

Professor William George Demopoulos, 1943-2017

After a distinguished career as philosopher, teacher, and mentor, William (Bill) Demopoulos died on May 29th, 2017.

Bill was Professor of Philosophy at the University of Western Ontario from 1974 until his retirement in 2012. He was also Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science at the University of California at Irvine (2004-2006), and held visiting professorships at Harvard University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the University of British Columbia.

The son of an immigrant restaurateur, Bill began his education at the University at Buffalo (SUNY), but completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota. He went on to graduate study at the University of Pittsburgh, where he published his first significant work. After two years as Assistant Professor at the University of New Brunswick, he moved to Western, where he completed his doctoral thesis under the supervision of Prof. Jeffrey Bub and joined the Philosophy faculty.

Bill's time at Western began with his groundbreaking collaboration with Prof. Bub on the foundations of quantum mechanics. In 1997 he became Managing Editor of the *Western Ontario Series in the Philosophy of Science*, and remained in that position until his retirement. These are but two of his many contributions to Western's worldwide reputation as a research centre for the philosophy of science. Another profound and lasting contribution is his work as a mentor to many doctoral students who have gone on to academic careers of their own. Long after his retirement, students and former students continued to seek out his philosophical guidance, which Bill continued to offer with his usual care and generosity until his very last days.

Beyond his interests in the foundations of physics, Bill also was known for important work in the foundations of logic and mathematics, cognitive science, computer science, and linguistics. In the later decades of his career, he was increasingly celebrated for his work on the analytic philosophical tradition and the philosophy of language, especially on topics connected with Frege, Russell, and Carnap. His work was recognized by many external fellowships, including a Killam Research Fellowship from the Canada Council, and Visiting Fellowships at All Souls' College, Oxford, and the universities of Canterbury, Bristol, Minnesota, and British Columbia. He continued to receive invitations to lecture at conferences around the world, well after his health would no longer allow him to accept.

Bill was diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma in 2007. Those who were close to him will remember the quiet courage with which he faced his illness. In the wider philosophical world, however, the last ten years of his life will be remembered as a time of remarkably fruitful work on new philosophical interests. This included not only rethinking traditional questions about quantum mechanics, but also developing an original perspective on the nature of scientific theories in general. He published an astonishing number of significant papers in leading journals, as well as a collection of new and recent papers (*Logicism and its Philosophical Legacy*, Cambridge University Press, 2013). His death came just as he was finishing a monograph, *On Theories*, which will complete his legacy to the discipline.

Bill is survived by his wife, Raimonde (née Mial); his sons, William and Alexis; his grandchildren, Isabel, Reema, and Sabine; and his sister, Georgia.