



A Tribute: Missing Pat Kelly



Pat Kelly was a long time sustainability activist and educator, and was a senior consulting editor for the Journal of Futures Studies for several decades. She passed away a few months ago after a long fight with cancer. The following is a short compilation to honor and remember her.



I first met Pat while she was still at school. I was visiting Adelaide in a sporting team and our paths crossed at an outdoor social function. We exchanged letters for several years. She was always ahead of her peers. She absorbed the message of *The Limits to Growth* soon after it was published and was organising school students into stage plays about environmental themes in the 1970s.

Our paths crossed again when I was directing Australia's Commission for the Future. Pat was then the education officer at South Australia's Film and Video Centre. She contributed to the Commission's futures education program by compiling a superb guide to visual resources.

As Sohail Inayatullah writes, Pat was deeply involved in futures thinking and contributed to several international conferences in venues such as Hawaii, Kyoto and the Finnish city of Turku, where she regarded it as critical to her national honour to join the women leaving the sauna and running naked to the wharf to leap into the freezing water of the Baltic Sea. She was among the first to recognise the importance of Causal Layered Analysis and use that powerful technique to scrutinise film, video, drama and political events.

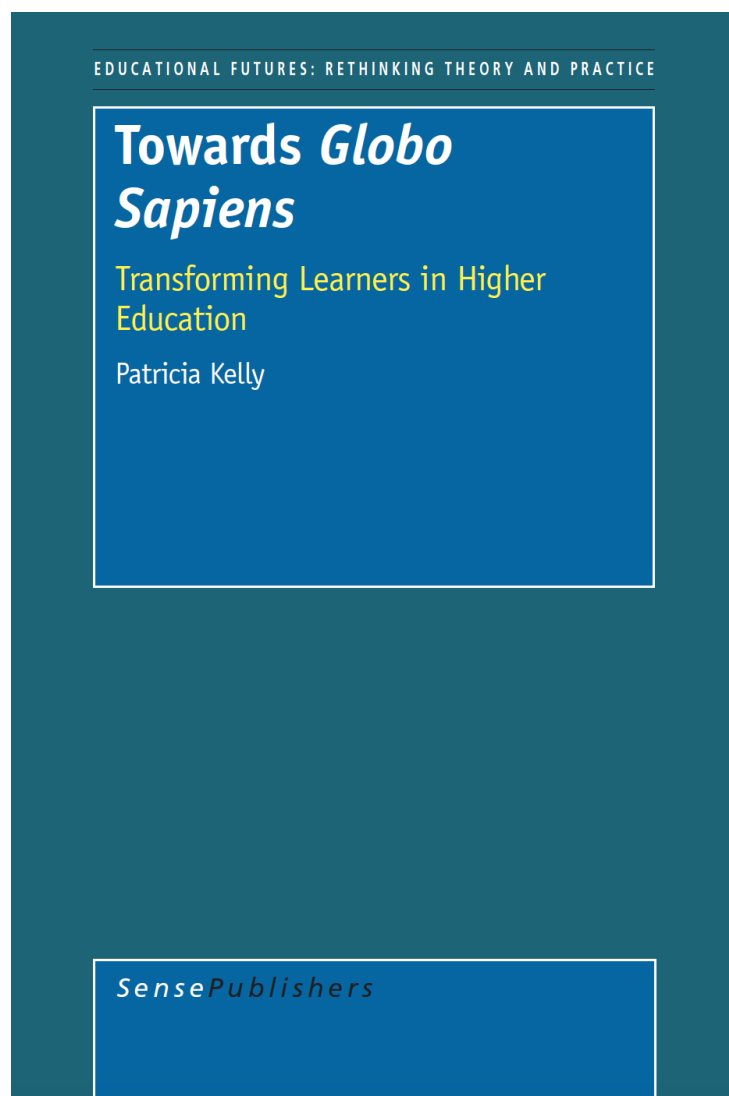
Pat moved to Brisbane in 1994 and we began to live together shortly after. I benefited greatly from her strong encouragement of my work throughout the 25 years we were life partners. Like Sohail, I found my writing improved dramatically by her critical insights and editing skills. She began working with staff in the QUT engineering program to broaden undergraduate education. While at first shocked by the anger of a small group of vociferous resisters, she soon appreciated that she needed to understand the underlying sources of their resistings. Her doctoral research used sense-making and CLA to analyse the responses of students to the challenges she

was introducing. This led to her developing a phrase used by Pentii Malaska, *globo sapiens*, articulating the characteristics she hoped to see in the wise global citizens emerging from the education system: empathy, global consciousness, willingness to contemplate changes to our way of life, trans-generational thinking and, most importantly, courage to find their own voice and express it. Her doctoral thesis and the subsequent book have been widely influential.

