernard is a finalist for the prestigious award https://www.galadynastie.com/nommees/chloe-savoie-bernard-2
- Sending positive energy to all faculty members applying for grants and awards

5. Associate Dean (Graduate) Report (See on FAS website)

- Importance of Global Engagement
• Principal’s Awards: International Engagement Innovation
• Graduate Students are Integral to the University
• Challenges in funding support
• Planning a summit to bring departments together to reconsider graduate studies, share effective practices.
• Upcoming funding deadline for NSERC Create (natural sciences)

Q. S. Lord: Will there be something like NSERC Create for the SSHRC?
A. J. Fraser: I have not heard that, but I would love it. I will keep looking.
Q. S. Lord: It would be extremely helpful for creative projects. In Grad Council there was a request to the Principal and the Provost regarding dedicated counselors for Grad Students?. Has anything come back from that? (Wellness)
A. J. Fraser: I forgot to mention that. The current situation is that the embedded counselor is on leave. I’ve been following up and will report back.
Q. S. MacKenzie: Do we know if our budgets will be frozen again next year?
A. I can’t answer that but will consult.
Q. C. Evans: I’m here, so I can answer that. Faculty Board is not the place for budget discussions. I will see what is needed and work with departments to be sustainable.

5. Question Period

Q. S. Lord: I want to get back to Jordan’s questions about applications not being allowed for the BFA.
A. J. Stephenson: Applications are in, and the next step is supplemental materials (Portfolio). Slideroom has been paused pending the BFA decision. When the decision is rendered, if the program is not suspended, the portal will reopen and students will be given ample time to submit those supplemental materials.
Q. A. McLean: Is there a timeline? Is this not an informal pause to admissions? As a student why would you put all that effort into the supplemental materials if you don’t know if you are going to be able to submit them? BFA students may be encouraged to consider other programs. Can you speak to how quick this turnaround will be?
A. J. Stephenson: The closure of the Slideroom is at our discretion. We will make sure that the students will have lots of time. We want students to move forward with certainty. This is just a pause until we have a decision. The other question was about communications to the students. We have been very transparent about the situation we are in. It is important that students make informed choices.
Q. R. Anweiler: Just responding to what I am hearing. You close the door and put a message on the door saying that the admissions are in flux and students will go elsewhere. They will get other offers and accept them. This is concerning.
A. J. Stephenson: Slideroom is temporarily paused. We need to be transparent. Students may receive other offers, and those offers do not expire. We have time.
Q. A. Arauz: Want to commend the courage and patience of current BFA students that they have shown during this process. This process has initiated some self-doubt. The end of year will see the Fourth Year Exhibition in April offers an opportunity to show the support to the BFA students. The BFA program offers a unique option with Concurrent Education. There is pressure in that it is one of a handful of programs offered with the BFA. There are 288 applicants for 20 spots. So, since they have already applied why close Slideroom? It is a long process. There may not be enough time to process 288 applications. If you reopen the Slideroom, will there be time and people to help with the process?
A. J. Stephenson: I agree but there will be ample time.
Q. J. Morelli: Prospective students have been told: a) Slideroom is paused, b) should apply elsewhere, c.) Program may be suspended. They have not been told what the deadline is. Neither have we. What is the harm in leaving SlideRoom open? Students should be given the opportunity to make an informed decision for themselves. Who was responsible for the decision to pause?
A. J. Stephenson: The responsibility lies with Central Admissions. FAS works with Admissions in all stages.
Q. J. Morelli: But who directed Admissions to do so?
A. We coordinate the process with Admissions.
Q. J. Morelli: Someone had to tell them to do something.
A. That’s fair. ArtSci and Admissions consulted and made the decision. It is a lot of work for both students and faculty.
Q. The first question was not answered. What is the harm of keep SlideRoom open?
A. J. Stephenson. I think I did answer that. It is a lot of work for bother students and faculty. There is no harm in having a temporary pause. When we have a way forward, we will move forward.
Q. I am troubled here. We have a Dean who is not making a decision and no timeline for the decision. There seems to be an unwillingness to be transparent about who is making those decisions. We could have used this time to rebuild the programs.
A. J. Rose: Member Morelli, there are a lot of hands up and we have other questions. This conversation is going nowhere.
Q. S. King: It is very hard to have any trust and believe what we are being told. It doesn’t make sense. It would make for a better way forward if there were more transparency and ownership. None of this doesn’t make sense. I would like to make a plea for a better process with some integrity.
Q. A. McLean: Why was the SlideRoom opened in the first place? Faculty members have indicated that there will be harm because of the pause.
A. J. Stephenson: It was my understanding that the SlideRoom was not opened. Apparently, there is a back door into the visual arts program. When this was discovered, the submissions were put on pause. With regard to your second question, we had to decide what was the best for students and allow students to proceed with confidence.
Q. A. Arauz: What is the other path? There has only been one way, and it has always been administered through the BFA program. And what is the path that Admissions have control over? We were informed to proceed as usual until the decision was made.
A. J. Stephenson: Just to clarify. There has always been one way into SlideRoom through the visual arts program. I didn’t understand that and nor did Admissions. There was an announcement on the Admissions website that said SlideRoom was temporarily unavailable. We didn’t understand that it was still in fact open. The process is going forward, other than the temporary pause on SlideRoom.
Q. E. Colvin: The are some questions in the chat. Can they be read?
Q. L. Kidd: Have there been a small group that have been accepted. Will this affect the program.
A. No offers of Admission have been sent out yet. When the pause ends, we still intend to bring in the same number of students.
Q. L. Kidd: Could you elaborate a little more? What has been done to not deter students. How do we assure that we get the best of the best?
A. Acceptances go out in waves. Many of our students have many offers: they can accept what they want or they can wait for us. They can wait until the first of June. There is no need to accept another school.
Q. J. Rose: Question in the chat asks how long would the temporary suspension of admissions into the program be?
A. J. Stephenson: Up to 2 years.
Q. A. McLean: Have the BFA faculty been consulted with regards to the Admissions decisions about pausing the SlideRoom? Were their thoughts taken into account?
A. J. Stephenson: Decisions about admissions is done through Central Admissions. Departments have a secondary role, and many departments play no role at all. In Departments where there are supplementary materials to be reviewed, the faculty members are delegated to deal with those materials. They play a very small part in the process.

Meeting Ended at 5:00 p.m.