
Obituary

Yasunobu Fujiwara (1935-1994)**In Memoriam**

Professor Yasunobu Fujiwara, an active member of the British Hegel Society, passed away on the morning of 5 June 1994, due to cancer. To most of Japanese students of political philosophy and his friends abroad, his all too early death caused great grief and severe shock, all the more because he was not only one of the leading Japanese political theorists but also an eminent teacher as well as an attractive and kind person.

Except for several leaves for studying abroad, including two years' research on a Fulbright Scholarship at Chicago and one year's research at Oxford, Professor Fujiwara spent most of his academic life at Waseda, Tokyo, from which he received his PhD for his comprehensive study on Hobbes' political philosophy. Although well aware of the importance of Hobbesian philosophy for the formation and development of modern liberal societies, he perceived many serious problems in it and modern atomistic philosophy in general. In a hope of finding a way to overcome modern predicaments – social, moral, and natural – he later became interested in Hegel and published a book on Hegel's political philosophy. He helped to make English scholarship in his field available in Japan and translated (with his assistants) the book on Hegel's political philosophy edited by Z A Pelczynski and another book on conceptions of freedom in political philosophy (including Hegel's) edited by Z A Pelczynski and J Gray.

Recently he regarded the contemporary ecological crises as catastrophic and advocated the rehabilitation of an organic view of nature in place of Hobbesian mechanistic view.

For the last ten years Professor Fujiwara was particularly interested in the liberal-communitarian debates conducted in the Anglo-American academic world. In his last book, *Jiyushugi no Saikento (Liberalism Reconsidered)*, which he completed on his deathbed with the help of his wife, Mrs Sadako Fujiwara, Professor Fujiwara critically examined the genesis and development of liberalism in the West and expressed his strong sympathy with some type of communitarian philosophy such as Charles Taylor's.

Due to his profound and wide knowledge and his warm and sincere personality Professor Fujiwara gathered around him many graduate students and educated them to high scholarly standards sternly but with love.

Professor Fujiwara was also an active member of the American Political Science Association and played a key role in the Japanese Political Science Association and in many other academic associations.

His death is really a great loss.

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