Sami Daniel

Sami Daniel, who died in November 2006, aged 67, was an energetic and convivial leading light in the development of economics education in the (then) polytechnic sector of UK Higher Education. Born Sasson Daniel in Iraq, Sami came to the UK as a student at Woolwich Polytechnic, then the LSE. After his postgraduate studies he taught economics at Enfield College of Technology (later a constituent college of Middlesex Polytechnic) before taking the post of Head of School of Economics and Politics at Kingston Polytechnic, which he held from 1971 until 1989. During those years he served on the Council of the Royal Economic Society and also the Council for National Academic Awards, which oversaw the introduction of degree-level courses within the polytechnic sector. He was instrumental in launching the Association of Polytechnic Teachers of Economics, was its National Secretary for 8 years and served on its National Committee for almost the complete span of its existence. He gave his energy and enthusiasm to the management of its annual conference and also the launch of its sponsored journal, the British Review of Economic Issues (now Economic Issues), being managing editor for many years. Sami maintained close links with fellow economists encountered in his time at the LSE and later in universities and polytechnics throughout the UK. Sami’s scholarly interests were wide-ranging. In economics his preferred fields were business economics — especially the economics of the firm, and the history of thought — particularly Marxian economics. In 1999 he was lead editor for a three-volume collection of essays published in honour of Bernard Corry and Maurice Peston. Outside of economics, his academic interests included philosophy and politics and he was an accomplished Arabic linguist.

Sami Daniel made an outstanding contribution to the development of economics teaching at Kingston and more widely within an expanding UK Higher Education system. He will be remembered for his energy and good humour and for his enthusiasm as a teacher, and academic innovator, always eager to encourage and promote new talent and ideas.

Vince Daly
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