

## **Dr Jeremy P. Toner**

Colleagues will be greatly saddened to learn of the death, on 20 January 2021, of Dr Jeremy Toner, Senior Lecturer in the Institute for Transport Studies (ITS).

After obtaining a BSocSc Economics with Modern Economic History from the University of Birmingham in 1985, Jeremy was initially based in ITS as a student (MA 1986, PhD 1991). He was appointed as a Researcher in 1989, becoming Lecturer in Transport Economics in 1992 and Senior Lecturer in 2004. He served as a member of the University Council (2000-2005) and was a long-standing member of the Senate and the UCU where he held roles as Treasurer and President (2003-2005) for the University of Leeds branch.

Jeremy's contributions to research covered a wide range of topics within transport economics. His PhD thesis was on 'The economics of regulation of the taxi trade in British towns'. He subsequently published on taxi licensing policy and optimal regulation in the taxi sector and provided expert advice on this topic over many years – his work on this is among the most cited in the literature. Another focus of Jeremy's research interests was the development of optimal designs for Stated Preference experiments – where his work went beyond the latest 'efficient design' paradigm and produced new methods that were recognised as a significant breakthrough on an international level. Jeremy was active and published across other topics, many of them relating to travel demand, including: demand elasticities; direct demand models; inter-modal competition; concessionary fares; and problems with generalised cost. He also published in collaboration with PhD students on various topics including techniques to represent noise in choice experiments, and public transport pricing. A common theme across all this work was his unique grasp of the mathematical structure of transport economics, combined with a keen eye for the practical application.

Jeremy's style was exceptionally collaborative. He used his knowledge and ability to contribute to a large number of projects, solving problems and coming up with original ways of taking the subject forward rather than necessarily seeking the spotlight for himself. He was someone who made colleagues feel they could always go to him to discuss an economics problem and he would typically suggest a solution or provide some vital insight. Jeremy thus contributed greatly to the research of ITS as a whole, and his skills and expertise were an asset to all those who worked with him.

Jeremy is also remembered as a highly respected PhD supervisor, exact in his knowledge and keen to pass it on to his students. His supervisions were lively and productive, never forgettable. He took great interest in ensuring that econometric models had been run correctly, that the arguments were presented scientifically, and that the text was well structured. He also had an economic historian's eye for the subject and encouraged research students to make use of a wide range of ideas in formulating their research.

Lecturing and student education made up a large part of Jeremy's role, and he is remembered as an inspiring teacher in economics, and a key figure working in support of students in both ITS and the Business School, including supervising dissertations, undertaking assessment and acting as module and programme leader. As well as serving as Director of Learning and Teaching in ITS, he taught some of the larger economics modules at the University (e.g. Intermediate Microeconomics). Those who weren't supervised or taught by Jeremy directly, or who didn't work directly with him, still knew him as one of the big characters of the Institute, and a very warm, generous personality, from his involvement across the Institute's activities.

Alongside his role in ITS, Jeremy was deeply committed to his work with the Universities and Colleges Union (UCU). He was involved in many campaigns – for example, the successful national campaign to restore employment rights to fixed term staff in 1997-8. He was elected Leeds UCU President in 2003 and served as Treasurer and in senior posts for over 20 years. He also tirelessly undertook casework on behalf of colleagues who needed representation, support and guidance.

Jeremy was much loved by staff and students alike; he will be greatly missed.

Once the funeral details are known, arrangements will be made for the flag on the Parkinson Building to be flown at half-mast in his memory.

A memories and donation page, linked with St.Gemma's Hospice, has been set up at <https://jeremytoner.muchloved.com/> where we invite people to share their thoughts, stories, photos, or light a candle in his memory.