

In Memoriam: Professor Emeritus James C. Hackler (1930 – 2020)



Professor Emeritus James C. Hackler died on April 13, 2020 in Victoria, BC. He was a professor in the UAlberta Department of Sociology for a full three decades, from 1965 to 1995, having received his PhD at the University of Washington with a specialization in criminology.

In a short autobiographical piece penned in 1995, Jim wrote: “My life has been spectacularly ordinary.” The piece then went on to make the ordinary—a childhood prank, a short boxing stint, running a small field hospital, becoming a sociologist—spectacularly interesting. His former colleagues remember him as outgoing and gregarious, and as an avid cyclist. He and his wife Bunny were known to host an annual event for faculty and students jauntily dubbed “The Gathering of Deviants.”

Jim Hackler’s professional contributions were many and significant. Recognized as a pioneer of criminology in Canada, he authored scores of articles and a number of books, including *The Prevention of Youthful Crime: The Great Stumble Forward*, *Canadian Criminology: Strategies & Perspectives*, and *Crime and Canadian Public Policy*. He is internationally known for his leadership in developing the field of comparative juvenile justice.

In the department, Jim served for many years as the Director of the Center for Criminological Research and helped lead the creation of both the MA in Criminal Justice and the BA in Criminology. He was a proponent of applied and community-engaged research, mentored dozens of graduate students, and regularly served on graduate committees both within and outside of the department.