

In Memoriam

Sharon Michelle Rosenberg (1964 - 2010)

Sociology department members are deeply saddened by the death of our friend and colleague, Dr. Sharon Rosenberg. Sharon died peacefully in her home on Saturday, July 31, with her partner Judy and many friends present. Collectively they wrote the obituary below.



A memorial celebration of Sharon Rosenberg's life was held on Tuesday, September 7, at 7:00 PM, in the Arts Barn Theatre Lobby, 10330 - 84th Avenue (near the Strathcona Farmers' Market, the Orange Hall, and the Strathcona Public Library). The Sociology department will be purchasing several books to be placed in Rutherford Library in Sharon's memory.

ROSENBERG, SHARON MICHELLE

Sharon Rosenberg died after a long, graceful grappling with cancer on July 31, 2010. She was 46. Sharon and her partner Judy Davidson found their greatest loves in each other. Judy and her sister Michelle made it possible for Sharon to die peacefully at home. Sharon is grieved by her chosen family, in particular Catherine Kellogg, Tanya Lewis, Tanya's children Gillian and Patrick, for whom Sharon was a second mother, and Roger and Wendy Simon. We, her wide-ranging communities, already miss her formidable intellect, warm and compassionate heart, and unforgettable laughter. She is predeceased by her father Ivan, and survived by her mother Jackie (Ed), brother Martin (Mel), and niece Danielle.

A social theorist in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta, Sharon was a poetic writer and a gifted and devoted teacher and mentor. She worked tirelessly toward a more open and accessible University, especially for queer and trans students, staff and faculty. Her work and life were lived with emotional and intellectual integrity, passionate intensity and exquisite flair. She is best known for her work on feminist memorializing of the Montréal Massacre, and more recently she was examining the textures of remembrance intertwined with the Alberta Centennial celebrations and the violent deaths of Aboriginal women in Edmonton.

A lover of art, Sharon was smart, sexy, and always chic. She turned our heads and warmed our hearts and brought us to our best selves (and oh, how we loved the sound of her voice).

Her life will be celebrated at memorial services in Edmonton and Toronto. Donations can be made in her name to Kindred House, c/o the Boyle McCauley Health Centre in Edmonton.

In every aspect of her life, finding the precise question animated Sharon's passionate relationships. Among her most pressing questions was to think the relationship between the living and the dead, memory and remembrance. Her commitments and questions live on in those who knew, loved, and learned from her. As we now face her loss, we are inconsolable.