Her work helping academic staff in several universities led her to being one of only three Australia-based Senior Fellows of the UK Staff Education and Development Association. She was a dedicated member of the editorial team of this journal, putting countless hours into carefully reading papers submitted and making constructive suggestions for improvement. She believed passionately in the need for the printed word to communicate clearly. The principal focus of her work remained the need to envision sustainable futures and work towards achieving them. This was not just an academic exercise; she also worked with and inspired a range of community groups. I recently found the text of an address she gave to the Woodford Folk Festival, imagining that she was presenting to the first meeting of a self-help group for growthaholics!

In the words of the traditional Anglican service for those who have passed away, her labours are over but her works live on. We are very much the better for having lived in her presence.

Ian Lowe



"What," Pat exclaimed.

I had just said that I did not intend to read the final edit of her doctoral manuscript on *Globo -sapiens*.

"But you're my supervisor," She added.

"Yes, but the surf is really good this weekend." I responded. "I would rather body surf."

"But, but, but..."

I then asked Pat how many publications she had completed while doing her PhD. She responded nearly 15 including conference presentation.

"So at least 30 referees have reviewed your work. And I've read each piece and earlier drafts of your thesis." I said.

"You will fly through it."

Luckily for me, her life partner, Ian was there. He agreed with me. She fully earned and deserved the PhD.

Knowing her perfectionist nature, I had found a way to get her to do the doctorate without even knowing it i.e., publishing her work everywhere. In engineering journals, at conferences, in Futures journals. And we had succeeded.

Her thesis would go on to become a brilliant book, *Towards Globo -Sapiens*, published in Rotterdam by Sense Publishers (2008).

She made three core arguments. First, education, particularly, engineering education needed to be transformative and inclusive of other ways of knowing, of nature, and of gender. The best engineers would find that it was not technical skills, but the skills to be human that would help them in their careers.

Second, that there would always be resistance to transformative education (a waste of time, useless soft skills) but that instead of seeing those who wished technical solutions to complex problems as resistors, it was critical to understand their points of resistance - was it fear? Childhood trauma? An inability to see the long term? Once this was understood, resistors could potentially be converted and play a role in the greater good.

Third, this transition to global-sapienhood was urgent. We did not have time to waste in identity and environmental transformation.

Pat forgave me for going body surfing instead of reading the final draft of her thesis. I knew she would.

I first met Pat at the Kyoto forum for futures generations in 1994. We were sitting at a table over breakfast and discussed futures thinking. Having discovered that we both lived in Brisbane, she invited me to guest lecture at her class at the Queensland University of Technology. The lecture went well.

She then proceeded to critique my style, pointing out two mistakes I had made. They were outstanding suggestions and I have never made those mistakes again. I am very appreciative. Pat did not beat around the bush - what needed to be said was said.

This started a long term friendship wherein she edited almost everything I wrote. She was gracious with her time and helped me learn how to more effectively express myself. Dr. Kelly was also a brilliant contributor to the theory and practice of Causal layered analysis - using CLA to challenge business-as-usual futures in education and economy in order to create a deeply sustainable society. While she has endless publications, her treatment of the movie *Avatar* (2015) remains my favourite.

I knew her body was ill, but really hoped that she was in good health knowing that she and Ian had once again done the 780 kilometer Camino de Santiago pilgrimage walk.

She certainly left too soon, but I am sure she is in bliss now.

We honour her life, her contributions to Futures Studies, and her intent on making the planet sustainable.

Sohail Inayatullah



There are many things I loved about Pat's approach to scholarship and to life. I first met Pat when we worked for the same organisation almost 25 years ago. Long before it was fashionable, she was working to transform the way universities teach and learn, part of a bigger project to imagine and construct more humane, inclusive and generous futures. This was no easy task. Like institutions everywhere, work seemed weighed down by a brutal instrumentalism. Many good people were simply hammered into silence. But not Pat. Humanity and imagination always won out. With humour and tenacity, she saw off slights, setbacks, and sycophants.

