

# Donald Ray Cressey

1919-1987

Professor Emeritus Donald Ray Cressey will long be remembered in the University of California as an engaging and valued colleague. By all the criteria universities customarily use to gauge the contributions of their members, his record has few equals: He was an exemplary classroom teacher, a highly productive scholar, a capable administrator, and a major contributor to the formation of public policy. Not only at California, but at other universities throughout the world and among practicing criminologists, he is recognized a leading figure in his chosen field.

He started his academic career in 1949 as Lecturer in Sociology at UCLA and became Professor in 1959. During his tenure at UCLA he served as Chairman of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology (1958-1961) and Acting Dean of Social Sciences (1960-1961). In 1962 he moved to Santa Barbara as Dean of the College of Letters and Science, a post he retained until 1967. After that, he was Professor of Sociology until he retired in 1986.

In 1961-62 and again in 1971, he was Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge and in 1965, Visiting Professor at the University of Oslo. In 1973 and 1986 he was Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University. He served as Visiting Professor at a number of American universities, in departments of sociology or faculties of law.

During his career he published 10 books and nearly 100 articles and chapters, many of which were reprinted in collections. At the time of his death Don remained preoccupied with attempting to understand and reduce the violation of financial trust, which he prophetically saw as a major weakness in the political economy. In connection with that work he had assumed the presidency of the Institute for Financial Crime Prevention.

As part of his continuing legacy, and as further evidence of his pioneering role in the field, two prestigious awards bear his name. The Donald Cressey Award is given annually to an American academic by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency for outstanding academic contributions to criminology, and the Cressey Award is bestowed annually by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners to one of its members for lifetime achievement in the detection and deterrence of fraud and white collar crime.

Donald Cressey was dedicated to the world of scholarship and spent long hours at his desk, but he had a ready ear for students, colleagues, or other friends. In listening to and helping them, he applied his sociological knowledge and insight to their urgent concerns. He was a sociologist's sociologist, a scholar's scholar, and a friend's friend.

Don and his late wife Elaine, are survived by their three daughters, Martha Lind, Anne Colomy, and Mary Cressey.