CARLA MACHADO: AN APPRECIATION

In many ways I should make clear that I did not know Carla at all. We never actually met face to face. Yet her enthusiasm, commitment and joyfulness were as infectious electronically as I imagine they were face to face.

She approached me by email during 2010 asking if I would come and ‘present’ to her graduate students and advise them on the work they were doing. For my part it was an unexpected invitation and whilst it took us a little time to agree date, I subsequently visited the University of Minho in January 2011. Carla and I communicated regularly in preparation for my visit, learning a little about each other and focusing on the work that was developing at Minho. My visit was a delightful affair only marred by the fact that Carla was unwell. However, to make amends, she sent me her photograph (which I still have). It was apparent that she had worked hard with her students to ensure that both they and I go as much out of my short time with them as possible. For me, this was further of her commitment to the search for excellence both for her students and her own work despite not being well.

I learned much about Carla from that visit. She was clearly loved by her colleagues and students alike. However, in addition to being a very warm and caring human being she also had a formidable intellect; evidenced by the sophistication of her student’s presentations but also in her own published work. Unfortunately she and I were never afforded the opportunity to explore how our differing academic agendas might have borne fruit in the development of collaborative work and my personal sadness about this is profound.

Yet I ‘know’ Carla would not want sadness from me but celebration. It is in that spirit that I commend this special journal edition as a mark of serious and joyful respect for all she achieved as a scholar, teacher, and friend.

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CARLA MACHADO: A TESTIMONY

In the brief time that I liaised and worked with Carla, I was very impressed by her commitment and her energy, not only towards her students but also in relation to wide-ranging social issues and academic research. Carla was a true inspiration to me as I witnessed the enthusiasm that she generated in others. I was also impressed by Carla’s commitment to research in relation to issues of social justice – white collar crime, victimisation, terrorism and so forth. Carla’s death is a great loss to many.

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Desafortunadamente no llegué a conocer a Carla en su faceta personal más que ligeramente. Sin embargo, su cara científica y académica me resulta muy familiar. Aún tengo en mi retina la imagen mental de la primera vez que la vi en persona. Estaba en su despacho, se la veía inquieta, ávida de trabajar, de dar todo de sí misma. Posteriormente, pude observar cómo ese espíritu era una seña de identidad. Era feliz como científica y, por lo que pude intuir, como académica. En suma, ha vivido una vida profesional plenamente feliz. Ahora cuando ya no está físicamente con nosotros, vuelvo la memoria atrás y veo que ha dejado una huella indeleble de memoria científica y académica. Su cuerpo nos ha dejado, pero su huella no. Vive en nuestra huella de memoria, en sus aportaciones a la ciencia y academia. Gracias Carla por haber vivido, por lo que nos ha dejado. Velaremos por avivar la huella que nos has legado.

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