Pat brought the same approach to her scholarship. Her writing was hopeful even as it was bold. She wore difficult theory lightly, weaving it ever so gently into the many papers she authored so that it couldn't intimidate.

From her writing, she assembled practical scaffolds, willing the uninitiated and timid to scale heights that might otherwise have seemed impossible. Pat never stayed still - intellectually and in the everyday.

For people like me, struggling against the concrete ceilings imposed by institutions, Pat was a true friend and mentor. She had a gift for sensing and validating feelings of hurt and bafflement in the struggle to find a place in institutional life. Pat recognised so much that was worthwhile in my difference. She also reminded me, mostly gently, but occasionally firmly, that I had to confront our own privileges and desires for recognition lest I contribute to dystopian futures.

Pat was generous in her empathy even as she battled her own demons. She made time to read many job and promotion applications, journal papers and book manuscripts. A true democrat, Pat insisted on accessible language, coaxing and scolding to draw out readable and unpretentious prose. She was approachable and instinctively caring. *Patrizia sayang, terima kasih, selamat jalan dan jumpa lagi* (Dearest Patrizia, thank you. May you journey safely until we meet again).

Ravinder Sidhu

Farewell

It is, as always,
the cadence that catches our attention.

The young enjoying the sunrise,
the old, the sunset, wondering
how many more they will witness before they fly away...

Effervescent energy, stars and dark matter
all swaying to the Cosmic samba –
alive to it, whilst the shadows lengthen
and an inner sigh swells to meet release!

A suspiration so light that it lingers a while
on lips turning cold – the while
at last dissipating into the air... no more stir just
a hyphen between those hearts
who beat a while longer.

For Pat Kelly

Marcus Bussey

Pat Kelly was the best of referees. She was fast, about a week on average. But what really stood out was the care she took with each paper. By the time she was done the paper was refereed but also practically copy edited. Detailed comments, detailed notes, track changes, recommendations - she was there standing on the paper talking to the author! Her referee style was mostly appreciative. She could see the possibility in a paper, and did not reject a paper out of hand, never without due consideration or without fairness. But she pushed authors hard to improve readability. She gave them the opportunity to improve their work - the ball was in their court. But she was relentless. She would often lament 7000-8000 word papers, which she felt were simply unnecessary to convey the ideas needing to be conveyed. She felt 4000-5000 words was abundant to say what needed to be said. She would sometimes recommend Orwell's *Politics and the English Language* if she really felt a paper had strayed. She was an absolute workhorse of a referee.

She was lovely to correspond with. Her emails were animated and spirited. As an editor I always felt safe with her. To confide with her on difficult editorial decisions, and knowing I had someone there who could take on the tougher papers we received. She would also correspond with me in Spanish, which was nice. She had picked up Spanish on her long walks in Spain, and practiced on me. It was really sweet, and perhaps misguided as my Spanish is not very good, I probably taught her bad grammar.

In person she had a fiery love. The fire of a mother protecting her children. We were all her children. She was an ethical futurist. She cared deeply for humanity and for the care and protection of our planetary home. This came through all her writings. She gave much to the journal and was incredibly generous with her time and effort. Her refereeing helped countless people in practical ways. She made the decision to give her gifts to the world, and they were received. Thank you Pat Kelly. You taught us what love, care and wisdom means. We will miss you.

José Ramos

If you are really lucky in life, you will meet a teacher who will change your life. Pat Kelly was one of those teachers/lecturers for me. I met Pat as part of my Graduate Certificate in Higher Education (Tertiary) at Queensland University of Technology. Pat taught me for only a single semester, but I learnt more in that six months than I can say. I arrived at Pat's course with a music degree and a PhD in history, but I had never felt entirely comfortable in either camp. I had imposter syndrome. But what I received from Pat as a lecturer was inspiration, encouragement, and ultimately the permission to be creative, and above all else to always be myself. Forging my own way in academia was a direct result of Pat's enthusiastic approach, and her ability to develop our individual abilities. Pat encouraged us to get to know and understand ourselves, embrace who we were so that we could throw off the constraints that limited us. Pat also helped us to develop and express our ideas. Pat single-handedly enabled me to find my voice, not just in academia, but also in life. I write with a truth that came from being taught by Pat. She was someone who encouraged and delighted in learning, and she imparted that love of thinking, teaching and learning to those of us lucky enough to be in her classes. Pat was a genuine and caring teacher, who put her students first. Pat also loved her Mum, and spending time with her. It is Pat's abiding kindness, humanity, professionalism, that I remember. I can see her alert and smiling face is looking at me now, and she is with me in the classroom. Thank you, Pat.

