

Schaar, John

John Schaar

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John H(omer) Schaar (July 7, 1928-December 26, 2011) was a scholar and political theorist. He was a Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Schaar was born in Montoursville, PA, USA and raised on a farm in a Lutheran family.

Schaar received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles. He taught political theory at the University of California, Berkeley, where his theory colleagues included Sheldon Wolin, Norman Jacobson, Michael Rogin, and Hanna Pitkin. In 1970 he moved to U.C. Santa Cruz. At Berkeley, he was a significant influence on the Free Speech Movement of the 1960s. His closest students included the late Wilson Carey McWilliams, Jeff Lustig, Douglas Lummis, Marge Frantz, J. Peter Euben, Frank Bardacke, Joshua Miller, and S. Paige Baty. He frequently taught at Deep Springs College. His central political values included community, democracy, and political participation. He published articles on patriotism, equality, and authority. He advocated the decentralization of political and economic power.

He was married to political theorist Hanna Pitkin, and together they resided in the Santa Cruz mountains.

Publications

- *Loyalty in America* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1957).
- *Escape from Authority: The Perspectives of Erich Fromm* (New York: Basic Books, 1961).
- *The Berkeley Rebellion and Beyond: Essays on Politics & Education in the Technological Society*, co-authored with Sheldon S. Wolin (New York: New York Review Book, 1970).
- *Legitimacy in the Modern State (collected essays)* (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Press, 1981). See especially the title essay and "The Case for Patriotism."

External links

What is Patriotism?, John Schaar et al., at *The Nation*, July 15, 1991

Remembrance to be held March 16 for UC Santa Cruz professor John Schaar

By TANYA LEWIS - *The Santa Cruz Sentinel* 01/28/12

SANTA CRUZ - John "Jack" H. Schaar was, above all, a great teacher.

That's how former student and longtime friend Frank Bardacke described the political theorist who taught at the UC Berkeley, Deep Springs College and UC Santa Cruz. Schaar died

of cancer Dec. 26 in Ben Lomond. He was 83.

The UCSC politics department will hold a public remembrance in honor of Schaar from 4-7 p.m. March 16 in the La Feliz Room at the Seymour Center on the UCSC campus. RSVPs are encouraged by emailing politics@ucsc.edu.

Schaar was born July 7, 1928, in Montoursville, Pa., where he grew up on a farm in a Lutheran family. He attended UCLA for his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees. In 1958, he came to teach political theory at UC Berkeley, alongside colleagues Norman Jacobson, Sheldon Wolin and Scharr's wife Hanna Pitkin. During what Bardacke called a "tumultuous and interesting time in the world and at Berkeley," Schaar was an avid supporter of the Free Speech Movement of the 1960s.

"[Schaar] had a way of arguing a case, and at same time, he invited and reveled in opposition," Bardacke said. "He loved honest debate and knew how to promote it."

Schaar joined the faculty at UCSC in 1970. He was able to make learning and books incredibly exciting, recalled Joshua Miller, a professor of government and law at Lafayette College and a former student of Schaar at UCSC.

"Just going to class you felt like you were joining a social movement," Miller said.

Schaar published several books, including: "Loyalty in America," "Escape from Authority: the Perspectives of Erich Fromm," and a collection of essays called "Legitimacy in the Modern State," as well as many articles. He also co-authored "The Berkeley Rebellion and Beyond," with Wolin. Schaar was interested all his life in questions of power and authority, according to Bardacke. More a teacher than a theorist, Schaar's job was "not to close questions but to open them," Bardacke said.

Outside of his intellectual life, Schaar had many other interests. In addition to being a father, he was a rock climber, a carpenter, a card player, a hunter and a hiker. Bardacke describes him as a very loyal man and a loyal friend: "He left this world with dignity and valor," Bardacke said.

Schaar is survived by his wife, Hanna Fenichel Pitkin, and son, John Homer Schaar IV.