Dolly MacKinnon

I extend to Ms. Kelly's family my deepest sympathy. There is a saying in Japan, "One meeting ever in life". I met Pat once at a Futures Conference held at Tamkang University in early 2000s. I still remember that her paper was about how futures concept had impacted on engineering students. I was impressed not necessarily by changes occurred on students but by the strong passion she seemed to pour into her teaching. I believe that many young people found hopes for their future through Pat's teaching. I respect her work in this world and appreciate it that I was able to meet such a passionate futurist.

Ryota Ono



I would like to honour Pat Kelly for her respectful and thought-provoking contribution to intercultural teaching and learning. I first met Pat when I enrolled in a Graduate Certificate in Education (Higher Education) at QUT in the late 1990s. I was a young casual academic historian seeking full time work and thought undertaking the ‘Grad Cert’ would be beneficial for my job prospects. I was also a newly divorced single parent of two intercultural Sri Lankan-Irish-Australian small boys. I was immediately inspired by Pat’s commitment to cultural diversity and what was then called, ‘internationalisation of higher education’. I was also enthralled by her inclusive teaching style, her dry sense of humour and her no-nonsense attitude to higher education. I was later to become a work colleague of Pat’s in QUT’s Teaching And Learning Development Unit (TALDU). I was eager to model my teaching style on Pat’s and undertook a number of teaching innovations in my casual Education first year classes that were designed to engage my culturally diverse migrant, international and First Nations students. Pat provided expert guidance and wisdom in helping me to refine and write about these innovations. I have since gone on to become a Professor of Education Research many years later and have continued the quest inspired by Pat to work towards respectful and effective transcultural doctoral education for migrant, refugee, international and First Nations candidates. My career owes a great deal to the inspirational lessons Pat taught us all about cultural inclusion and social justice. I have continued to think of her often over the subsequent decades and to quote her wise sayings and approaches. One saying in particular highlights her wicked sense of humour and I quote it often when mentoring my colleagues: ‘Take my advice, I’m not using it!’ Rest in peace, Pat, and know that your wisdom and insights inspired countless generations of students and academics. Your contribution to intercultural teaching and learning lives on in all of us.

Catherine Manathunga

I am struggling to put words in writing. It is much easier to talk to you Pat, my dearest friend, in my thoughts as the words can come so naturally and... I hear your cheerful voice in responding. Sometimes I think you are climbing mountains in Spain or NZ somewhere and might find an Internet café to drop me a line...

I am afraid to say out loud how much I miss you, how much I need you to be by my side. I am so lucky to have had you in my life for nine years and grateful for all memories and the mark you left in my heart. You were such a strong and inspirational person who was giving the light to others including myself. You shared your views on different aspects of life and work with me. Your help came along in many ways in many times and had a huge impact on my personal and professional steps. What I will remember will always be how often you called me “stakhanovka” that made me stop doing certain things and embrace some others. I hear you saying “smile”, and this makes me smile.

Life will never be the same without you Pat, but I am certain you would have wanted me to remember our happiest times spent together and I will.

You will always be with me...

Elena Sitnikova

I had the pleasure of working with Pat since 2011 when she was invited by the Dean of Academic ITEE at UniSA to assist us to improve teamwork skills in first year engineering. I had no idea then the impact she would have on me personally and professionally. Pat did more than just help us to improve students’ teamwork skills, she helped us to implement a transformative education approach across our engineering program that received national recognition with an OLT Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning. This year I start my PhD. I never thought this day would come, but Pat believed in me and my ability to find my own path (...“Traveller, there is no path, The path is made by walking...” – Antonio Machado). I will be forever grateful for Pat’s encouragement and belief in me.

Liz Smith

References

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- Kelly, P. (2015). *Avatar: Higher Education and Sustainability*. Inayatullah Sohail and Milojevic Ivana. (Eds.) *CLA 2.0. Transformative research in theory and practice*. Tamsui, Tamkang University.